

THE IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER.

H. A. DEVOE.

Luke xviii, 1.

Our Heavenly Father spends nothing in vain, or on trifles, and never fails to give attention to matters of importance. Our Lord is here calling our attention to the duty of prayer. The cause that moves to attention in any matter should be the importance of that matter, so our attention to prayer should be regulated by the importance of prayer. Let us then ask: what is prayer? All prayer is addressed to God through a spiritual channel leading from our hearts to that of our kind and merciful Father, who is in heaven, by the "new and living way." God reads the thoughts and intents of our hearts. Some suppose that holy thoughts and desires are their prayers. Many men are content to do their praying after this fashion. Desire, when coupled by expression, only becomes prayer. In Ps. xix. 14, David makes this plain, "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer." Rom. x. 1, Paul expresses the same thought: "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is: that they might be saved." Heart's desire and prayer being here coupled by the conjunction "and," are thus shown to be two distinct things. Summing these all up, we see that prayer is desire of the heart expressed in words uttered before our Heavenly Father. There may be desire without prayer, but no prayer without desire. Second—How is prayer to be offered? In the Temple of old the sweet incense offered by the people through the priesthood, rising daily before the veil, typified prayer. It was the closer of all earthly offerings to the mercy-seat, and filled the sacred bounds of the holy of holies. So, in prayer we come closer to God than in any other earthly service, right up to the veil that intervenes between God's presence and us, while Jesus, our great High Priest, stands in the sacred place and presents our offerings as sweet incense. Heb. xiii. 15, "By Him, therefore, let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is the fruit of our lips, giving thanks in His name."

Heaven is a storehouse of unspeakable blessings that we need for the life that now is, as well as for the life that is to come. Prayer is the key that unlocks the treasure-house of God. Christ tells us that our Heavenly Father will give good things to them that ask Him. There is no good gift outside of God. There is no protection, no safety, no life, no hope outside the gifts of God's love. Let us ask that we may receive, and let us rejoice in the spirit of adoption, whereby we can cry unto Him, "Abba, Father." Then there is a peace, a blessedness, a joy of heart, that come to us as a result of prayer, that can never find complete expression from human tongue or pen.

"Ere you left your room this morning,
Did you think to pray?
In the name of Christ, our Saviour,
Did you sue for loving favor,
As a shield to-day?"

Correspondence.

DEER ISLAND LETTER.

In my last letter I told you about the meeting in Keswick. There were two items of interest I forgot to mention. One was, that I baptized an old lady 82 years of age. Only once before have I immersed anybody as old as that, it was a very solemn sight. The other item was, that an old gentleman came nearly twenty miles to hear the preach the old Jerusalem gospel. Bro. James Leonard of Deer Island had been sending him the *Standard* and the *CHRISTIAN* and he had been reading and from what he read he concluded that these people (the disciples) were his people. He had been among the Baptist brethren all his life and had been licensed by them to preach. But he had found a more excellent way, so he and his wife came this distance of twenty milestimes while I was there and enjoyed the services and we enjoyed having them. When the new house is completed Brother Parent will be of great use to these brethren in the work of establishing primitive Christianity. And now about Deer Island. We have had a very pleasant and profitable visit from Bro. J. A. Lord. He preached at Lord's Cove, Leonardville and Lambert's Cove. The meetings were all well attended. Everybody was glad to see both Bro. Lord and his wife, and they enjoyed their short visit very much and regretted that they were compelled to return to Cincinnati so soon. Everybody wishes them to come back next summer and stay longer.

Death has visited several of the homes on the Island. On the 7th Bro. George Richardson was laid away to rest. He had only been sick a short time and we all thought he would get better up until the last. His widow and family have the sympathy of the community.

On the same day Albert Leeman, eldest son of Ezra Leaman, was drowned while on his way to attend his weir in St. Andrews bay; his body could not be found. His parents and relatives have the deep-felt sympathy of the whole community.

The next day Mrs. Ann Garrison was buried; she was in her ninety-third year. She was a member of the Leonardville church, and leaves a great many relatives and friends. The end of the nineteenth century is not far off, but many will not see it.

Next week the season for packing sardines closes; and a dull season it has been, with a long hard winter before us. I have from good authority that in the little town of Eastport there are seventy-five families receiving aid from the state, and this at the time of year when everybody has plenty of money. But we must make the best of it. Crying out "hard times" will not help it any.

The election is now over, and some are pleased and some are not; it is pretty hard to have an election that pleases everybody.

I spent Sunday the 11th with the brethren in Back Bay. I found them working away, but in need of a preacher. I am in hopes that Bro. Foster Calder will take the work in this place in the near future. I shall visit them again soon, for I am free now to go and come when I like, and want to use my freedom to advantage and for the salvation of men.

W. H. HARDING.

Lord's Cove, N. B.

P. E. ISLAND MISSION BOARD.

A meeting of the P. E. Island Home Mission Board was held in Charlottetown, on November 8th, the following members being present, viz.: A. N. Simpson, of New Glasgow; G. Nelson Stevenson, of Montague; G. Franklin Boyer, of Lot 40, and the undersigned. The only absent member, Bro. Linkletter, being unable to attend on account of sickness in his home.

The meeting came to order at 2.30 p. m., Bro. A. N. Simpson occupied the chair, and stated that the object of the meeting was to determine on ways and means and methods of work in the matter of aggressive mission work in the province of P. E. Island.

The Secretary read a communication from Benj. L. Smith, of Cincinnati, which contained helpful suggestions, and also a letter from Bro. Jas. W. Barnes, of St. John, N. B. which gave some needed information. Both of these brethren emphasized the need of regular systematic and pressing appeals and business-like methods of work, collections and reports of work done. It was thought best to have the Board direct its attention to one field only, and try to build up the work in one weak church before attempting general evangelistic efforts, and after a full discussion of the conditions as they exist and careful consideration of the different features, it was unanimously decided on motion of J. H. Williams, seconded by G. Nelson Stevenson, that "This P. E. Island Home Mission Board proceed at once to make appeals on behalf of the work at Murray Harbor."

The method of appeal next demanded the attention of the members, and Bro. G. Nelson Stevenson made the following motion which was seconded by J. Harry Williams, and carried unanimously, viz.: "That a circular letter, with suitable envelopes be prepared, for distribution throughout the membership of the different congregations by the pastors, and that the Secretary of the Board be required to send similar letters to all disciples not represented by a pastor." The four members present agreed to be a committee to draft said letter, and it was resolved that the Board endeavor to have the January, 1901, number of *THE CHRISTIAN* devoted to home mission work on P. E. Island and solicit contributions on the subject; also to furnish names of non-subscribers to whom it should be sent, and that the churches be requested to take up a general collection in aid of the work, on the third Lord's day in January, 1901.

Further resolved, That a report of this meeting be published in the December number of the *CHRISTIAN*.

Meeting adjourned to meet at the call of the Chair.

J. HARRY WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

KESWICK BUILDING FUND.

Balance at last report,		\$ 5
J. McIntyre, St. John,		25
Dr. Ray, St. John,		1 00
W. H. Allen, Pictou, N. S.,		5 00
Church Gulliver's Cove, per H. A. Devoe,		3 00
Church South Range, N. S., per H. A. Devoe,		3 00
George Barnes, St. John,		1 00
Mascarene Church,.....		5 00

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