

of the Church Catholic. Yet the main business of life in childhood, and youth, and old age is the Kingdom of God: living it, spreading it, teaching it, especially instilling its precepts into the hearts of childhood and youth, while the mind and character are peculiarly receptive of abiding impressions:—all this power for God and His church we have permitted, and do permit (for six days of every week), the pressure of circumstances to force out of our hands. Of course there is the old talk about ways and means and the difficulty of carrying on Church schools in competition with State schools, and we listen to it all, and the faithless hearts sink within us because we forget the greatness of our commission and the sure promise of Him who has said that all things are possible to them that believe. When the Church of England is as much in earnest in her efforts to keep the education of her children in her own hands as, *e. g.*, the Roman Church is in the like regard, God will surely find a way whereby she may give effect to her desires, and from her own flesh and blood He will raise up new de Salles and new Vincents de Paul, who will crown her with a new and richer glory.

In the meantime, the Church needs the prayers and intercessions of all her children, and we ourselves greatly need the prayers and intercessions of one another. Intercessory prayer is doubly blest: it blesses him who prays and him for whom the prayers are offered. What countless multitudes of young people out in the world have been encircled by God's angels, guarding them from sin and from shame, in answer to the father's and mother's prayers! What grand triumphs the Church of God has won because her children made supplication for her to the God of Heaven! What victories over the world and over themselves men have gained by the power and the grace vouchsafed to them in answer to the prayers and intercessions of others! O, my brothers, if you really wish to bless your neighbors, pray for them; if they have in any way served you, pay back part of your obligation in prayers to God on their behalf. If aught of coolness or misunderstanding exists between you or your neighbor, then especially pray for him, and with all the more earnestness if you think he has done you wrong. You yourself need mercy. You need the prayers and intercessions of all who will plead for you. As the poet* has it:—

I beg of you, I beg of you, my brothers
 For my need is very sore:
 Not for gold and not for silver do I ask you,
 But for something even more;
 From the depths of your hearts pity let it be,
 Pray for me.

*Archbishop Trench.