

him with the prayer of faith. I used to watch, and when temptations came, I prayed;—so far I was right;—but after praying, I fought the enemy in my own strength; and here I did foolishly, and smarted for my folly; and then I used to fret against the Lord because of my defeat. Many a sore and long conflict have I had of this kind. Sometimes I have fought a whole fortnight together against a single corruption; and at last, when I thought I could fight no longer, and was ready to surrender, to my great surprise the enemy fled from me; the reason of which I did not then understand, but now I know. While I was fighting my own battles, and relying upon my own wisdom and strength, Jesus could not strike a stroke. But when I cast myself at the Lord's feet he took up the sword and did valiantly. O my gracious Lord, I love thee! Thou shalt now be my Captain, as well as my counsellor; my arm every moment, my salvation all the day long!

If any one had asked me, six weeks ago, "Is Christ to be your strength?" I should have replied, "Yes, to be sure." But then I thought that his strength was to help out my feeble endeavours, just as I thought his merits were to help out my merits, when I was seeking for pardon. I did not make him my *whole* strength in the battle, but only a second in the engagement. When we admit Christ to be our all in all, then he will make us more than conquerors. Come then, my brother, let us watch and pray against sin, and look up to Jesus alone for help. "Watch and pray," is Christ's word; let it be ours also.—*Berridge*.

THE DISEASED LIMB.

A young man, who had been long confined with a diseased limb, and was near his dissolution, was attended by a friend, who requested that the wound might be uncovered. When this was done, "There," said the young man, "there it is and a precious treasure it has been to me; it saved me from the folly and vanity of youth; it made me cleave to God as my only portion, and to eternal glory as my only hope; and I think it hath now brought me very near to my Father's house."

THE BOOK.

(THE BIBLE.)

This Book—this holy book—on every line
Mark'd with the seal of high divinity;
On every leaf bedew'd with drops of love
Divine,—and with the eternal heraldry,
And signature of God Almighty stamped,
From first to last—this ray of sacred light,
This lamp from off the eternal throne,—
Mercy brought down: and in the night of
time
Stands, casting on the dark no gracious bow,
And evermore beseeching men, with tears
And earnest sighs, to read,—believe,—and
live.

The wise man, says the Bible, walks with
God—
Surveys, far on, the endless line of life;
Values his soul—thinks of eternity,—
Both worlds considers, and provides for both;
With reason's eye his passions guards: ab-
stains
From evil; lives on hope—on hope the fruit
Of faith: looks upward; purifies his soul,—
Expands his wings, and mounts into the sky;
Passes the sun, and gains his Father's house;
And drinks with angels from the fount of
bliss.
—*Pollak*.

KEPT AT HOME.

Lord, thy servants are now praying in the church, and I am here staying at home, detained by necessary occasions, such as are not of my seeking but of thy sending; my care could not prevent them, my power could not remove them. Wherefore, though I cannot go to church, there to sit down at table with the rest of thy guests, be pleased, Lord, to send me a dish of their meat hither, and feed my soul with holy thoughts. Eldad (Num. xi. 26) and Medad, though staying still in the camp (no doubt on just cause), yet prophesied as well as the other elders. Though they went not out to the Spirit, the Spirit came home to them. Thus never any dutiful child lost his legacy for being absent at the making of his father's will, if at the same time he were employed about his father's business. I fear too many at church have their bodies there, and minds at home. Behold, in exchange, my body here and heart there. Though I cannot pray with them I pray for them. Yea, this comforts me, I am with thy congregation, because I would be with it.—*Thomas Fuller*.