

denly resumed his attitude of defiance, repeated his threats so fiercely as before, affirming his deadly intentions with a terrible oath. "If you kill me," said the Minister, "you will do a very wicked thing; for I do not come to do *you* any harm." But the criminal said, "Stand where thee be'st, then, for if thee tries to take the knife from I, I'll kill thee, so help me God!" The late humour, which seems inseparable from greatness of all kind, played around the mouth of the good man, as he answered, "So help you devil! my friend. God does not help to commit murder." And then he added, more quietly, "I am not going to take the knife from you: if you give it to me, it shall be of your own free-will, or not at all." And in this manner he came close to the criminal, and, placing his hand upon his shoulder, spoke to him kindly and solemnly, until the eyes of the reprobate fell; and then he said, "I knew you would not kill me, because I came for your good. *Now*, give me the knife." And the knife was given him the word. After a little time the door of the cell was re-opened, the soldiers were quickly removed; for the turnkey found the late desperate culprit on his knees, in tears a woman, and in weakness a child.—*Weekly Chronicle*.

DO YOU PRAY?

David did. His circumstances were indeed unfavorable. A crown was upon his head. The care of a kingdom pressed hard upon him. He might have said, "I have no time." But he prayed. He prayed much. Prayer formed one of his most influential habits. What proofs and illustrations abound in those wonderful writings, the Psalms! How touching, earnest, often sublime, were his cries unto God?

Daniel did. He was indeed a statesman and courtier. He lived in the midst of idolaters. To them his religion was offensive. The King bade him not to pray unto the Lord. If he did, it was at mortal peril. The great men of Babylon conspired to do this very thing the means of his ruin. Still he prayed. He did it, not ostentatiously, but without concealment. His religious principle was stronger than his fear of men. "Three times a day he kneeled, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as at other time."

St. Paul did. It was the first pulse and expression of his new life in Christ. "Behold he prayeth!" said the Spirit. The fact was the surpassing but conclusive proof of his spiritual change.