

In his estimate of prayer, too, Tennyson is thoroughly in accord with the teachings of orthodoxy. To those who argue that because we cannot change the will or purpose of God concerning any part of his creation, prayer is of no avail, he holds up the story of Enoch Arden. What was the effect of his praying? We are not told what he prayed for, but we are told what he received, and he received just what God is willing to give and does give to every soul that seeks him through this medium in sincerity and truth; and that is, strength and peace of mind. In, his almost absolute loneliness, with memory haunted by scenes and incidents of the dear home he almost despaired of ever seeing again,

"Had not his poor heart
Spoken with that which, being everywhere,
Lets none who speaks with Him seem all alone,
Surely the man had died of solitude."

And when, after many days, he returned to find his place filled by another, it was by prayer that he was enabled to keep his secret.

"O God Almighty, blessed Saviour, Thou
That didst uphold me on my lonely isle,
Uphold me, Father, in my loneliness
A little longer! aid me, give me strength
Not to tell her, never to let her know."

And who that has read it can ever forget that beautiful reference to prayer in Arthur's farewell speech to the last of his knights, Sir Bedivere?

"More things are wrought by prayer
Than this world dreams of. . . .
* * * * *
For what are men better than sheep or goats
That nourish a blind life within the brain,
If, knowing God, they lift not hands of prayer
Both for themselves and those who call them friend?
For so the whole round earth is every way
Bound by gold chains about the feet of God."

And if further proof be needed to substantiate the state-