

rushed back to his minn, ann from thence to his lips, and the sincerity of the Acts of Faith, Hope, Charity, and Contrition which he now made, must have assuredly been the signal for 'joy in heaven.'

Reverently, humbly he prayed before that holly-decked crib, prayed for grace to change for good and aye his mode of life ; to confess on the morrow so that his soul might be made as white as the Christmas snow ; and many were the resolutions he formed to help with his wealth the poverty of all those who were beloved by the Pitying Babe of Bethlehem.

He lingered until the loyal sister who had been instrumental in bringing about his awakening, led him homeward, and as she saw his softened face with its expression of new-found peace, she smiled happily at her husband and murmured, "THANK GOD !"

KATHLEEN EILEEN BARRY.



THE EFFICACY OF PRAYER

PRAYER can obtain everything ; it can open the windows of heaven, and shut the gates of hell ; it can put a holy constraint upon God, and detain an angel until he leave a blessing ; it can open the treasures of rain, and soften the iron ribs of rocks till they melt into tears and a flowing river ; prayer can unclasp the girdles of the north, saying to a mountain of ice, "Be thou removed hence and cast into the bottom of the sea ;" it can arrest the sun in the midst of its course, and send the swift-winged winds upon our errand ; and all those strange things and secret decrees and unrevealed transactions, which are above the clouds, and far beyond the region of the stars, shall combine in ministry and advantages for the praying man.

