

all be necessary, which we do not believe, for a well ordered household can be so regulated that the hour for devotion shall exactly fit in, and not even jostle the other duties of the day. Let the presence of strangers in your home not incommode you, and never hurry eagerly through your devotions to reach other pursuits, for you will naturally learn to love the latter only too well. The poor, ignorant Hindoo idolater has daily a sort of worship in his hut. Contrast your knowledge and neglect with his ignorance and devotion, and promise hereafter daily to serve as priest in your own home.—*Selected.*

CONVERSION.

THE parable of the Prodigal Son makes very real the condition which we all occupy if we forsake God. We were each made a member of His Family—a Son and Heir—in our Baptism, “a member of Christ, a child of God, and an inheritor of the Kingdom of Heaven.” But if we wander away from the Home and comforts which He so freely has provided, and go into the haunts of vice, forgetting His commands, and loving the ways of sin; if we have given up our hearts to work wickedness, and have neglected the service and House of our Father, we must return unto Him, loathing ourselves, feeling the exceeding sinfulness of our past life, and seeking forgiveness at His hands. Coming to Him, as the sweet words of the well-known hymn point out, “Just as I am without one plea, save that Thy Blood was shed for me, and that Thou bid’st me come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I come,” Christ

will accept us and restore us to the favor of our God. “Repent and be converted every one of you that your sins may be blotted out.”

EXPLANATION OF THE LORD'S PRAYER.

(1) *Our Father.*—So Jesus teaches us to speak direct to God. not through angels, or spirits, or saints.

“*Ours,*” as we go to God in Jesus’ name (St. John, xiv. 13), so this word teaches us that He goes with us to the throne of grace. It also shows that we must pray for others.

“*Father,*”—by creation by reconciliation (Col. i. 20-22), by adoption (Rom. viii. 15).

a. *Hallowed.*—Take not the name of the Lord in vain, but pray that God may be glorified (1 Pet. iv. 11).

b. *Thy kingdom come.*—Jesus had been speaking of His Kingdom (previous Lesson); and here we specially pray for His coming again (Heb. viii. 11)—that He will “hasten His kingdom” (*Burial Service.*)

c. *Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven.*—That all men may find their truest happiness, as do the angels, in perfectly obeying His will (Ps. civ. 20, 21; Heb. i. 14).

(3) *Our daily wants:* a. *Give us this day our daily bread.*—So we are taught daily dependence on God for daily supply. *Bread,* the staff of life, includes all our bodies require (1 Tim. vi. 8).

b. *Forgive us our debts,* or sins. Thus as truly as we have daily wants, so have we daily sins that need forgiveness.