

Young - Friends' - Review.

"Neglect Not the Gift that is in Thee."

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THE KING'S GIFT.

The angels open the windows wide

In the world so far above us,
Lo, all about us, on every side,
Falls the newborn year unstained, untried,
O, angel hearts that love us !

Ye take our yesterdays dim and old,
Touched with sorrow and sinning,
And ye give to us with a grace untold
The year's soft dew and the dawn of gold,
Ye give us the fresh beginning.

Unstained the new year falls at our feet
From the world so far above us,
And what it will bring of joy complete,
Or take of treasures tender and sweet,
Ye know, O hearts that love us !

JEAN BLEWETT.

THE EFFICACY OF PRAYER.

(By Charlotte M. Way, read before N. Y. and E. Y. F. Association.)

The idea of prayer like other ideas, common to all of humanity, has changed, through the ages, with the changing beliefs and ideals of the race. When man looked upon God as a creature like himself, with passions strong in proportion to his power, he believed that sacrifices and loud prayers would gain for him what he demanded. For the Greek Zens would fight and grant favors, if propitiated. To the Jew, Jehovah would grant victory and blessing so long as his will was obeyed and only his enemies slaughtered. These ideas have slowly changed with the evolution of the world under Christian influence. Even following the thought of many of our own time, of God as our Father, beautiful as the thought is, if we follow the simile we think of the necessity of presenting our petitions, that he may consider and grant them according to His wisdom.

But what becomes of our theory of prayer if we hold ourselves strictly to the thought of the indwelling Spirit of God? If a portion of the infinite spirit dwells within the mind that forms the thought, does he not know our wants before we can express them? And if we acknowledge that everything in the universe, natural and spiritual alike, is subject to his unchanging law, and the things we ask for come to us in response to our own efforts and in accord with His laws, what is the province of prayer?

What then is prayer? It is "the soul's *sincere desire*, uttered or unexpressed." It may be the hunger of the body calling for food; it may be the hunger of the soul asking for light and guidance; it may be the longing of an unsatisfied soul for something higher than its present condition; or it may be a well worded and heartfelt prayer expressing the thought of an aspiring and reverent mind.

This great and overwhelming desire for something is the first step toward a successful following of the laws that lead us to the desired goal, for we cannot gain an end unless we desire it sufficiently to work for it diligently. Therefore, we may cast out from our category of prayers all petitions, no matter how carefully worded or lofty in thought, that have not behind them this intense want and desire.

Further, in our lack of wisdom we may many times petition for things unnecessary or hurtful. These wishes, like all wrong things, can endure but for a time. Truth in the end will triumph; our minds will be opened to see the Light. We have left then, for our consideration, only those heartfelt calls upon the infinite for the good and