

XH. June 20: 1920. The Lord Our Shepherd, Psalm

Commentary.—1. Our Provider (vs. 2). 1. the Lord is my shepherd— 1, 2). 1. the Lord is my shepherd—This general statement expresses the condition of a submissive, trusting child of God in his relation to the great Shepherd. It expresses the author's confidence in Jehovah. The psalm throughout is taken up with the figure of the shepherd and his sheep. The relation is a more tender one. There are mutual confidence and love. The shepherd has full control of the sheep and his great care is for their welfare. What a shepherd was to his sheep in What a shepherd was to his sheep in Palestine in David's time, and condi-tions are still practically the same as they were then, the Lord is to his people now. We note the use of the pos-sessive pronoun, "my," in this clause. David claimed Jehovah as his personal Shepherd. It was not enough to be assured that he was the Shep-herd of Israel. That was a great blessing to Israel as a nation, but David was an individual, and as such Jehovah was his Shepherd, and had a care for him personally. I shall not want—in consequence of the re-lation expressed in the preceding clause. David declared definitely that his needs would all be met. He would not want for provision, for the re-sources of Jehovah are boundless. He would not lack guidance, for his Shep-herd was infinite in wisdom. He would not lack protection, for Jehovah is the Almighty. He would not want for comfort, for God is the Comforter of his people. David expressed full confidence in God. He did not know all that was in the future, yet he was bold to declare that in times of peace or in times of trouble, in health or in sightness in the travelle. mess, in the strength of manhoo or in the feebleness of old age, he should not want.

2. maketh me to lie down in green pastures—Th's and the following verses of the psaim, follow up the general statement made in the first verse and give the particulars in which Jehovah acts as the Shepherd of his people. It was no small task for the ple. It was no small task for the shepherd to find always suitable pas-tures for his sheep. The figure here denotes an abundance of rich herbage. This is an expressive figure, as we consider conditions in Palestine. Dur ing the months when rain falls, there ing the months when rain falls, there is a plentiful growth of grass and there is no difficulty in finding payturage; but during the long period of rainless days and nights, the vegetation is dried up and the ground is parched. Then the shepherd must exercise great care to find pasture for his sheep. In the figure tere is plenhis sheep. In the figure there is plenhis is hunger is appeased and they lie down in the grass. he leadeth me beside the still waters—Pasturage and water meet the needs of sheep as far side the still waters—rance as far water meet the needs of sheep as far water meet the needs of sheep as far as sustenance is concerned. In Pales-tine during the dry season there are comparatively few living streams. There are many wadies, or water-courses, which are torrents in the wet omparatively few living but are dry in summer. The shepherd must take care that during the latter part of the day he may lead the latter part of the day he had read his flock to a supply of water. There are streams that are swift. Sheep are timid creatures and helpless as well, and must be led to quiet waters that the day of the stream well, and must be led to quiet water to quench their thirst. Hence the shepherd knows where there are wells or fountains at which his sheep may slake their thirst, and this whether it is in the dry season or in the wet. So the great Shepherd is abundantly able to provide for his sheep at all times.

Our Guide (v. 3). 3. He restoreth my soul — The Syrian shepherd knows his sheep by name, even though there may be hundreds in his flock He watches carefully lest one should stray away and go into danger. If one should become injured in any way seeks to restore it to strength and health. In a spiritual sense the Lord refreshes the weary. He gives "power to the faint." If one should fall out by the way, the great Shepherd seeks after the lost one in an pffort to restore him. He leadeth me—Shepherd seeks herd life in Syria is very different from that with which we are famil-Here, sheep are placed in enclosed pastures and provided with food and water. No wild beasts or robbers threaten them and they are not in need of constant guidance to lead them into places of pasture, water and safety; there, no flock is seen grazing without a shepherd. The shepherd goes ahead of his flock and shepherd goes ahead of his flock and the sheep follow. In the paths of righteousness for his name's sake—Whatever God may give us to do, we would do it, led by his love. Some Christians overlook the blessing of sanctification, and yet to a thoroughly renewed heart, this is one of the renewed heart this is one of the sweetest gifts of the covenant. If we could be saved from wrath, and yet remain unregenerate, impenitent sinners, we should not be saved as w desire, for we mainly and chiefly pray to be saved from sin and led in the way of holiness. All this is done out way of notiness. All this is done out of pure, free grace; "for his name's sake." It is to the honor of our great Shepherd that we should be a holy people, walking in the narrow of righteousness.—Spurgeon. III.—Our Protector (vs. 4, 5). 4 Through the valley of the shadow of

One needs to see Palestine in the summer season to appreciate the force of this expression. There are deep ravines, with dangerous precipices and infested with wolves and other wild bearts, and where robbers lurk, into which the sunlight comes but little. Outside of these ravines the sun shines and its glaring light falls upon the bare soil and rocks. and the contrast is so great that the deep ravines are fittingly called the valley of the shadow of death. This represents the times of distress in the Christian's life when the trial of faith is great and such time comes to all I will fear no evil.—There is danger but the shepherd guards his flock as a whole and each sheep in particular and the sheep hear his voice and trustingly follow him. There is danger of as are here represented, but with con-dence in God and a heart made clean and to protect. David was as inured

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and retuit and could not aleep day or night.

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through the blood of Christ he can say, "I will fear no evil." For thou art with me.—This is the explanation of the assurance of safety. The pres ence of the great Shepherd makes hard places easy and dangerous places safe. God ever says to his true fol-lowers, "I am with thee." Thy rod and thy staff they comfort merod is a shepherd's weapon to ward off robbers and wild beasts. It is a heavy club two or three feet long. It promises safety and hence is a com-

fort. The staff is the shepherd's crook. It is six or seven feet long and has a hook at the upper end. With th's the shepherd draws back the sheep from danger us places or guides it in the right direction. With it he may pull the sheep out of a pit or cleft of the rock.

5. thou preparest a table before me

in the presence of mine enemies— Some think the figure changes here and the children of God are enjoying a banquet of spiritual good, but it seems rather that it is the continuation of the former figure, and there is a figure within a figure. The shepherd leads hos sheep into a good pas-ture and they feed in safety, although there are robbers and wild beasts around them. God supplies His children with grace and joy in the face of the assaults of Satan. thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over-Here begins the beautiful picture at the end of the day. The ps has sung of the whole round of the day's wanderings, all the need of the sheep, all the care of the shepherd. Now the scene closes with the last scene of the day. At the door of the sheepfold the sheeperd stands and "rodding of the sheep" tages place. The shepherd stands, turning his body to let thes heep miss; he is the door of let thes heep pass; he is the door as Christ said of Himself. With his rod he holds back the sneer while he in-spects them one by one as they was from the fold. He has the horn with olive oil and he has cedar-tar, and he anoints a knee cruised on the rocks or a side scratched by thorns. And here comes one that is not bruis but is simply worn and exhausted; he bathes its face and head with the refreshing olive oil, and he take: the large two-handled cup and dips it brimming full from the vessel of water provided for that purpos?, and he lets the weary sheep drink. There is no-thing finer in the psalm than this. God's care is not for the wounded only, but for the worn and weary also.

-Knight.
IV. Our Comforter (v. 6). 6. goodness and mercy shall follow me—As God has blessed David in the past, He would continue until the end of life. The past was a pledge for the future. in the house of the Lord—The bless-ings represented in the psa.m are spirwould have an eternal home

QUESTIONS.-When and by whom was this psalm written? What ratt-tion is maintained in this psalm? In what sense is Christa Shepherd? How does an Eastern shepherd care for his sheep? What is meant by stil' waters? In what sense does the Christian's cup run over? What is meant by dwelling

in the house of the Lo. 1? PRACTICAL SURVEY. Topic-Our divine shepherd. Guidance and guardianship

11. Restoration and provision.

Mr. Spurgeon calls this the "pearl Mr. Spurgeon calls this the "pearl of psalms;" and it well deserves the title. It follows the "psalm of the cross,' which bewails the woes of the shepherd, while this joyfully describes the blessedness of the flock. not know the sweetness of the Shepherd's care until we have seen the sword awakened against him and know the virtue of "the blood of the In its scope the psalm embraces all earthly conditions and reaches out into the eternities with inspiring assurance: Perhaps no single portion of God's word is universally and deservedly familiar or unfailing in consolation for his peo-ple. It has been said that 250,000 books have been written on this psalm

and its truth and beauty are still unexhausted. There seems no question as to the authorship. Composed in as to the authorship. Composed in his mature years,—some commenta-tors coclude as a companion to psalm from Absalom, it was born of David's shepherd life on the hillsides of Beth lehem, while happily unfamiliar with camps and courts. The beautifully appropriate imagery is common to both the Old and New Testament

Scriptures. Guidance and guardianship. of the flock and the manifold cares of the shepherd. All the former are included in the latter. Whatever the believer's place or position, "he is under the pastoral care of Jehovah."
"He leadeth me." No assurance is
more needed or more comforting than that of divine guidance for God's peo-ple. They walk with confidence, for his are always "paths of righteousger of leads, never drives, the flock.

to the dangers, as accustomed to the delights of he shepherd's avocation. The security of the flock depended solely upon his viligance and devation. To defend them at the risk of his own life was recognized duty. His boyhood victory inspired confidence in the conflict with the Philistine giant. Jesus said, "The good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep." Isalah beautifully expresses divine care for the feeble of the flock (Isa. 40:11) and the apostle enjoins forbearance with those "weak in the faith" (Rom. 14: weak in the faith" (Rom. 14:

1-4).
II. Restoration and provision. To restore is to bring back the individual possession. God has not relinquished the original ideal (Eph. 1:4). Spiritual recovery is the foundation and pledge of the final, complete restora-tion of the entire being. Grace res-tores the soul to original moral con-ditions, relations, enjoyments and des-tiny. The hand that first rescue would recover from any subsequent wandering, to which there is always a liability. In the parables of the lost silver and sheep and the prodigal son, Jesus beautifully expresses divine solicitude (Luke 15:4-17). The green pastures, prepared table and over-running cup represent the abounding, available and satisfying benedictions of grace. The gracious visitations of of grace. The gracious visitations of the Spirit like "still waters" refresh revive and purify the soul. The "an-ointing" with the "oil of gladness" and the joy of the Holy Chost belong to the heritage of God's people.

Marvels of Modern Alchemy.

In th days of the mediaeval alche mists it was believed that it was por sible by means of some undiscovered laboratory operation to convert the baser metals into gold. With the de-velopment of modern chemistry this belief was shown to be baseled least in the sense in which the older workers held it.

At the same time there has been envolved as a result of the work the more recent chemists and me fallurgists, a transmutation in the proporties of that most widely used material, steel, which is of far more real value to the world than any for mula for making gold could ever be.

The discovery that iron containing

a certain proportion of carbon constituted steel transformed society an created modern civilization; without steel we should relapse into barbar-ism. To-day it is known that in addition to carbon there are other ele ments the addition of which will impart to steel certain properties increasing immensely its value as a ma-terial of construction, and of operation.

Among the substances which were formerly classed as the "rare" ele-ments there were several which were rare only because there was not suffi cient use for them to provide an in centive to discover natural sources o supply.

Thus vanadium, known as an ele ment for a hundred years, estimate as having a value many times that of gold and used solely for a few artis-tic purposes in coloring fabrics, has within a few years risen immensely in importance because of the knowledge which has been acquired of the valuable properties which it imparts to steel, while at the same time it has fallen in cost to a point about one-half that of silver, because the very demand has revealed hitherto known deposits.

influence of vanadium upon steel may well be regarded as a tri-umph of modern metallurgy, and vanadium steel has become one of the most important of the so-called alloy The older steels now know broadily as "carbon steels" in dis-tinction to the various alloy steels had certain fairly well ascertained properties together with determinate limitations.

They cou be made ductile within certain limits of strength or strong within certain approach to brittleness but when both strength and toughness were demanded it as realized that something else in addition to carbon was essential. That something has been shown to be vanadiu.... The influence of the addition of

small proportions of vanadium to steel is two fold; it acts as a scavenger removing oxidies, nitries, etc., in a form easily carried away to the slag. and it also toughers the steel direct ly, by its solid solution under normal conditions, in the carbonless portion known as ferrite. In addition it forms carbides of such a nature as greatly to strengthen the steel statically.

The result is a product so vastly superior to the ordinary carbon steel as to render it practically a new mater ial of construction, especially for sit-uations in which shocks must be met and resisted. The combination of high strength and great toughness makes it the material above all others for automobile parts, as well as for railway axles and engine frames, for springs for the important parts of vessels and for bridges and similar

For the latest types of engineering work, such as airplanes, submarines, torpedoes and similar work, the possession of a material of high resistance to stresses of all kinds enables some of the most difficult elements of the work to be solved.

While the application of vanadium

to steel constitutes at present its most important use, it has also a marked influence upon cas iron and upon cop

Fish Eat Other Fish.

When a codfish eats it takes an oyster in its mouth, cracks the shell, digests the meat and ejects the shell. Crabs crack the shells of their smaller neighbors and suck out the meat. This accounts for the mounds of shells which are found beneath the waves. which are found beneath the waves. And, as further illustrating the constant destruction going on in ocean's depths, it is said that if a ship sinks at sea it will be eaten by the sinks at sea it will be eaten by the fish with the exception of its meta portions.

A cheerful friend is like a sunny always day, which sheds its bright day, which shede its brightness both to direct can make of this world either a palace or a prison.-Lord Avebury.

NEURALGIA

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The Dahlia and How to Grow It

(Philadelphia Record.)

Not so many years have passed since we were accustomed to hearing, '\.'hat are they?" when dahlias loom ed into view. Now the dahlia has thrust its way ahead in the race of flowers, and no wonder when it was being improved by leaps and bounds The exquisite colorings and artistic tion give it such beauty that you look twice, wondering what they really

Of course, dahlias have sway in September and October in the cut-flower markets. You see the leading flower shop windows decorated with these beautiful blooms and autumn leaves. Again, you find them in the finest

But did you ever realize this: you can grow them yourself if have a small garden? The newer varieties are in reality easier to grow than most of the older ones, for we have discard ed the varieties that grow to bush which causes most of the trouble for the amateur, who loses heart when his dant.as grow into fine bushes and do mot Licom

The variety has much to do with it If you were going into stock raising you surely would not start with mon grel stock, but rather with pedigreed in order to have all the vigor and health to build your business on. Jus so, in planting a garden, the dablias as well should be chosen from the healthiest stock and best selected va-

High culture is not needed, but rather poor as far as fertilizing. The dahlia is hardy and not as susceptible to insect ravages as most plants, so here again is your advantage to raise flowers without intricate culture.

One of the most puzzling tasks in the dahlia business is the selection of the best varieties to be grown on the various soils. The amateur cannot be expected to do this. It must be left to professional

We grow five acres of dahlias under we grow live acres of danias under irrigation and ten to eleven uncer nor-mal conditions, and find that some va-rieties , such as Frances White, our best white fine-quilled cactus, will not bloom well in heavy ground with water, but does wonderfully well in sandy soll with plenty of water. Break o' Day will do well anywhere

in the heaviest soil and well watered. It cannot be forced to bush growth that will interfere with its blooming. This fine dahlia is proving its worth to the amateur as well as to the pro-fessional by its wonderful growing and blooming qualities. It has proven to be the best bloomer we grow. Last season we cut as high as 35 long-stem-med specimens from a bush in less

than four weeks' cutting.

This fine new dahlia is the beautiful blending of the decorative and cactus types, suggesting a full, high centre, secorative danna, with brack carved petals coming up through the fiatter ones. The color is a delicate, clear sulphur yellow, shading to sulphur

white at tips.

For those having heavy soil I would suggest such dahias as Attraction, Break o' Day, Breeze Lawn, Colossal Break o Day, Breeze Lawn, Colossal Preace, Dreer's Yellow, Duchess of Brunswick, Harvest Moon, Kanf, Le Grand Manitou, Marguerite, Bouchon, Mina Burgle, Mrs. Warner, Old Sol, Quaker City. Thais, The Lyon, and

HOW TO GROW DAHLIAS Soil.-Danlias grow and bloom in al. most any kind of soil, from stony clay to light, sangy leam; soil of a me-dium light texture is preferable on ac-count of its draining more readily after a rain, whereas clay soil requires more cultivation to keep the surface from crusting or baking.

A location should be selected where the sun shines most of the day and where water does not stand after a rain, as the dahlia must have drain-

Preparation.—Plow or spade six to eight inches deep as soon as ground can be worked in the spring, and cultivate of rake over after each rain until the dahlia roots are planted. If the soil has been enriched with manure the season before, put nothing on before planting but if soil has not been cultivated the season before and is too poor to grow a good crop of weeds, then top dress it with manure

before digging, but nt too heavy.

When to Plant.—One of the most common errors in the culture of dahlias is too early planting. In the latitude of Philadelpnia dahlias should never be planted before May 15, the first two weeks in June being pre-

Dividing roots.-If dahlia roots do not show eigns of sprouting by the beginning of May, take them in a most shady place. If the roots are dry or with wet bags withered, cover with wet bags or moist sand. When sprouts commence growing they are ready to divide and plant. If eprouts are over six inches long when you take them from the cellar, cut back to two inches before

dividing and planting.

Large clumps should never be planted whole. The size of the root does ed whole. The size of the root does not indicate the success of the plant, as a division of one of three tubers sprout is the best to plant and will ficient make a better growth than a larger moon.

clump, and produce a finer clump for next year's planting. A root without a part of the crown will not grow.

Planting—Dahlia roots should be planted in a trench or hole six inches deep; the roots laid flat down (not enemd) and covered with earth not over two inches in depth, filling in as the plant develops. The rows should be from four to five feet apart and the plants in the row from 20 to 30 inches apart; or from six to eight feet should be allowed to each plant in garden culture.

ture.

Cut Worms.—If your garden is infested with cut worms, which is usually the case in an old sod, an application of the following mixture scattered over the infested area after planting the roots, or before setting growing plants, will be found very effective:

One pint water.
One pint woter.
One pint molasses or brown sugar.
One teaspoonful parls green.
Mix together and stir in enough
wheat bran to make a reasonably dry

Fertilizing-Apply all fertilizer and chemicals on the surface from six to ten inches from the hill, and cultivate in thoroughly. Most fertilizers will burn the foliage or young shoots if they come incontact with them. A good truck fertilizer, containing a fair amount of nitrogen, high in phosphor-ic acid and rather low in potash, will do very well, applied as follows: About one-quarter pound to the hill a weal or two after planting, repeating the application about the middle of July. A mixture of equal parts when ma nure, acid phosphate and wood ashes, applied as above, except one-half pound to the hill, will give excellent results. If neither of the above is available, equal parts of bone meal and wood ashes, about one-half pound hill, will give good results, but do not use all three, as a feast is worse than a famine in the dahlia family.

Cultivation-Thorough cultivation is of the utmost importance, and if proerly done, irrigation may almost dispensed with. Cultivate at least once a week and as soon after each rain as ground can be worked without becoming lumpy. The cultivation af-ter a soaking rain need only be shallow, and each successive cultivation per until the next rain, then shallow again. This should be kept us until the middle of August, then grad ually bring the earth to the hill until moulded by four or five more inches.

Irrigation-When watering dahlia wet the ground thoroughly to a depth of five or six inches, then follow dirctions for cultivation after a rain, as By watering thoroughly and cultivating you will not find it reces sary to water more frequently than once a week it the dryest weather.

Pruning—Some varieties produce numerous shoots from a divided root Such shoots should be removed, excepor two of the finest, and these have attained a height of about twelve inches, the tops should be pinched out, forcing the bush to branch.

Disbudding—After pruning, when buds appear on the lateral or side shoots, roll out all except the crown bud, and also remove all the shoots down the flowering stem except the lower top next to the stalk, which will be forced into quick development and will in turn reduce flowering with crown buds to be treated as above. In disbudding, care must be exercised that the leaves are not torn down or injured, in any way.

By careful disbudding you will not only have good exhibition flowers at all times, but you will keep the plants in a more compact and healthy condi-A properly disbudded tion. well cultivated, will bloom much bet-ter in hot, dry weather than an un-pruned plant, overgrown by too fre-

quent watering.
Cut Flowers—In cutting dahlias, do
not make the usual mistake of waiting
until the flowers are fully blown, but cut when they are only fairly blown with the centre yet to unfold. Cut in this way, the flowers should last at least a week with care. Some people prefer to have all the bi remain on the stem, which adds to the beauty of the bouquet, but will cause the flowers to wilt and die much quicker than if all the buds, and most

Odd and Interesting. An Arab reads and writes from right

Sixteen varieties of palms grow in Ceylon from which sugar can be ex-

Damage by bailstones to- crops throughout the world amounts to \$.00,000,000 a year.
The light of the north star is esti-

mated to be 190 times stronger than that of the sun.

An Arab keeps his head wrapped up

ward, even in summer, while his feet sometimes go naked in winter. Some of the leading Japanese newspapers have as many as two or three hundred writers on their staff.

The villages in Turkish Armenia resemble a collection of large ant-hills, and in winter are almost buried in A certain flower growing in China is

white at night or in the shade, but displays a birght red color in the sunlight: A rich Chinaman's servants receive

no salary, but their perquisites amount to much more than the salaries paid in less wealthy households. The rainbow trout of Australia grow such large size, especially in New

South Wales, that it is illegal to take a fish under ten inches in length.
Something near 95 per cent. of the population of China is confined to onethird of the area of the country, with a density of two hundred to the square

mile.

Copenhagen nas a municipal market where all the fish, except the largest varieties, are kept alive in tes-sellated tanks filled with running water.

Clocks of various sorts, with wheels and weights, were in use as long as eight or nine hunderd years ago, but it was not until some five hundred years later that pendulum clocks were

introduced. It is estimated that the total length of wiring in the sheathing and core of the world's cables made since their inwith a piece of the crown showing a troduction some sixty years ago is sufficient to reach from the earth to the



THE DAY THAT IS DONE.

fourn for the day that is dying ! When the sun through his co has run;
for the night time may often bring
sighing;
When the light of the day is done.

When shadows all gently come creep ing, The day's vision through the mind

throng; This days in the memories keeping, Its joys to the Past belong. Sigh for the day that is ended!

For its suns ine, its shadows and dew;
Rejoice for the wounds it has mended, For it ne'er will come back to you.

—C. F. B., in : lifex Recorder.

PRAYER.

Most gracious God, Who hast been infinitely merciful to us, not only in the year past, but through all the years of our life, be pleased to accept our most unfeigned thanks for Thine innumerable blessings to us; gracious-ly pardoning the manifold sins and infirmities of our life past and bountifully bestowing upon us all those graces and virtues which may render us acceptable to Thee. And every year which Thou shalt be pleased to add to our lives, add also, we humbly implore Thee, more strength to our faith, more ardor to our leve, and a greater perfectio: to our obedience; and grant that, in a humble sincerity and constant perseverance, we may serve Thee most aithfully the re-mainder of our lives, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

Layman, in Sheffield, Eng., Indepen-

One wonders sometimes in these strenuous days when the load of the material life lies heavily upon us, where the habit of prayer is becoming a neglected feature of our social existence. On so many sides we see existence. On so many sides we see evidences of c relessness and neglect of the spiritual side of life that make us extremely doubtful on the point. Yet if ever a nation stood in need of the prayers of its people surely it is our own. It is palpable to the observing eye that things are done penly and unashamedly, without the dightest pretence of religious considerations, that sould not possibly be done if those concerned ever took into account the probability of any reckoning beyond the immediate present, or the need for any spiritual assistance against "the world, the flesh and the devil," the constant antagonism to those who dest e to walk in the footteps of the One who is Perfect God and perfect man.

The prayerless life must of necessity be gravely incomplete. It is that of a man who wanders through an unknown land. abounding in hidden morasses, without a plan of the road to guide him; or of the man who loses his way in a maze and ignores or does not hear, the voice of the guide who sits in a lofty I'ace on purpose to direct him. Think it over in your own "quiet hour" and consider important a matter is it.

From the earliest days of the Biblical history we have examples to prove that man felt the need of callin upon God for help in time of trouble; and we have only to turn to the Book of Psalms for a wealth of example. The man who needs words to express his soul in prayer to-day can find there petitions which are as suitable to present day needs as they were when the Shepherd-King composed them. If he falls to discove: the exact sentiments that he desires, he can at any rate put himself into a frame of mind that will him to approach God in a way that, if he is earnest in his intention.

But don't forget that prayer is not a mere mechanical action. Vain repetitions in which the mind is not concerned further than to repeat so many set phrases at a time are of no more value than the twirling of the prayerwheels that one finds kept spinning by the mountain streams in Thibet wheels which contain writen prayers wheels which contain written prayers brought before the notice of God by their continual turning. Contrast this sort of machine-made prayer with that of the publican who exclaimed with bowed head in the Temple, "God be merciful to me, a sinner.

Bishop Walsham How once wrote concerning prayer thus: "Praying is like speaking from your heart to God Is that what your prayers are always Do you really feel that God listening, and try to speak to Him as you would speak to someone standing by you in the dark, whom you could not see but knew to be there? I know it is very hard to do so always, but that is praying! and I hope you do this sometimes, for if you never do you never pray."

The rich gifts of God are not offered to those who do not take the trouble to ask for them. "Ask, and ye shall receive," said Christ. But he gave that advice to His own followers; one has any right to ask for benefits; just as an earthly father extends his loving help and protection to his own children before considering the claims of strangers, so God's blessings are ab-undantly bestowed on His children. Some people may say that we are thus inclined to limit the goodness of God to those who believe in Him; but His

mercy is over all the earth.

The point that immediately concerns us is that we cannot pretend to shirk our responsibilities on the ground of ignoranc To whom much is given of them will much be required. Prayer is the daily cuty of every Christian not a thir to be left until one's death-bed. True, the dying thief found salvatior as he hung beside the Saviour but that was an exception a event.

Freedom of wil, temptation and the Freedom of wil, templation and the privilege of choice between the evil and the good were given to man by an all-wise God, for a purpose that is clearly apparent, which is the development of character by the light of ment of character by the light of reason and religion.—Alice Blanche