

QUERY ON THE "LORD'S PRAYER."

How is the expression, "Thy kingdom come," applicable now, as the Messiah's reign is established; and with what propriety is the whole of the Lord's Prayer used, after a long prayer, expressive of every sentiment it contains, has been made?

Charlotte Town, (P. E. I.) July 30.

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This question suggests to every one but partially acquainted with the New Testament, a ready answer.—But the tyrant custom or tradition tramples down all common sense. Hundreds of religious teachers never seem to think or enquire about a kingdom or dispensation.—All ages and dispensations—forms and ceremonies, are so blended that it is not strange that such a state of things should be significantly expressed by a "bottomless pit."

In what part of the oracles of God is this prayer called the "*Lord's Prayer*?" Ans. In no part. The disciples say, "Lord teach us to pray as John also taught his disciples." He said, "When ye pray, say: 'Our Father,' " &c. Here we have the origin of the prayer. It was a prayer composed for the disciples; and at that time, no doubt, the most applicable one that could be presented to the Father of lights. If prepared for the disciples, then it was the *disciples' prayer*. The "Lord's Prayer" can be found in the 17th chapter of John. Would to the Lord that all christians would learn it, and pray and act accordingly!

The disciples' prayer is an excellent one; and might properly be used on many occasions, except the expression, "Thy kingdom come," translated by Dr. George Campbell, "Thy reign come." We suspect that few who know any thing about the New Testament, will express a doubt relative to the meaning of the petition, viz. that it refers to the establishment of the kingdom of the Lord Jesus here among men—thus fulfilling the prediction of Daniel: "In the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom which shall not be destroyed," &c. Hence the Savior and his Apostles preach, "The kingdom of Heaven is at hand—and pray, "Thy kingdom come." There is just as much sense in preaching "The kingdom of heaven is at hand," as to pray for that kingdom which was established in the days of the Cæsars.

Be it understood, however, that by the kingdom, reign, and government of heaven, we mean no more than the spiritual government of the Lord Jesus, which commenced when he was crowned Lord of all in the heavens, and sent down his Holy Spirit—baptised his apostles, and prepared them to preach the Gospel to every creature.

We have not sufficient discernment to discover the propriety of the Prayer on all occasions. It is taught to children; it is made a family prayer—used in the pulpit always—when a child or adult is baptised—on what is called "sacramental" occasions—for the sick and the well; births, marriages, or deaths.

We wish, however, that many who repeat it frequently, would learn something more of its style, and try to imitate that! In this respect it