

not be suspected of combining to alter and corrupt them.

38. What conclusion do you draw from the fact that the ancient Liturgies are similar in their construction and express the same doctrine? I conclude they all had one common origin in the Apostles' age.

39. What feelings are excited in your mind by the fact that they agree in all essential points with the Prayer Book? Feelings of gratitude and assurance that we are one with the Christians of the New Testament in their mode of worship.

40. Is prayer by set forms continued among Christians at the present day? Yes, out of 388 millions of nominal Christians, 332 millions use them, and of the rest many are feeling their way back to them, or are using them in part.

PRAYER.

BY MISS ADRIAN.

We are taught that prayer is one of the greatest privileges given to man, but we have first to really feel the need of it from our very hearts, before we can begin to know how tenderly our Father has thought for us when He gave us this privilege.

We must hunger before we can desire food; and we should be thankful for the very hunger which drives us to Him, and when our fainting souls cry out for "bread" will he refuse us? No; for He Himself has promised to give good things to them that ask in His Son's name. If we are refused we know that it is not a good thing which we asked, but something which we would not choose if we could see as

God sees. Sometimes it seems to us that our prayers are all in vain, the answer is so long in coming; and we think that perhaps God does not consider such a weak, tiny branch of the great vine worth tending. We know we have asked a good thing for it is something He loves to see in us, as patience, humility, faith, or control of temper. Let us not be discouraged.

He is even now answering our prayer, for He says, "While ye are yet speaking I will hear."

By the heavy cares and the weary pain, He is showing us, day by day, what little patience and control of temper we have, and how *uncertain* is our faith, and we humbly come to God and tell Him how hard it is, and ask His help and all we need, thus using the seeming obstacles in our path, as stepping-stones to Christ.

Then we go forth refreshed and strengthened, remembering that He said, "I am with you always even unto the end of the world," and we will find that we are slowly growing more patient, more humble, and our faith will increase as we prove our Father's loving patience with us and His readiness to forgive and help us.

How can we doubt when we have for our own so many of His precious promises: "Whatsoever ye shall ask in My name, I will do it." "If ye abide in Me and My words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will and it shall be done unto you." "But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering." "Ask and it shall be given you." Let us each prove for ourself the fulness and truth of His promises, knowing that we ask from One who delights in answering prayer, One who knows our wants before we ask, and who will give us