

"If you are innocent, as I believe you are, bear up under it, and the matter will soon be cleared up.— You may, however, study here if you choose."

After school, Mr. Hedges and James went to see Mr. Murdoch, who was very much embarrassed on being confronted with James, but still adhered to his statement. Mr. H. now entered upon a thorough investigation of the case, and at length it was discovered that Murdoch and another man had been detected by Josiah Ames, a young candidate for state's prison in some very disreputable conduct, and he had promised to conceal it, on condition that he should charge James Allen with a deed which he, Josiah, had just perpetrated. The iniquitous bargain was struck, and, as usual, the consequences fell on the heads of its authors. Josiah was taken up for theft, and Murdoch, who had been in the place but a few months, and by plausible conduct had made a good impression, was obliged to leave for parts unknown. Why Josiah desired that James should be charged with the robbery rather than any other boy, is no known.

As was natural, James was very indignant at the treatment he had received. The teacher and his parents exhorted him to forgive, as he hoped to be forgiven, and he promised to try to do so. "Do it," said Mr. H., "and do not content yourself with trying to do it." James however, did not do it. Such outrageous treatment, so unprovoked, did not deserve forgiveness, he thought.

Josiah had been sentenced to five months' imprisonment; James was conscious of being glad when he heard of it. That feeling of joy convinced him that he had not

forgiven Josiah. Hence when he came to pray, he could not ask to be forgiven as he forgave. So he left out the clause and passed on.

In so doing, I am not sure but that he did better than those who with unforgiving hearts, go through the prayer without thinking of the fearful condemnation they are invoking. He however soon found out that he had not done well.

The next day was the Sabbath—a day on which he was accustomed to read a great deal in the Bible. After church he read the following passage in the Bible, "And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book." He stopped and reflected. He remembered he had taken away or left out a portion of the Lord's prayer. There were the words "forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors." "There is no getting away from it," thought James. He then read the two verses which follow the prayer. "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly father will also forgive you; but if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." "There is no use in praying," said James to himself, "unless I forgive."

James was certainly right, consequently much that passes for prayer is not prayer, but rather imprecation.

James felt that he must settle the matter without delay. He was satisfied that he could not exercise forgiveness by a mere act of the will. I will go and ask God to give me a forgiving spirit. That will not be wrong. He did so. He besought God to give him a tender