

poor man cried and the Lord heard him?" God delights in the prayers of poor sinful creatures; and there is scarce any great thing done for his Church and people, but it comes in answer to prayer. He does not stir up his people to earnest prayer, but he hears them in what they pray for: "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." James v. 16. If thou art in covenant with God, thy prayer shall prevail; and if thou art striving, groaning, and wrestling in prayer, he sees it; and through his grace thou shalt obtain what thou prayest for, according to his will. Is not this infinite condescension, that he should be nigh unto all that call upon him in truth? We have free liberty, through Christ, to come with boldness to a throne of grace.

POETRY.

THE HEARER OF PRAYER.

Of all the names beneath the heaven
Which is the fittest to be given
To Him who rules on high?
What phrase, that mortal lips can frame,
Is least unworthy of Thy fame,
Great Lord of earth and sky?

In vain we seek to shadow forth
Thy power, thy truth, thy matchless worth,
Thy love, thy ceaseless care.
To inspiration's page we turn,
And there the words in glory burn—
"Oh Thou, that hearest prayer!"

Not all the eloquence sublime,
That graced each sage of earlier time,
Such words could e'er devise:
Mighty to bind with viewless chain
Man's spirit to his God again,
To draw him to the skies.

Poor wanderers on life's darkling way,
Uncertain still, and apt to stray,
Unsafe, whate'er our care,
It is a blessed thought indeed
That Thou art near us in our need—
That Thou dost hear our prayer.

The angel hosts that round Thee fly
Exalt thy praise above the sky,
And fill the heavenly air.
But sweeter notes shall swell the hymn,
When saints redeemed shall worship Him
Through whom Thou hearest prayer.

A. J. W.