

last moments to have thought of her father. What do you think it was that kept her so calm? Was it not her trust in God? She was lost in the bush; but she had not lost the straight and narrow way which leadeth unto life.

### Prayer and Labour.

The wise Hillel had a disciple named Maimon, in whose natural gifts he greatly delighted. But soon he perceived that Maimon trusted too much in his own wisdom, and wholly discarded the aid of prayer.

The youth said in his heart: "Why should we pray? does the Almighty need our words, in order to aid and bless us? Then is he human. Can man's sighs and petitions change the counsels of the Eternal? Will not the All-merciful of Himself bestow what is good and needful?" Such were the young man's thoughts.

But Hillel was grieved in his soul that Maimon considered himself wiser than the Divine word, and he determined to reprove him.

One day, when Maimon went to Hillel, he found him sitting in his garden, leaning his head upon his hand; and he said, "Master, where are thy thoughts?"

Then Hillel raised his head, and answered in these words, "I have a friend who lives upon the produce of his lands, which, until now, he has cultivated with care, and has been richly rewarded for his pains. But now he has thrown aside plough and mattock, and no more cultivates his field. Thus he will soon come to poverty and lack the necessities of life."

"Has a spirit of ill-humor seized him, or has he become a fool?" asked the youth.

"Neither," answered Hillel. "He is well skilled in all human and sacred wisdom. But he says, 'The Lord is almighty, so that he can easily supply my wants without my bending my head to labor. He is good, so that He will open his kind hand to bless my table. And how can it be contradicted?'"

"How?" said the youth; "is it not tempting the Lord God? Hast thou not told him so, master?"

Then Hillel smiled, and said: "I will

do so now. Thou, my beloved Maimon, art the friend of whom I spake."

"I!" said the youth in amazement.

"Ay," said the old man: "dost thou not tempt the Lord? Is prayer less than labor? and are spiritual gifts less than the fruits of the field? And is He who commands thee to labour for earthly goods another than He who bids thee raise thy heart to heaven to implore heavenly blessing? O my son, be humble, believe and pray!"

So spake Hillel, and Maimon went away to pray, and henceforth his life was a godly one.

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## Intelligence.

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The Halifax Institution for the Blind has at last been fully equipped and opened. We take great pleasure in this great and good work, for many reasons, and among the others for the reason that the gentleman who furnished a large endowment towards its expenditure, Wm. Murdoch, Esq., was a member of the Church of Scotland. Under the strict management of the Steward and Matron, Mr. and Mrs. Dilworth, their part of the work will be discharged to the satisfaction of all who wish the Institution well. The Teachers' staff is quite equal to the work, and, when the number of pupils increases, corresponding increase will be made to the number of the teachers. The pupils only number three yet, but, so soon as it is known that the blind can be taught to read and work, we are sure that the friends of those who are afflicted with the loss of sight will make every endeavour to have them sent to this Institution in order to be made partakers of the great blessings of an education. Every Christian man must rejoice in the success of this good work. Its object, in a measure, is to take up the work done by Christ himself while on earth, and cause the blind to see.

### Sir Walter Scott's opinion of our Metrical Version of the Psalms.

The following is from one of the Baronet's unpublished letters:—

"The expression of the old metrical translation, though homely, is plain,