

ten in plain Saxon English, so that the poorest person in the parish can understand them. The aim in writing or selecting for it is to carefully avoid involved or complicated sentences.—[ED. CH. WORK.]

*BEFORE GOD.*

A heathen who lived in the days of S. Paul wrote these wise words: "Speak to man as if you knew that God heard you. Speak to God as if men heard you." What a world would this soon be, if Christians tried to act on this good advice! Did we all deal with one another as we would if we saw God looking on and listening, what a change would come over the ways of most of us. And yet we say we believe God sees and hears us always. None of us need to be told of a truth so plain. If we believe it, surely we cannot care much for what God thinks of us. We know that when some friend whom we look up to, and whom we wish to think well of us is by, we are more careful than we are tempted to be at other times. The favour of God and His thoughts about us should be at least as important to us as those of any human being. Our carelessness when "only God" is near seems to warn us that our faith in there being a God under whose eye we live needs to be tested.

The other part of the advice has to do with our whole life, not only with the words we say and the promises we make to God. Every wish speaks to God, every inward resolution to do better is a vow made to Him. In every means of grace, we come before Him for some gift, which we pledge ourselves to use. Alas, how unfit all is for even the eye or ear of man! How awfully

we are apt to trifle with the most High! People, whose word is their bond in dealing with one another, make vows to God, and do not think it any shame to be false. They beg for grace which they mean to waste or fling from them. How strange to men would many of our prayers sound, were they written down with all the thoughts of other things that have crowded into our minds, and have spoken to God, mixed up with them! Our minds, while we pray, are bare to God, and everything we let stay there is before Him as plainly as the words of our prayers. What would we think of a friend who asked to speak to us, and who in the middle of his sentence wandered off into talk to himself about all sorts of things with which we had nothing to do! We would think him mad, or at all events would say that he could not have much respect for us, or interest in what he came to talk about. What would people think of us, if all that passes in our minds while we were on our knees could be heard around us! If we shrink at the thought of this; how dreadful not to shrink at the thought that God hears all.

About pulpit oratory, Dr. Guthrie said: "Mind the three P's., proving, painting, persuading. One preacher became so affectionate in his manner as to say, 'dear souls,' and inadvertently he would say as passed from place to place, "dear Belfast souls," "dear Dublin souls," and before he knew it he found himself saying, "dear Cork souls," which convulsed the Irish audience and then he stopped.

Get wealth honestly, use it generously, and govern it discreetly.