

mother, and as she glanced at them and saw they were not noticing her, she thought:—"They do not know how I feel. Perhaps after all, I am too young to trouble myself about these things." The door opened, and an elder brother came in. He was an earnest Christian. He had just returned from the inquiry meeting, where he had stayed with a few others, at the pastor's request, to talk with those who remained. His heart was full of love for souls, and his quick eye soon read in Mary's earnest countenance some traces of interest. Going up to her, he laid his hand gently upon her head, and, said: "Isn't it almost time little Mary was thinking about these things?" This was enough—just the right words at the right time. Mary made no reply, but slipped quietly from the room. How it was she could not tell, but her pride seemed to melt away under the pressure of that loving hand and those gentle words, and alone in her little chamber she resolved to seek Christ earnestly—she would not care any longer what others might think, she would ask Christ to give her a new heart. His smile would bring more joy to her than any remark of thoughtless companions could cause her grief. And Mary kept her resolution. She was found among the little group at the next inquiry meeting, and not long after she found the Saviour. Then she could only wonder at the fears which she had allowed to keep her so long from going to Him. And next to her love for Christ, there sprang up in her heart a deep and abiding love for that brother who had met her so gently at that fearful turning point, and helped her choose the right and open door.

Children, do you wish God to be your Father? You have an "Elder Brother" in Christ. If you ask him, he will show you the way to the Father, even by himself; for "he was bruised for our iniquities." Will you come to him?

PRAYER.—Prayer prevails with God. Melancthon, it is said, was once sick apparently near to death. Luther hastened to his friend. Kneeling by him he devoutly prayed, "We implore thee, O Lord our God, we cast all our burdens and will cry till thou hearest us, pleading all the promises which can be found in the holy Scripture respecting prayer." And seizing Melancthon's hand he said, "Be of good courage, Philip, you shall not die." Soon Melancthon began visibly to revive, as though his spirit came again, and he was shortly restored to his usual health. God hears and answers prayer. Let us pray without ceasing.

"If ye love Me keep my Commandments."
John, xiv. 15.

Jesus, my all, to heaven is gone;
He that I placed my hope upon;
His track I see, and I'll pursue
The narrow way, till Him I view.

The way the holy Prophets went,
The way that leads from banishment,
The King's highway of holiness,
I'll go; for all the paths are peace.

No stranger may proceed therein,
No lover of the world and sin;
No lion, no devouring care,
No ravenous tiger shall be there.

No: nothing may go up thereon
But travelling souls; and I am one;
Wayfaring men, to Canaan bound,
Shall only in the way be found.

Nor fools, by carnal men esteemed,
Shall err therein; but they, redeemed
In Jesu's blood, shall show their right
To travel there, till Heaven's in sight.

This is the way I long have sought,
And mourned because I found it not:
My grief, my burden, long have been
Because I could not cease from sin.

The more I strove against its power,
I sinned and stumbled but the more;
Till late I heard my Saviour say,
"Come hither, soul! for I'm the Way!"

Lo! glad I come; and Thou dear Lamb,
Shalt take me to Thee, as I am;
Nothing but sin I Thee can give:
Yet help me, and Thy praise I'll live!

I'll tell to all poor sinners round
What a dear Saviour I have found;
I'll point to thy redeeming blood,
And say, "Behold the way to God!"

John Cennick, 1743.

Criticising Preaching.

I never suffered myself to criticise it, but acted upon the uniform principle of endeavouring to obtain from what I heard all the edification it afforded. This is a principle I would warmly recommend to my young friends in the present day; for nothing can be more mischievous than for learners to turn teachers and young hearers, critics. I am persuaded it is often the means of drying up the waters of life in the soul; and sure I am that an exact method of weighing words and balancing doctrines which we hear, is a miserable exchange for tenderness of spirit and the dew of heaven.

—J. J. Gurney.