

prayer is spoken of, and have satisfied myself that prayer is never spoken of in the Bible where the circumstances do not render it probable—yea, I may say certain—that the prayer must have been read.”

To this somewhat startling proposition no one made any reply ; but our young friend, nothing daunted, went on :—

“ I will defy any gentleman present to bring forward an instance where this was not the case.”

There was again a short silence which was broken by Dr. Chapin,

who said in his blandest and most deferential tones,—

“ I do not mean to deny your position, sir ; there is a question I should like to ask, if you will be so kind as to answer it.”

“ O, ask as many questions as you please, I will answer them,” said the young man.

“ The question I wished to ask was,” said Dr. Chapin, very deliberately, too, “ who it was held the candle for Jonah when he read prayers in the whale’s belly ? ”

It is said that the juvenile divine maintained a dignified silence during the rest of the journey.

STUDENT’S THOUGHTFUL HOUR.

A cheerful countenance !—What a light it sheds around ! O Christian, you would do something for the Master ; you wish to speak for Him, to work for Him, to spend your time and your means in His service. May God speed you in carrying out your desire. But if you find at times that you have comparatively few opportunities thus to work for Him, be not discouraged, nor think that your life is a useless one. There are lonely hearts to cherish all around us. Each one has his or her own burden of care, and sorrow, and temptation—deep down in the heart, it may be, hidden alike from friend and foe, yet sapping the very life-blood. Truly if we can renew the smile of true gladness to the countenance of such

a one we shall not have lived in vain. Remember that by a kindly greeting or by a smile of sympathy, we may dispel the gloom from a sad heart, and send a bright ray of sunshine into the life of those whom we meet for a moment, as we go about our daily duties. Surely, our religion is not one of gloom and sadness, not one of pride and churlishness ; and when we have within us the Spirit of Him who is the true Light, the Light of Light eternal, why should not our faces be like the morning ? Thus, even if it be not our privilege to speak publicly or give liberally of our means for Him, our daily life will be a silent but powerful influence to lead others in the way of holiness ; for, by a patient and cheerful disposition,