

But then, daring to reprove King Dagobert for some vice, he was banished from the country, and his work sadly interrupted.

After some short time the King repented; sent for Amandus, and begged him to forgive him, and baptize his infant son and heir.

At the baptism, it is said, no one responded, probably because those present did not believe in, or were opposed to, the Christian faith. But the history relates the baby prince, Sigebert, but forty days old, himself uttered the Amen at the close of the prayers.

Whether this be strictly true or whether the Christian missionary only imagined he heard the Amen from the infant's lips we cannot say. But the story shows how a little child may cheer a minister's heart, and gives us another illustration of the text, "Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings hast Thou perfected praise."

Often indeed have we heard some child's voice in church respond "Amen" with an earnestness that might bring a blush to the cheek of a careless, inattentive worshipper. Not the rich, or the learned, or the great, are the best to respond in holy worship, but sometimes the youthful, or the ignorant, or the poor, who have been taught to thank God for His mercies and to ask Him for His help, are far more ready to lift up their voices earnestly and fervently in His Holy House. "Thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes; even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Thy sight."

Dear young friends, be sure that *your* "Amens" at the giving of thanks and at the prayers of the

Church be earnest and clear and devout and from the heart.

SHORT PRAYERS AT VARIOUS TIMES.

CHILDREN should cultivate the habit of saying grace before and after meals and on entering and leaving church. Frequently they will sit down at table when travelling or if alone when the necessity for saying grace will arise. If they do not know what prayer or grace to use, they will probably neglect a duty which may be, and ought to be, the custom both at home and abroad. We, therefore, subjoin a grace which is easily remembered. It is needless to say that every child entering God's House should say a short prayer for a blessing on their devotions, and no one should leave the church without asking that what they have engaged in may be acceptable to God and blessed to their own soul's eternal welfare. For this reason we add short prayers which may be used before and after service in church.

Grace Before Meals.

Bless, O Lord, these Thy gifts to our use and ourselves to Thy service; for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

Grace After Meals.

For these and all His other mercies God's Holy Name be praised; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Before Service in Church.

Cleanse my heart, O Lord, and let Thy blessing be upon me in Thy Holy House. Help me to lift up my heart to Thee, and to fix my mind on Thy service.