

Christ Our Priest.

The Epistle to the Hebrews furnishes us and all Christians with one most admirable view of Christ's person and office. It represents Him as our High Priest, and His office as a priesthood; as a priesthood in the two great parts of the priestly character, sacrifice and intercession or mediation. And it declares also that this is the only Priest and the only Priesthood which the Gospel acknowledges; for He being eternal, and having done once perfectly one part of his office, namely, sacrifice, and being forever engaged in doing perfectly the other part of it, namely, intercession or meditation, what room can there be for any other priesthood?—*Arnold.*

Prayer.

Prayer is the peace of our spirit, the stillness of our thoughts, the evenness of our cares, and the calm of our tempest; prayer is the issue of a quiet mind, of untroubled thoughts; it is the daughter of charity, and the sister of meekness; and he that prays to God with an angry, that is, with a troubled and discomposed spirit, is like him that retires into a battle to meditate, and sets up his closet in the outquarters of an army. Anger is a perfect alienation of the mind from prayer, and therefore is contrary to that which presents prayers in a right tone to God. For so have I seen a lark rising from his bed of grass, and soaring upwards, singing as he rises, and hopes to get to heaven and climbs above the clouds; but the poor bird was back with the loud sighings of an eastern wind, and his motion made irregular and unconstant, descending more at every breath of the tempest than it could recover by the liberation and frequent weighings of his wings, till the little creature was forced to sit down and pant, and stay till the storm was over, and then it made a prosperous flight, and did rise and sing as if it had learned music and motion from an angle, as he passed sometimes through the air about his ministries here below; so in the prayer of a good man. Prayers are but the body of the bird; desires are its angle's wings.