

R.H. Long

## PRAYER.

Prayer, what is it? Conscious communion with the Ultimate Reality behind all seeming, the Supreme Power beneath all, through all, above all; the Highest Good made manifest to our spiritual perceptions; the All-pervading Love in which we live and move and have our being. "There is a Power not ourselves which forever makes for righteousness," said Matthew Arnold. I would add to that, "We can draw on that Power by conscious communion with it."

"He who rises from his prayer a better man his prayer is answered." These words are suggestive. They show us at once the purifying influence of prayer and at the same time point out what should be our chief object in engaging in this spiritual exercise, that of becoming better men and women. In the past the petitionary form of prayer was indulged in too much; but now we no longer pray because we want God to do something for us, but because we want to do something for Him; we do not now pray that God will change His laws for our individual benefit, but that our minds may become tuned to the harmony of His wisdom; that we may be so strengthened and enlightened that we shall be able to say with absolute truthfulness: "I and my Father's will are one."

Much has been written concerning the effect of prayer upon the physical condition, and much discussion has taken place on how much or how little truth there may be in the ideas of the Christian Scientist. Without entering into the lists in defence, I will just mention that medical men are agreed that the state of the mind affects the body. Some have declared that the continual harboring of evil thoughts in the mind will eventually poison the blood of the body. If this be true, then pure thoughts must also have their effect on the blood, and prayer, being the expression of the purest thoughts we can conceive of, the aspiring to higher and yet higher planes of thought, must be indeed as cleansing to our bodies as to our minds.

The constant drawing upon this Power, which forever makes for righteousness, fortifies us against all evils. The strength imparted to us is sufficient to enable us to keep sweet amidst the sourness of the world, calm in its turmoil, brave to meet and conquer its dangers, strong to fight its injustice. In times of great distress this Power upholds us; we know that "underneath are the everlasting arms."

And when War, with all its horrors, confronts us, we find our chief solace in communion with the one loving Father of all the earth, and so purging from our own hearts just those evil passions which are the root cause of all wars, and which consequently are the greatest hindrance to a lasting peace.

"Standing as I do on the brink of eternity," said Nurse Cavell, "I realise that patriotism is not enough. I must have no spark of enmity in my heart towards anyone."

That is the expression of the right state of mind in which to approach the Throne of Grace in times of war. Not, "Oh God, confound our enemies and help us to win this war"; but, "O Father, make us and all our enemies willing and anxious to do as Thou wouldst have us do." When we can all pray like that, and sincerely mean these words, we will be well on the way to an honourable and lasting peace.

ROSA LAWRENCE.

## MODERN DOGMA.

Apart from "materialistic conception  
Of history," life is a fraud and deception,  
Since Karl Marx and Science got busy deducing  
That morals are formed by our mode of producing  
The food that we eat and the clothes that we wear,  
And our latter-day priesthood with unction declare  
That the way we machine a smart blouse or a shoe  
Determines our ethical conceptions too—  
(You've only to tamper with modern mechanics  
To change Comrade Ross into Archbishop Mannix)  
—And all the fine things that the poets have uttered  
Are merely a proof that their bread was well buttered.

R.H.L.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### The Ideas of Mr. Watt.

Editor, "Fellowship."

Sir,—Several of your correspondents have tackled this important subject, but none of them seem to me to have got to the bottom of it. A certain superficiality mars their efforts. The real clue, I am convinced, is to be found in the following passage, which appeared in the Melbourne "Herald" a few nights ago:—

"Mr. Watt, Acting Prime Minister, referring to the cablegrams which have been published concerning peace, stated that the situation, in his judgment, was not free from grave difficulties, and he awaited the view of the British Government."

With this key, Mr. Editor, Watt unlocked his heart.—Yours, etc.,

P.B.C.

"The Commonwealth"—An Australian Monthly Journal of Progressive Religious and Social Life, and of International Peace and Goodwill. Edited and published by Rev. Charles Strong, D.D. Subscription, 3/6 per annum. Obtainable at Cole's, or at The Australian Church. Free specimen copies on application.

"The Federal Independent," a Journal of Applied Christianity, 16 pages monthly. Subscription, 2/6 per annum. Rev. A. Rivett, Louisa-road, N. Balmain, N.S.W.