

ment and tender sympathy. To whom does he call attention? *"To the King;"* that is, Jesus, his beloved and only-begotten Son: whom to know is everlasting life; whom to love is true happiness; to be united to whom is the highest honour. Why does he speak? Because he seeks your happiness, and desires your everlasting welfare. Consider then, the consequence of attending to his word—you are made for ever; the result of refusing to listen to him—you cannot escape the due desert of your sins. *"Incline thine ear;"* pay close attention: listen, until your heart is won. *"Forget"* all old connections; forsake your former pursuits; resign your carnal pleasures; give up your old follies, and give Jesus all your heart!

THE ASSURANCE AND DIRECTION. *"So shall the king greatly desire thy beauty."* This will make thee beautiful in his eye, and draw out his love to thee. He says, "I love them that love me, and they that seek me early shall find me." He will accept thee at his throne, listen to thy requests, betroth thee for his own, unite thee to his person, and confer all he has upon thee. *"He will greatly desire thy beauty."* Nothing will satisfy him but the possession of thee, the closest union to thee; and thou wilt find his love to be strong as death. *"He is thy Lord,"* intended to be thy husband, by the arrangements of the Father; and as thy husband he will support thee, rule thee, love thee, bless thee, and make thee truly happy. *"Worship thou him."* Treat him with the deepest reverence; cheerfully do his pleasure; in all things serve him and honour his name. Reverence his person, word, and will. Adore his divinity, and glorious perfections. In this way you will become happy, wealthy, holy, safe, and ultimately glorious.

God speaks on behalf of his Son. He speaks to win our hearts, engage our affections, and bring us into his family. *God speaks lovingly to you.* He sees you connected, mixed up with, and at home in the world; and he says, "Come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." *Listen, then, to his words.* This is the least you can do. If you have any respect for his authority, if you have any regard for your own welfare, listen to what our heavenly Father says; not only listen, but carry out his exhortation; and in so doing you are made for ever. Believe, and engage the heart of Jesus; obey, and honour the commands of Jesus; keep your eye on the King, and honour him in all things, always, and everywhere. So will he greatly desire thy beauty, and will commend thee before his Father and the holy angels. Yea, he will say to thee, as to his church of old, *"Thou art all fair, my love; there is no spot in thee!"*

THE PRAYER AND THE LIFE.

BY A FEMALE SERVANT.

Do I mean the prayers I offer?—do I feel the words I say,
When before our Heavenly Father I kneel
down from day to day,—
When at morning and at evening I incline
to seek His face,
And my voice goes up in pleading to His
glorious Throne of Grace?

I tell Him of my wants—my needs; but
when I turn away,
Do I think of what I asked for? Do I watch
as well as pray?
Do I strive against temptation? Do I seek
like Christ to live?
Do I use aright the blessings that so freely
He doth give?

My prayers are with much speaking—yet
when I leave the spot,
How quickly are its memories fled—how soon
these prayers forgot!
O, if the thought that gave them birth so
lightly treasured be,
How can I think God's mercy will remember
them for me?

Yet one petition farther, Lord! Wilt Thou
not deign to hear?
O, let Thy Spirit breathe anew through all
my daily prayer.
Then help me, as I pray, to live, kept by Thy
grace Divine—
And the glory of the prayer and life, alike,
O Lord! be Thine.

December, 1861.

JESUS PLEADS.

BY THE REV. J. R. MACDUFF.

Jesus pleads! Still the Great Intercessor
"waits to be gracious." He is at once Moses
on the mountain, and Joshua on the battle-
plain—fighting with us in the one, praying
for us in the other. No Aarons or Hurs
needed to sustain His sinking strength, for
it is His sublime prerogative neither to
"faint nor grow weary!" There is no loftier
occupation for faith than to speed upwards
to the throne and behold that wondrous
Pleaser, receiving at one moment, and at
every moment, the countless supplications
and prayers which are coming up before Him
from every corner of His Church.

The Sinner just awoke from his moral
slumber and in the agonies of conviction,
exclaiming "What must I do to be saved?"
The Procrastinator sending up from the
brink of despair the cry of importunate agony.
The Backslider wailing forth his bitter
lamentation over guilty departures, and
ingratitude, and injured love.

The Sick man feebly groaning forth