

—its mountains and valleys, and seas and rivers; above all, when he is likely to be back, and when you are to see his face again.

God, my dear children, your Father in heaven, has sent all of you such a Letter from "the land that is very far off." It is this precious Bible. It is written with His own seal. Do you love much to read this sacred letter, which tells you about the true fatherland above; about its scenery and blessed inhabitants; about its holy occupations and songs of joy; about its angels and its redeemed multitudes; above all, about the Great Divine Parent, and about Jesus the Elder Brother, what He is now doing for you, and when He is to come back once more to receive you unto Himself? Do you like to read in that letter what God your Father and Christ your Saviour wish you to do while you are in this world? Do you wish to follow the directions given in the letter about hating sin, and fleeing from temptation, and trying to walk so as to please God?

A THIRD mark I would add is this: *A child likes to write a letter to his father.* If a little boy or girl be away from home, away a far distance at school, or, when they get older, are learning some work, or business, or trade, how they love to sit down at night, or in their spare hours, and write a letter to their parents, if they want clothes, or money, or books; or if they are unhappy from any cause? If they have little sorrows in their hearts, or little trials and difficulties in their way, it is to their father or their mother they tell them all.

Is it so with you? Do you love to write a letter to the Great God? Prayer is that letter. Prayer is the letter in which you made known to your heavenly Father all your wants and weaknesses and trials and temptations and sorrows. It was a beautiful and simple saying of the New Zealander who had become a

Christian, "I go to my Bible, and God talks to me; I shut my Bible and go to my knees, and then I talk to God." I hope all of you know and value this mark of God's dear children. You cannot truly love your Father in heaven if you do not love to speak to Him by prayer. Prayer, remember, is the breath of the soul; you cannot live without it. As the clock will not, cannot go, unless it be wound up, so prayer is the key that winds up the heart. If you would get the better of naughty ways and evil tempers, it is prayer that will do it. Jesus says, "And thou when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door pray to thy Father in secret." An old writer truly says, "It is there the battle is lost or won!"

CHINA AND CHINESE WOMEN.

The Women of China, we rejoice to know, are receiving a much larger amount of attention from the Christian Church than formerly. *Woman's Work for Woman* pleads powerfully on their behalf. Speaking first of the vast district over which they are scattered, it says:—

"The Chinese Empire is about as large as the whole of the United States and one-third of British America. Over these are scattered a population, according to the latest German authorities, of 450,000,000.

So vast is this number that every available foot of land is brought under cultivation, and everything that can be turned into food or fuel is utilized to sustain its immense population.

The heathen civilization of China has not developed, nor can it develop her splendid resources. The masses of the people are poor—poor to a degree not dreamed of in other lands. A mason or carpenter works for fifteen to thirty cents a day. A farm labourer works for his food and from ten to twenty dollars a year. A maid-of-all-work gets her food and five or six dollars a year.