

feet, sleep those who, in their generations, helped each, in his little sphere, to build up England to her present pitch and greatness. We catch glimpses of that deep veneration, of that unambitious simplicity of mind and manner, that we would fain hold fast amid our growing knowledge, and its inevitable remodelling of the whole framework of society. We are made to feel earnestly the desire to pluck the spirit of faith, the integrity of character, and the whole heart of love to kin and country, out of the ignorance and blind subjection of the past. Therefore it is that I have always loved the village church; that I have delighted to stroll far through those summer fields, and hear still onward its bells ringing happily,—to enter and sit down among its rustic congregations, pleased with their murmur of responses, and their artless but earnest chant.

A CAUTION.

Bishop Butler remarks, that it is one of the weaknesses of our nature, when upon a comparison of two things, one is found to be of greater importance than the other, to think this other of scarce any importance at all.

SINS OF OMISSION.

The whole of the twenty-fifth chapter of St. Matthew is employed to teach us that sins of omission will constitute the principal cause of a sinner's condemnation at the last day. The foolish virgins are excluded from the marriage-feast, not for having betrayed the bridegroom, but because they were unprepared to receive Him. The slothful servant is cast into outer darkness, not for having robbed another of his talent, but for the non-improvement of his own. And the horrible sentence, "Depart, ye cursed!" is pronounced upon the wicked for neglecting to perform offices of charity.

THE PRAYER OF FAITH.

A few years ago, a poor little negro boy was liberated from a slave ship by some English cruisers, and brought to Sierra Leone, where he was well instructed by the good missionary, Mr. M—. They had a large school-room, which was always filled, either with adults or children, except twice in the day, when it was cleared out for an hour to be ventilated. When the children were turned out to play during this hour, all went very gladly to run about, except this one Hottentot boy, who always crept back alone into the school-room. At last Mr. M.—watched him, and heard the child's voice in prayer. This was his prayer:—"O God, I beseech Thee let one of the wicked men's ships go to my place, and let my father and mother be taken prisoners, and packed up; and then, I pray Thee cause that one of the big English ships should come and take the wicked man's little ship, and bring my father and

mother *here*, that they may learn about Jesus Christ and about going to heaven." As time passed on, ships were continually arriving at Sierra Leone, with cargoes of liberated negroes. This little boy always used to watch on the shore till the last person was landed, and then returned sorrowful. But he always continued his prayer, and so things went on for a very long time.

At last, one day Mr. M.—met the child returning from the shore with a countenance full of joy and gladness.—"Oh!" he cried, "God has sent my father and my mother now,—they *are* come; and you must teach them about going to heaven, as you have taught me." His prayer had been heard, and granted in every particular, and he had just seen his parents landed from an English cruiser.

Thus did the Lord, who feeds the young ravens that cry to Him, grant the petition of this simple, believing child.—"Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of heaven."

CHRISTIAN VALOUR.

The King of France ordered the Prince of De Conde his choice of three things:—First, to go to mass; second, to die; or, third, to be imprisoned for life. The answer was: "With regard to the first, I am fully determined never to go to mass; as to the other two, I am so perfectly indifferent that I leave the choice to your Majesty."

WHAT WILT THOU DO IN THE END THEREOF?

It is a dreadful thing to feel everything we possess, and everything we learn to value, gliding continually away, without a serious wish on our parts to inquire if there is nothing else that is permanent.

EXTRACTS FROM A PRAYER OF BISHOP ANDREWS, A.D. 1590.

Be thou, O Lord, within me, to strengthen me;—without me, to watch me;—over me, to cover me;—under me, to hold me up;—before me, to lead me;—behind me, to bring me back;—round about me, to keep off mine enemies on every side.

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Printed and Published monthly, by A. F. PLEES, at the Office of *The Church* paper, No. 7, King Street West. Price, 2s. 6d. per annum. No orders filled unless accompanied with remittance.