

THE LORD'S PRAYER.

How wonderfully the Bible condenses ! Witness the Ten Commandments and the Lord's Prayer—the one the embodied moral law of God, the other the daily utterance of praise, intercession, supplication, and confession.

Prayer is the expression of *desire* ; hence, there is no prayer which the offerer does not try to turn into practical action. Now, see how the devotions "daily" offered to God in compliance with the Lord's Prayer will control the life. How affectionate, reverential, spiritual, obedient, industrious, forgiving, watchful, must its offerer be. No doubt the Lord's Prayer is often employed as a mere form, by those who do not understand it or think of its meaning ; and even as if it had a magic power, because it is the words of Christ ; but no man ever *prayed* it who was not a Christian, and no Christian ever prayed it in vain.—*Christian Observer*.

THE BOUNDARY STONE OF GEZER.

We referred in our paper of November 2, to the fact that M. Ganneau, of the Palestine Exploration Fund, has made a most interesting and important discovery in identifying the site of the ancient Levitical City of Gezer, in the territory of the tribe of Ephraim. He has discovered, cut in the rock, two inscriptions, one Greek, the other Hebrew. The Hebrew inscription is translated, "The limit of Gezer," the word for "limit" being that used in the Talmud in speaking of a Sabbath-day's journey. One of these inscriptions lies east of Abu-Shusheh, the name of the modern village, and the other lies northwest of the former ; and as a third inscription has been found since, to the southwest of the first, it seems to be evident that we have here one of the angles of the square with sides of two thousand cubits, which, as we learn from Numbers xxxv : 5, formed the boundaries of the suburbs of the Levitical cities.

The importance of the discovery lies in the fact that it will help in the determination of the form and extent of the territory of Ephraim, and also in the settlement of the vexed question of the length of the Jewish cubit.

THE BIBLE AND ITS FOES.

If collected from the earliest times to the present day, infidel books would occupy far more than a thousand times the space of the one volume against which they are directed ; and would certainly be much more numerous than all the works that all other "sacred" books ever had the honour of provoking either for or against them. If all these books were placed in one library, and this single one set on a table in the middle of it, and a stranger were told that this book—affirmed to be, for the most part, the work of a number of unlearned and obscure men belonging to a despised nation called the Jews—had drawn upon itself, for its exposure, confutation, and destruction, this multitude of volumes, I imagine he would be inclined to say : "Then, I presume this little book was annihilated long ago ; though how it could be needful to write a thousandth part so much, for any such purpose, I cannot comprehend. For if the book be what these authors say, surely it should not be very difficult to show it to be so ; and if so, what wonderful madness to write all these volumes." How surprised would he then be to learn that they were felt not to be enough ; that similar works were being multiplied every day, and never more actively than at the present time ; and still to no purpose in disabusing mankind of this same frenzy ! He would learn, indeed, that so far from accomplishing the object, the new volumes are little more than necessary to replace those of this fruitful, yet fruitless, literature, which are continually sinking into oblivion.

But the volume itself survives both friends and foes. Without being able