

the aid of the microscope, and should declare that he is unable to verify Mr. Huxley's observations. Mr. Huxley would properly reply that the inner structure and life of the nettle could not be seen by the naked eye, for they are microscopically discerned.—*Joseph Parker.*

A maiden some sixteen years of age had all her life been the unconscious victim of a blemish in her eyes that hindered perfect vision. A surgical operation was finally agreed upon and successfully made. One evening, some time after her recovery, she went into the open air after nightfall. She rushed into the parlour, the joy of a great discovery lighting up every feature. "Oh, come!" she exclaimed—"come out quickly to the lawn, and see what beautiful things have appeared in the sky!" Her friends hastily followed her out of doors, wondering what might have occurred. They saw nothing. "What do you mean?" they asked her. "Look!" she said; "don't you see those bright things sparkling all over the sky?" "My dear child," one who loved her said, softly, "those are the stars!" Heaven is full of shining lights that God has hung out to charm the pathway to His eternal home, to lure you upward, to show you how far eternity exceeds time in beauty, how far heaven rises beyond earth in value and glory. Yet your eyes are still withholden. Oh, for the hand of Him who opened the eyes of the blind to touch your soul, and give you sight of these realities!—*Dr. McCook.*

"NOR EAR HEARD."—Speak of ice to an inhabitant of the torrid zone, the word does not give him an idea, or, if it does, it must be a false one. Talk of blueness to one who cannot distinguish colours, what can your most eloquent description present to him resembling the truth of your sensation? Similarly, in matters spiritual, no verbal revelation can give a single simple idea.—*F. W. Robertson.*

There is hearing *and* hearing. Let two men listen to the same music; the one shall be held as by a spell, and the other shall become weary and impatient; to the one man the music is a revelation, to the other it is a mere noise.—*Joseph Parker.*

"THE THINGS WHICH GOD PREPARED."—Two eternities meet in the Cross of the Lord Jesus Christ: the everlasting counsel of God, and the never-ending blessedness and glory of the redeemed.—*Saphir.*

Stephen—dragged, hurried, driven to death—felt the glory of God streaming on his face: when the shades of faintness were gathering round his eyes, and the world was fading away into indistinctness, "the things prepared" were given him.—*F. W. Robertson.*

We speak of the happiness of heaven. We have no where any clear conception of what that happiness shall be. But we know one part of it for certain, and only one, and that is, that we shall love God, and shall feel deep in our hearts that He loves us.—*Bishop Temple.*

"FOR THEM THAT LOVE HIM."—Love is the eye that sees, the ear that hears, the heart that realises the things of God.—*Edwards.*

Discipleship to Christ becomes, in the deepest sense, one of incessant reception and appropriation.—*Martensen.*

When the disciples, through the morning mists, saw One standing on the beach of the Sea of Galilee, it was not first Peter's eagle eye, but John's intuition of love, which assured them "It is the Lord".—*Newman Smyth.*

No description of Thy heavens could declare their glory to the born blind; no description of Thy Christ could manifest His greatness to the loveless soul. Therefore, O Spirit of Love, breathe into this heart the new sensation of loving, the new experience of *being* loved.—*G. Matheson.*

## The People's Family Prayer Book.

BY THE REV. JOSEPH PARKER, D.D.\*

I HAVE for many years felt the need of a new family prayer book. Lying on my table are samples of such literature in considerable numbers, each of them having some good point or points, but not one of them representing what appears to me to be the whole outline of family life and experience. *The People's Family Prayer Book*, which I have just issued, regards prayer as a larger term than mere petition. Most of the prayers I have written in a petitional spirit, but I have taken care to make provision for those who believe in communion with God as well as in direct supplication to Him. The part of my Prayer Book which I value as being likely to be useful is the part which bears the title of "Sentences". In this section I have endeavoured to anticipate nearly every aspect

and want of family life. The sentences are short, and as pithy as I could make them. They can be taken into any of the general prayers, and thus turn what is general into that which is direct and particular. I set considerable store, too, by my brief "Children's Litany". In response to many suggestions, I have provided a few services for persons who are unable to attend public worship. I have been encouraged by the Rev. Dr. Whyte, of Free St. George's, Edinburgh; the Rev. Dr. S. Green, of the Religious Tract Society; the Rev. Principal Reynolds, of Cheshunt College; the Rev. Principal Angus, of Regent's Park College; and many others, to hope that my *People's Family Prayer Book* will meet a widely and deeply felt want. I am thankful to you, Mr. Editor, for giving me the opportunity of making this short statement to your readers. Perhaps the following extract from Dr. Whyte's prayer-meeting lecture will most fittingly conclude my own criticism: "If Dr. Joseph Parker's publishers could get the addresses of the young men at a like stage of courtship, they would sell three editions of his prayer book in a fortnight. You may see a young fellow with it in his hand going along the street in the gloaming; I know what he is after when I see him."

\* In these days of many books on every subject, a writer must be supposed to have a reason for issuing another, expecting men to purchase it. He may give his reason in the preface, but that comes too late; and when we have once secured the work we do not trouble with the preface. Or, he may leave it to the professional critic to inform the public of its claims; but the public has no great faith in the professional critic, and the author himself still less. We have therefore invited Dr. Parker to say something about the latest production of his pen, and the above is his response.