

were evermore had in such reverend estimation that no man might presume to execute any of them, except he were approved and admitted thereunto by *lawful authority*." (Preface to the Ordinal.)

"Whosoever are or shall be Consecrated or Ordered according to the rites of the Prayer Book (1549) we decree all such to be *rightly, orderly, and lawfully* Consecrated or Ordained." (Article xxxvi. vid also xxiii.)

In other words, the Apostolic Succession is not a matter of private opinion, but of historical fact; not an open question, but an established certainty; being a Ladder of 18 century steps, *down which* the original Commission of the Great King (S. Matt. xxvii. 18—20, *given only to a select few, and thereby excluding all others* (Num. iii. 10; xvi. 7) has descended in a regular and unbroken series of network links, from generation to generation of successive Bishops in every branch of his Kingdom, the Holy Catholic Church; and *up which* as the only appointed means of Priestly communication with Him, the Clergy of to-day reach out to Christ, their Head, to bring down His promised grace and blessing. [Heb. iii. 1; v. 4, 5; Exod. xxviii. 1; S. Matt. iii. 16; xvi. 19; S. John xx. 21—3; 2 Cor. v. 20.]

GENTLENESS.

GENTLENESS is love in society. It is love holding intercourse with those around it. It is that cordiality of aspect, and that soul of speech which assure us that kind and earnest hearts may still be met with here below. It is that

quiet influence which, like the scented flame of an alabaster lamp, fills many a home with light, and warmth, and fragrance altogether. It is the carpet, soft and deep, which, whilst it diffuses a look of ample comfort, deadens many a creaking sound. It is the curtain which, from many a beloved form, wards off at once the summer's glow and winter's wind. It is the pillow on which sickness lays its head and forgets half its misery, and to which death comes in a balmier dream. It is consideration. It is tenderness of feeling. It is warmth of affection. It is promptitude of sympathy. It is love in all its depths, and all its delicacy. It is everything included in that matchless grace,—the *gentleness of Christ*.

FAMILY PRAYER—A NEGLECTED DUTY.

BY THE REV. A. W. SNYDER.

PRECEDING the Psalter, in the American Book of Common Prayer, are Forms of Prayer to be used in Families. It is an order, we fear, but little observed. It cannot be the fault of the prayers themselves, for they are excellent. Nor would it matter if some other form should be observed, instead. There are many excellent Manuals for family devotion. Those of Bishop Wainwright and of Dr. Goulburn are especially good. There is no excuse for the devout Churchman, who, being the head of a family, fails to have daily family devotions. It witnesses to the too often forgotten fact that the head of the house is responsible before Al-