

## Gems for the Tribune, sent by its Friends.

This new department is opened, and will be kept open, for the reception of approved precious fragments and admired paragraphs which the Editor receives from his friends for publication. All sending such contributions are requested to give their names, and to append their initials to all the written comments with which they may see fit to accompany the selected gems; taking care to enclose all such written observations in brackets, as seen below.

COMMUNICATED BY DANIEL GRAM.

### DOCTOR CHALMERS ON CREEDS.

To one of his daughters he said, "I look on Catechisms and Confessions as mere land-marks against heresy. It is putting them out of their place to look on them as magazines of truth. There's some of your stout orthodox folk just overready to stretch the Bible to square with their Catechism. (Kindling up.) What I say, is, do not let that wretched mutilated thing be thrown between me and the Bible." . . . Deliver me, O God, from the narrowing influences of human lessons and human systems of theology. Teach me directly out of the fulness and freeness of thine own Word. Hasten the time, when, unfettered by human influence, and unwavering by the authority of man, the Bible shall make its rightful impression upon all, because the simple and obedient call no man master but Christ only. Oh that we were fully unfettered from all which has the effect of distorting and deranging the Christianity of the Bible in the artificial systems of human orthodoxy.—*Life, by Dr. Hanna.*

[Creeds and Confessions of Faith have fostered hypocrisy and heresy, and "stereotyped the nonsense of the past," but have miserably failed in promoting truth, uniformity, or union. As the mists of the midnight age pass away before the rising glory of the millennial day, men are beginning to see that vital, voluntary Christianity will live and triumph without the least support from either Rome, Oxford, or Geneva.] D. C.

### THE LORD'S PRAYER.

The Lord's Prayer,—It breathes a filial spirit. "Father,"—a Catholic spirit, "*Our Father*,"—an adoring spirit, "*Hallowed be thy name*,"—a missionary spirit, "*Thy kingdom come*,"—an obedient spirit, "*Thy will be done on earth*,"—a dependent spirit, "*Give us this day our daily bread*,"—a forgiving spirit, "*and forgive us our debts*," &c,—a contrite spirit, "*lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil*,"—a confiding and adoring spirit, "*for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.*"

### WHAT PRAYER HAS DONE.

Prayer has divided seas; rolled up flowing rivers; made flinty rocks gush into fountains; quenched flames of fire; muzzled lions; disarmed vipers and poisons; marshalled stars against the wicked; stopped the sun and moon; burst open iron gates; recalled souls from eternity; conquered the strongest devils; commanded legions of angels from heaven; bridled and chained the raging passions of men; routed vast armies of proud atheists; has brought que man from the bottom of the sea, and carried another in a chariot of fire to heaven.—RYLAND.

"Wherever God erects a house of prayer,  
The devil always builds a chapel there;  
And 'twill be found upon examination  
The latter has the larger congregation."

## THE HEAVENLY ASSEMBLY.

BY R. HALL.

"Many shall come from the east and the west, and shall sit down with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven."

Amid the evanescent cares and trifles of this preparatory state, let us gaze for a moment on this heavenly scene, so powerfully adapted to stimulate our dulness, console our sadness, and exalt our affections above earthly things. The text appears to suggest the following ideas:—

1st, *That of an assembly.*—What a multitude!—which embraces all the pious of all ages, past, present, and to come, from the beginning to the end of time; a company innumerable as the leaves of autumn which annually moulder into earth—types of the buried bodies of the saints, to re-appear in the beauty of the resurrection; persons who lived under different economies, and every dispensation; natives of every land; subjects of every government; individuals of the most different ranks and classes in society, of the most varied intellect and education, the simplest and most profound minds, either illuminated with science, or so uncultivated as to be merely susceptible of first principles in religion; an immense collection of stones and jewels from the quarry of nature, by the Maker and Lord of all, and so finely polished by grace and skill, so wondrously cleared from the dark incrustations of sin, and wrought into "the beauty of holiness," without spot, appearing in the Redeemer's diadem. The spirit of piety, the principle of love annihilates all distinctions.

2nd, *Perfect harmony and congeniality of character.*—Though the assembly will be varied as it is vast, yet will exquisite union exist. There the features of that family likeness which lives through every form of mind, touched and illuminated by celestial glory, will brightly distinguish the children of God.

3rd, *Rest.*—They "sit down"; they "rest from their labor." Heaven is a state of Sabbatic rest; a blissful cessation from all earthly care, from all sin-born woe. No more need to watch, and to war.

4th, *Mutual Recognition.*—"They shall sit down with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob"—not as guests, unknown and unknown. No confusion in that throng. And who does not rejoice in the prospect of knowing many whom we knew not here, or knew only by their "praise in the churches." Old and New Testament saints, Christian fathers, martyrs, reformers, ministers, missionaries, or private individuals, of whom we might have heard with interest, or of whom we may not have heard. Men who, like the diamonds of society, irradiated the scene in which they were placed, precious in the sight of the Lord and of His people, who, being dead, yet speak, and speak through every age by their achievements and writings. Here will be an eternal opportunity for acquaintanceship with all the excellent.

5th, *A Feast.*—A banquet to every faculty of the glorified soul; to the understanding, affections, memory, and anticipations. The soul created with infinite desires, will triumph in the amplitude and grandeur of an infinite prospect. Hope will there bloom in amaranthine beauty, as in its native and congenial clime; from the point of present bliss it will stretch its view to the interminable succession of which, according to our ideas, eternity is composed—while ever brightening glory will gild the prospect that can have no horizon. "An eternal weight of glory" is reserved for those who "shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven."