

prayers, teachings, and exhortations when they stood before their brethren! When such men come together to hold meetings; to do anything publicly for the cause of God it is like bringing together so many icebergs. The more you collect around you the colder the atmosphere! Such men are rather a curse than a blessing to the congregations of the Lord. Without frequent visits of Evangelists from other congregations their flock would continually diminish and, indeed, soon become extinct. And, where the Bishop neglects the worship of God in his family, the truth of the old maxim is soon demonstrated: "like priest—like people!" Such communities as these—such Christless, prayerless "disciples"—have often made the glorious cause of truth to stink in the nostrils of those who knew only that a Christian should "walk in wisdom toward those without"—and at least should be a man of truth, consistent and prayerful!

But where family worship is habitually neglected there is some thing—as above stated—back of it! The closet has been forsaken!—or it never was habitually resorted to!! For no Christian with a family and dependents around him can habitually study the word of God and regularly repair to his closet without feeling the importance of training his family for the service of the Lord. In such a state of mind he must go forward or forsake his closet. He must worship God in his family or become a conscience smitten backslider. Some excuse themselves with the plea that they have not the talent—the gift—or the information necessary to teach their families and pray vocally with them: but, before God they know that the grand reason is they do not obey Jesus! They enter not their closets—they do not pray to God in secret. Were they to do so perseveringly they would soon triumph over all timidity. They would soon cultivate such a familiarity with the Lord in their closets that they would not fear to speak to him before the Kings of the Earth. The plea of a want of talent,—of knowledge to pray in the presence of others, is a more hypocritical pretence! Can he not thank his neighbour—nay, the greatest man in the land, when he feels grateful for favors bestowed? Can he not ask a friend for what he needs? 'Tis true that some men's diffidence is such, that this requires an effort—a great struggle; but none but an idiot would say, "I cannot do it;" especially when great benefits have been conferred, and when we feel truly thankful.

Thus it is with prayer. We acknowledge his greatness, goodness and mercy. We thank him for his word—for life—food, raiment for all things—we ask for all he has promised to give,—for every thing