

On all hands it is confessed that a sublimer prospect is rarely seen, than that of a good man "in audience with the Deity."

Even Satan trembles when he sees,
The weakest saints upon his knees.

But to see a true Israelite like his father Jacob, wrestling with God in prayer, importuning him for a blessing, and vowing never to desist until he obtained it, might make an angel, had he tears of sympathy to shed, pour them out with a joy as pure as the crystal firmament on which he stands before the throne of God, waiting for a message, for an errand to bless the humble, pious and persevering suppliant, to whose plea and earnestness he is a living witness.

When our Saviour encourages his disciples to "ask," "seek," and "knock" at the door of the Divine Mercy, he annexes to each a promise; but things asked, sought, and vehemently desired, must be such as God had promised to bestow.

Now there are some things promised provisionally or conditionally, others are absolutely and explicitly tendered on the simple condition of asking for them. Our heavenly Father has sometimes refused his most beloved and faithful servants some matters of this kind. Paul thrice besought the Lord to be delivered from a certain burthen which he was ill able to bear; yet the Lord did not remove it, but merely imparted to him more strength to bear it. But the good Spirit of our God and the good things of the Reign of Grace are freely and unconditionally tendered to every one that sincerely desires them. "If you, being evil, know how to give good things to your children that ask you, how much more will your heavenly Father give his Holy Spirit"—"give good things to them that ask him?"

This is our encouragement to pray—and to pray with preserverance. Our heavenly Father is fond of the company of his beloved children, and, therefore, occasions them to call on him very frequently for something before he answers them. Even Paul made three visits to the throne of grace before he indirectly obtain his wish. "For all these things," said God once, "I will be inquired of by the house of Israel." "To be inquired of," intimates not an occasional, but a persevering application.

Now in these delays to answer, there is more profit than in an immediate response. It is an honor often to appear in the presence of a king, of a great and most accomplished prince. We are not only pleased with the contemplation of his greatness and grandure;