

The prayer then continues, in the same scriptural style and language, to call to mind the merciful assurance of God, through his Son Jesus Christ, as recorded by the Evangelist St. Matthew, vii. 7, 8—*Ask and it shall be given you, &c.* And, lest this clear statement of God's readiness to hear our faithful petitions should admit of a doubt in our hearts, our Lord illustrates and demonstrates this statement by the beautiful and affecting simile of an earthly parent's readiness to hear the cries, and grant the requests, of his distressed and darling son. With such encouragement, then, how can we one moment hesitate to adopt the concluding language of this prayer, "So give now unto us that ask, let us that seek find, open to us that knock, &c."—*vide supra*. Alas! how true is it, that *the children of this world are wiser in their generation than the children of light*. For, as the devout Fénelon has acutely remarked, "If we had only to *ask* for riches in order to obtain them, what earnestness, what assiduity, what perseverance should we manifest in our prayers; if we had only to *seek* that we might find a treasure, what stone would we leave unturned; if we had only to *knock* for admittance into the King's Council, or the highest offices, what reiterated knocking should we hear."*

We have given this ample illustration of the opening exhortation, and of these two prayers, because by so doing we trust we have facilitated the exposition and application of subsequent parts of this Service; particularly of that part where the Minister reminds the parties then present, of the subject and object of their *previous* petitions, and also of our Saviour's *promise in his Gospel* "to grant all those things that they have prayed for."

Hitherto our service has led us to the consideration of Baptism in general, whether *adult* or *infant*. But, in order to prove the propriety of *infant* Baptism, our Church recites, in the service for this occasion, a portion of the Gospel of St. Mark, calculated to prove the propriety of admitting young children to that holy sacrament. In the office for Baptism "of such as are of riper years," she has provided a different Gospel, more appropriate to the case of adults. But of this hereafter. At present we will attend to

The words of the Gospel written by St. Mark, in the 10th chapter, at the 13th verse:—They brought young children to Christ, that he should touch them; and his disciples rebuked those that brought them. But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein. And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them.

* Si nous n'avions qu'à demander les richesses pour les obtenir, quel empressement, quelle assiduité, quelle persévérance! Si nous n'avions qu'à chercher pour trouver un trésor, quelle terres ne remuerait-on point! S'il n'y avait qu'à heurter pour entrer dans le Conseil des Rois et dans les plus hautes charges, quelle coups redoublés n'entendrait-on pas!—*Réflexions de l'Archevêque Fénelon.*