

you cannot employ it in any way that shall tell so favourably on your interests as by filling it up with petitions to God. Yet when we have such an hour, how apt we are to spend it in unprofitable intercourse with our fellows, rather than in communion with God. It is wonderful that we talk so much, when "the talk of the lips tendeth only to penury;" and pray so little, when prayer "brings a quick return of blessings in variety."

Is there any thing attended by a purer pleasure than prayer? One who knew, said, "It is good for me to draw near to God;" and again, "It is good to sing praises unto our God: for it is pleasant, and praise is comely." All the exercises of devotion are as full of pleasure as they are abundant in profit.

But prayer is not only a means of getting good. It is such a means of doing good, that I wonder our benevolence does not lead us to pray more. We are commanded, "as we have opportunity, to do good unto all men." Now, prayer affords us the opportunity of being universal benefactors. Through God we can reach all men. We can make ourselves felt by all the world, by moving the hand that moves it. In no other way can we reach all. Prayer makes us, in a sense, omnipresent and omnipotent. It prevails with Him who is both.

The world needs your intercessions. It lies in wickedness. Zion needs them. She languishes because few pray for her peace; few come to her solemn assemblies. Whose family needs not the prayers of its every member? Who has not kindred that are out of Christ! With such a call upon us for prayer, so urgent, and from so many quarters, I wonder we pray no more.

I must pray more, for then I shall do more—more for God, and more for myself; for I find that when I pray most, I accomplish more in the briefer intervals between my devotions, than when I give all my time to labour or study. I am convinced there is nothing lost by prayer. I am sure nothing helps a student like prayer. His most happy hours, his hours of most successful application to study, are those which immediately follow his seasons of most fervent devotion. And no wonder. Shall the collision of created minds with each other produce in them a salutary excitement, and shall not the communion of those minds with the Infinite Intelligence, much more excite them, and make them capable of wider thought and loftier conceptions?

I must pray more, because other Christians, whose biography I have read, have prayed more than I do.

God is disposed to hear more prayers from

me than I offer; and Jesus, the Mediator, stands ready to present more for me.

If I pray more I shall sin less.

I will pray more. The Lord help to fulfil this resolution.

WM. NEVINS.

## ANSWER TO PRAYER

WHEN IT APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN DENIED.

The late GENERAL BURN was an eminently pious and devoted Christian; and we have spent some delightful hours in his company. He was in the habit, for many years, of noting down any remarkable circumstance in his life. The following is an instance of the favour of God towards him, when he "refused a direct and immediate grant" of his petitions:—

"When I was a Subaltern in the Royal Marine Corps, two other officers and myself were ordered to embark, one in each of the three guard-ships then stationed in the Medway. Two of them lay close to the Dock-yard, affording at all times easy access to the shore; but the other, the *Resolution* of 74 guns, was moored half way down the river, towards Sheerness, from whence in winter and bad weather it was troublesome to land, and sometimes impracticable. For this reason it was natural for each of us to wish for one of the Chatham ships, and strong interest was accordingly made by us respectively, with the commanding officer for this purpose. But he finding he must necessarily disoblige one of the three, ordered us to attend the parade next morning, and draw lots for our ships. This of course drove me to my strong hold, and if ever I prayed with fervency in my life it was now. I pleaded hard with the Searcher of hearts, that he knew my chief motive for desiring one of the Chatham ships was, that I might constantly attend the means of grace, and the ordinances of his house, and I felt confidence that if I really was a child of God, he would grant my request—since the 'lot thus cast into