

ing spirit. Let us not rest in the form of godliness, but ardently seek its life and power.

I trust you will bear us witness that thus you are taught from the pulpit, and from house to house,—not to put your trust in any thing you do, but to remember that after all we do, we are unprofitable servants,* and that Christ is all to the sinner's soul,† and that we are to look for Him in all the ordinances of the Church as the sum and substance, the Alpha and Omega‡ of our religion. In conclusion, suffer the word of exhortation,§ as to a few important particulars :—

1. Let me beseech you to be constant and fervent in private prayer to your Father in Heaven, through His blessed Son. This underlies the whole scriptural building of your salvation. It is the breath of the believing soul. Stopped or intermitted the life of God within us will wither and die. O neglect not, then, this great privilege, and essential duty. Your Saviour enjoins it. "Enter into thy closet and shut thy door and pray to thy Father in secret, and thy Father which seeth in secret will reward thee openly."¶ Let nothing hinder you from, at least, its morning and evening exercise, and endeavor, besides, to comply with the direction to pray always||—by cultivating a constant spirit of prayer, not forgetting to pray that you may be taught how to pray.

2. If you have children or dependents, let me exhort you to have prayer in your families,—a duty which I fear is too much neglected, but one most influential for good. It has well been called "a morning and evening sermon to remind each member of the family that there is a God above them, and an eternity before them." It tends to love and peace in the household. It has an influence on

* Luke xvii. 10. † Col. iii. 2. ‡ Rev. i. 8. § Heb. xiii. 27. || Matt. vi. 6.

¶ Luke xviii. 1.