

foolish we are, and how sinfully we trifle with the words of our Saviour himself when we daily use them with our lips, and yet have no earnest and sincere wish that our prayers may be answered, even as far as we ourselves are concerned. I have already called your attention to the astonishing extent of meaning which you may find in every sentence of the Lord's prayer,—and in these few words we are taught to pray that this kingdom of God may be set up in our own hearts, reducing all within them to obedience and subjection to Jesus Christ as our King and Governor: that all people and nations, as well as our own neighbours, relations, and friends, may be brought into the way of truth: that the Gospel may be every where preached, and that the Holy Spirit may cause it to be so understood and practiced that all the human race may become true and sincere and faithful Christians, serving God in holiness of life and purity of heart, so that there may not be found one servant of Satan in the whole world. All this meaning is contained in these three words, "Thy kingdom come," and yet how often are they spoken without any remembrance of the countless blessings the answer to them would bring upon ourselves and our fellow creatures; as a natural consequence of this state of things we are next taught to pray that the will of God may be done on earth even as it is in heaven. Now only imagine for a moment, my dear children, what a very different world this would be if this petition was put up faithfully, and in true sincerity of heart, even by all who call themselves Christians, and who have been taught to say these words day after day, as long, and perhaps longer than they can remember. If Christians were all in earnest in wishing