

MORNING STAR AND CATHOLIC MESSENGER.

NEW ORLEANS, SUNDAY, MAY 10, 1898.

MISCELLANEOUS IRISH NEWS.

DUBLIN.—At a special meeting of the Dublin Corporation, on the 6th ult., on the motion of Alderman Campbell, seconded by Alderman Durbin, it was resolved not to promote illuminations on the occasion of the Prince and Princess of Wales' visit.

On the 6th ult., the Fenian prisoners incarcerated in Kilmainham were transferred to Mountjoy, Col. Nagle being assigned to them. Two of the "suspects," named Denis Downey and McClean, (the latter a telegraph clerk,) were at the same time released on giving bail to the effect of the peace.

WICKLOW.—At a late meeting of the Wicklow Town Commissioners, Mr. John Hayden announced that in the event of no application being made for Bay View House by E. D. Barry, Esq., its late occupant, the Rev. Mr. O'Doherty, of Wicklow, would apply for it with twenty acres of land for a convent.

The Freeman's Journal of the 10th ult. announces the death of Rev. Arthur Germaine, P.P., of Blackditches, and of Rev. Philip Smyth, P.P., of Ovoca. Both were esteemed and beloved by those who knew them.

WEXFORD.—The constabulary throughout the county Wexford were recently supplied with breech-loading Snider rifles. Sub-constable Halliday has been transferred from Wexford to Belfast, and has been replaced by Sub-constable Richardson, from the latter station.

A company has been formed in Enniscorthy for the introduction, by means of purchase or hire, of good, sound, thoroughbred hunter stags.

Rev. Thomas Breen, C.C., of Enniscorthy, died there on the morning of the 11th ult.

KILKENNY.—A local paper of a late date says: Within the last eight or nine days, the principal parts of five skeletons of the old Irish deer of the extinct kind were exhumed on the reclaimed borders of Poulacapple bog, Garryricken, by two men named Marnell and Mougham—the latter an Ormonde tenant—while engaged in tillage operations for planting potatoes in such general soil.

WESTMEATH.—The Westmeath Independent reports the proceedings at a late meeting of the Athlone Town Commissioners, whereat it was proposed to present an address to the Prince of Wales, whereupon Mr. Bracken objected, at the same time asking what had any "one of them" done for Ireland? The chairman, Mr. Murtagh, J.P., thought that they might move in the matter. Mr. Lyster did not see why they should interfere. The object of the Prince was "to have a thing hung round his neck" and to sport himself at Punchestown races. Mr. L. Kelly contended that they should avoid such subjects; and this was the desire of other members. Mr. Bracken again spoke, and said: "The English Government deserve nothing from this country. The one concession forced on them by the writings of the unfortunate Press prisoners, they now endeavor to put off by threatening 'an appeal to the country.' But I am happy to say that Sullivan will be returned at the next election for the borough of Dundalk, one of the most independent in Ireland, and without one farthing's expense, and he will next year be Lord Mayor of Dublin." The clerk of the board said Johnston (the Orangeman) would also be elected to Parliament; and then asked what was the decision as to the address? Mr. Bracken said: Oh! let it "lie on the table," as they say in Parliament. Dr. Hetherington here rose and left the room.

A correspondent writing from Athlone, under date of the 11th ult., says: A sad accident occurred yesterday at the new Catholic chapel of Moate, some seven miles from this town. A young man named Ward, aged eighteen years, was bringing a hod of mortar to some masons, who were engaged in building a portion of a wall, when the scaffold on which he walked gave way, and he was precipitated to the ground, a distance of between fifty and sixty feet. In the fall the unfortunate young man came in contact with some pillars, and on reaching the ground was so horribly mutilated that he could scarcely be identified. In a few minutes later, another young man, named Cuddy, and his father, were removing some stones up a second scaffold; it also came down. The two men, together with four other masons, came to the ground, all of them sustaining very severe injuries. One of the masons, whose name was not ascertained, but who is a native of Roscommon, had his spinal column broken and his right leg fractured. All the injured men are married.

LOUTH.—The Drogheda Argus of a late date says: A few days ago, the wife of Mr. Thomas Gartlan, a farmer residing at Dromiskin Commons, county Louth, gave birth to four children.

The Dundalk Democrat of the 11th ult. says: The report of the proceedings in the Dundalk Workhouse board room, will give our readers some idea of the position into which the Catholic rate-payers of the Union have got themselves. The Ascendancy party had everything their own way, and they took care to display their power. In appointing the different dispensary committees, no one but Protestants found favor in their sight, when a vacancy was to be filled up.

The same journal announces with regret the demise of Thomas King, Esq., of Knockbridge, in the fifty-ninth year of his age.

The Rev. P. Kent, P.P., has just received from London a large and splendidly executed statue of St. Patrick, the Apostle of Ireland. In one hand the saint holds, in miniature, our national Church; and with the other he points to a serpent at his feet. The figure was designed by Dr. Manning, Archbishop of Westminster, and executed at Munich. It is now appropriately placed on one of the side altars of the beautiful Catholic church in George street, dedicated to St. Patrick himself, of which the Rev. Mr. Kent is the deservedly popular pastor.

WATERFORD NEWS.—The Dublin Irishman of the 11th ult. says: On Thursday last, a laboring man named John Connors was employed

digging in a field in the neighborhood of Middleton, held by Mr. John Cahill, a clerk in Messrs. Murphy's distillery, when he found, about two feet under the surface, a very large box. It measured six feet six length, eighteen inches in depth and twelve inches in width. It was made of deal, and appeared to have been for a long time in the ground. The lid, which was not fastened, was removed, and Connors was much surprised to find that it contained what appeared to him, at first sight, a small cask, made of wood and bound with strong iron bands. There were also two pike-heads, one of which was elegantly finished. The police report that there can be no doubt as to the purpose for which these articles were intended, because the field in which they were had been, in March, 1867, in the possession of a young man named James O'Sullivan, a clerk in the distillery, who had the reputation of being head-centre of the district. It is believed that he took an active part in the transaction on the night of the 5th, and the morning of the 6th of March, 1867, but he succeeded in making good his escape to America.

The Cork Examiner says: On the 3d ult., Mr. John Curtin, of this city, who had been arrested under the lord lieutenant's warrant, and confined in Mountjoy for the past two months, was discharged from custody on a memorial forwarded by Mr. M. J. Collins, solicitor. Mr. Patrick Joyce, who had also been a short time in custody under the lord lieutenant's warrant, was released from Mountjoy. Both will, we believe, be allowed to return to Cork, and resume their business as publicans.

The same paper, under date of the 4th ult. says: The Cork correspondent of the Irish Builder notices a considerable improvement in the building business in this city, which for some time had been at a stand-still. Owing to the increased animation in the trade, the masons, in the middle of March, obtained an advance of three shillings per week on their wages; the stonecutters also demanded concessions, but were refused, and a strike took place. The men and employers have generally come to terms since, and the only works stopped are those at St. Vincent's, Sunday's Well, for which Mr. McMullen is contractor. The carpenters, following the example of the other trades, are stated to be at present on strike for a similar advance to that obtained by the masons. The masters are willing to yield to the demand on condition that the "hour system" is adopted, but this is objected to by the men. The principal works now in progress are the Protestant cathedral and the alterations in the county jail, which include the erection of a pretty chapel. Tenders have been invited for the erection of school buildings, and a residence for the Christian Brothers at Doneraile, at a cost estimated at £3000, and several other works are in contemplation.

On the evening of the 7th ult., four men entered the house of Samuel Milner, John street, Cork, and presenting a revolver at him, demanded his arms, in the name of the Irish Republic. Their conduct was very violent, and they threatened to shoot Milner's daughter, if their demands were not instantly complied with. Mr. Milner's fowling-piece was delivered to them, and on getting it they decamped.

The Cork correspondent of the Irish Times, under date of the 6th ult., announces a nocturnal attack on the dwelling of a farmer named Thomas Lynch, of Ballinamought, by an unknown party, who demanded a revolver, and fired two shots into the house through a window, which they had forced open. No one, however, was hurt, and the whole story is rather suspicious.

The parish priest of Croom, Rev. John Quinlan, in writing to the editor of the Limerick Reporter, under date of the 6th ult., says: "The petition for Religious Equality was signed here on yesterday, and contained between six and seven hundred names, headed by Henry Lyons, Esq., J.P., Croom House."

A public meeting of the inhabitants of Queenstown and the Great Island was convened on Tuesday, 7th ult., for the purpose of concerting measures to obtain the disestablishment and disendowment of the Protestant Church in Ireland. The meeting was held at the new school-house above the town, and was very numerous and respectably attended, the bishop of the diocese, the Most Rev. Dr. Keane, and a number of his clergy, being among those on the platform. The meeting was presided over by Dr. Maurice Power, J.P.

LIMERICK.—The Lord Bishop of Limerick has appointed the Rev. Cornelius M'Carthy, C.C., Ballygarry, Parish Priest of Knockaderra, in the room of the late Rev. Denis O'Brien, P.P. Rev. James Moran, C.C., Templeglantin, has been appointed C.C. of Ballygarry.

The Limerick Easter fair of cattle, sheep, and pigs, was held on the 6th ult., when buyers were scarce, though stock was plenty. The quotations were as follows: In calf heifers, from £16 to £18; at the latter price, Mr. William Spaight sold a lot of six; Mr. Robert Holmes, of Athlumkard, gave the same price for springers; a few heavy heaves and milch cows fetched £20 each; sheep of the best quality were up to 58s.; hoggets, from 30s. up to 40s.; the average for best was 58s. per cwt., and prime mutton, 7d. per lb.; lambs, 17s. to 25s. each. The supply of pigs was below the average, but of the best description.

CLARE.—At the last County Clare Quarter Session, an action of a somewhat similar character came before the court, in which Mr. Michael Duffy, recently an assistant in the Ennis post-office, appeared to be the plaintiff, and Mr. Frisby, the post-master, as the defendant. It appeared that in February last, a package containing lucifer matches was put into the receiver, addressed to Mr. Duffy, and in which he found a letter which he subsequently destroyed. Mr. Frisby eventually thought it requisite to discharge the plaintiff, owing to his connection with the transaction, and the action was brought to recover the sum of £7 10s., alleged to have been withheld by defendant, although he had drawn it as "salary for assistant post-master" from the government. The case was dismissed, save that plaintiff was allowed 3s. 6d. for three weeks previous to dismissal.

CORK.—The Dublin Irishman of the 11th ult. says: On Thursday last, a laboring man named John Connors was employed

The Ennis monthly fair was held on the 4th ult., and was well attended, both by buyers and sellers. The supply of beef was moderate and finished, but was quickly picked up at about 50s. per cwt. The sheep department exhibited no remarkable activity, and prices in general may be said to be in favor of the buyer. Hoggets, 20s. to 32s.; wethers, 30s. to 40s. There was a tolerable show of swine, and a ready demand. Prices were as follows: Heavy shipping pigs, 56s. per cwt.; bonhams, 50s. do.; slips, 20s. to 30s.

TIPPERARY.—The Nenagh Guardian says: We understand that William Ryan, Esq., Q.C., intends seeking the representation of this county whenever a vacancy occurs.

KERRY.—Two national school-houses are about being built in Tarbert, sites for same being generously granted by Major Croable, Ballyhaigue Castle, and Captain B. Lealie, Tarbert House. The former gentleman has also kindly granted a supply of land for the purpose. Two-thirds of the cost of each is allowed by the Board of National Education, on the work being perfected according to their plans.

Two boys, the children of a man named Lynch, residing in Listowel, were accidentally poisoned. It appears that the children by some means obtained access to a quantity of prussic acid, which their father had in the house, and swallowed a portion of it.

WATERFORD.—Mr. Grubb was recently re-elected Vice-Chairman of the Waterford Poor Law Board of Guardians. In reporting the affair, the Waterford News says: Although we think a Catholic and a Liberal ought to fill one of the principal chairs at our Poor Law Board, as is usually the case in all Catholic unions elsewhere, still we are glad that the Liberals rallied round Mr. Grubb on Wednesday, when an effort was made by the Conservatives to oust him. The result of this election, as also that of the mayoralty, proves that the old Ascendancy party is all but dead in Waterford.

On the morning of the first ult., at his residence, near Killeheelan, John Mulcahy, aged thirty-eight was found dead in his bed. An inquest was held, and a verdict, died from natural causes, returned.

IRISH COMMISSIONERS.—Earl Mayo, the Irish Secretary, in his late speech in Parliament stated as an evidence of the prosperous condition of Ireland, that she consumed more spirituous liquors than at any former period. It has been universally ridiculed. When the English Government labors under any pressure for ameliorating the condition of Ireland, she raises a Commission, which serves two purposes: 1. To give salaries to dependents. 2. To manufacture a blue book, establishing beyond controversy the benign rule of Great Britain, and the comfort and happiness of her Irish subjects. A London periodical furnishes us with a specimen of some of the statistics contributed to one of these Commissions, which came very near being officially published as genuine.

Some years back an Irish Commission of Inquiry circulated a set of inquiries on the condition of the poor. Some individual sent in a set of metrical answers not very complimentary to the Commission, and not exactly conveying the kind of information wanted. The answers to the interrogatories were actually printed—at least a part—for a blue book, before the character of the communication was understood and the impression erased. I give some of the queries and their answers:—

Q. (4).—What is the ordinary diet, and condition with respect to clothing, of the laboring classes in your parish?

A.—The general diet is potatoes and meat. For seldom, if ever, they see any joint; Their clothing is various, as every fool knows; Some decent, some ragged, without any hose.

Q. (7).—What would be the yearly expense of food for an able-bodied laborer in full work, at the average price of provisions during each of the last three years?

A.—And now for this question:—to answer it right, I will send you a man with a fair appetite; You can feed him a quarter, and judge pretty near. What would he be a just average during the year?

Q. (9).—What is the usual rent of cabins without land?

A.—From one to two pounds they will promise to pay; But the landlord is glad, after two years to say, "I'll forgive you the rent if you give up the key;" He then gets another, who acts the same way.

Q. (10).—Of what description of buildings are those cabins, and how furnished? Are they supplied with bedsteads and comfortable bedding?

A.—A cabin consists of the walls, roof and floor; With sometimes a window, and mostly a door. Their beds are of straw; and, instead of a rug, A slip of a pig, to keep their feet snug.

All the metrical answers are odd and rather good; but the oddest thing is that they so nearly made their appearance in the shape of a blue book.

SOCIAL LOVE.—How sweet is social affection! When the world is dark without we have light within. When cares disturb the breast, when sorrow broods about the heart, what joy gathers in the circle we love! We forget the world, with all its animosities, while blessed with social kindness. That man cannot be unhappy, who has hearts that vibrate in sympathy with his own, who is cheered by the smiles of affection and the voice of tenderness. Let the world be dark and cold, let the hate and animosity of bad men gather about him in the place of business—but when he enters the ark of love, his own cherished circle, he forgets all these, and the cloud passes from his brow and the sorrow from his heart. The warm sympathies of his wife and children dispel every shadow, and he feels a thrill of joy in his bosom which words are not adequate to express. He who is a stranger to the joys of social kindness has not begun to live.

KING THUNDERBOLT HIS COUNTRY.

The English war against Abyssinia has interested that country with unusual interest at this time. A London periodical publishes some notes from a traveler's journal, a few of which we subjoin, as they furnish glimpses into Abyssinian life:

On approaching Gondar, one is agreeably surprised by the semi-European aspect of the town; much the same as the first sight of Antioch effects the traveler, who, accustomed to the flat roofs of the Syrian dwellings, is quite astonished at the slanting tiled roofs and massive walls,avoring still of the times of the Knights Templar. Gondar is a thoroughly medieval town, in the midst of the African wilds; for, though it was founded by Fasalidas in the commencement of the seventeenth century, it is chiefly characterized by the "Gimp," or castle, a massive structure of basalt, faced with red sandstone, and built in the Portuguese style, with numberless towers, donjon-keeps, cassetments, and castellated tops. Spacious yards, bold arches, wide gates, and massive towers, mostly overgrown with various parasitical plants, recall the good old times of the iron ages—the good old times when might was right, and possession all the law; and the contrast between the miserable straw-shatched cottages of the wretched Abyssinians world, I shrewdly suspect, afford a pretty exact parallel to the relation of the Saxon boor's hut to his lord's baroque halls.

Many other remnants of former grandeur make the resemblance to the middle ages still more striking. The church of Gatra Mankit, or Fasalidas, a square stone building (1730), situated in a kind of basin, with a magnificent viaduct winding through the tropical scenery, reminds one of the Campagna; the picturesque ruins of Gokkam, and a more modern kind of Abyssinian sassouci, in a good state of preservation, with the remains of another palace, a noble hall, with rows of slender columns, delicately sculptured, seem to bear testimony to the former splendor of the ancient Ethiopian empire.

But all that is great and worthy of admiration in Gondar belongs really and truly to the past. The anarchy which has so long prevailed amongst the people is manifested in their works. Everything bears the impress of haste, insecurity, and destruction. The dwellings of the modern Amharas bear the same relation to the works of their forefathers as those of the Fallaheen in Egypt to the mighty remnants of Carnak and Luxor. They are mostly built like a tower, two stories high, with a projecting conical roof, beneath which the stairs wind up outside, as in a Swiss chalet. The ground floor is generally used as a magazine; the second one being reserved for the family. Furniture, as may be imagined, is but scant, usually consisting of a few mats, some rugs, carpets, and three or four niches in the wall, with ox-horns, to hang the owner's waklike accoutrements on.

The life of a well-to-do Abyssinian, in time of peace, is not very eventful, and is generally passed in gossip, idleness, and love-making. In the morning, after having enjoyed a good draught of Mersea, and some raw meat, he will, perhaps, saunter to the "shum," or judge of his district, and see what is going on there. A lawsuit in Habesch is generally a very amusing affair, from the intense love of dispute and argument which is a characteristic feature of the Abyssinians, as well as of the Falashas, or Jews, and the Moslems. A great incentive to dispute, and which is jealously promoted by the judges, is the bet which takes place preceding each lawsuit. The plaintiff lays a wager with the defendant as to the issue, as a proof of the good faith and innocence, and in proportion to the importance of the case, such as a mule, a cow, or a pot of honey. The stake, however, does not become the property of the winner, but of the judge, no matter what the sentence be. It is a remarkable fact, though, that the value of the stake often influences the judge's opinion; but in spite of this, the slightest cause, no matter how improbable the case be, will often give rise to a dispute which keeps the court in a perfect state of fever till the sentence is passed. The odds are freely offered and taken; the value of the stake always forming a subject for serious consideration as to the likelihood of the vendor of justice being influenced by it. It is freely remarked upon by the spectators. Some think it too little, and openly express their opinion, offering the odds against the plaintiff; others, who are, perhaps, better posted up in the shum's affairs, take them as willingly; so that a court of justice in Habesch is very much like the course on a Derby day.

Even the Greeks, versed as they are, ever since the days of Gorgias, in all the arts of sophistical reasoning, would find themselves as bewildered in the intricacies of Abyssinian argument and logic as the Minotaur in the Dædalian labyrinth. Things of utter improbability are often uttered and maintained with the greatest gravity; assertions obviously contrary to truth and common sense alike, sustained with as great a persistency as Dr. Colenso's proposition. For instance: An old Arab, some sixty years of age, feeling somewhat like King David in his antiquity, took a young damsel to his heart and home. The old story of sixteen and sixty, with a dashing young gallant of twenty-five between, again ensued, with the usual consequence. Poor Gulnare was locked up in her harem, and guarded by her tyrant with jealous care. One day Abdallah ibn-Jusuf brought home a fine water-melon wherewith to regale himself and his fair bride, and then returned to his business, whatever it might be. In the meantime, Gulnare sat at her lattice-window, her "jalousie" and pined for the gallant her soul adored. As she so sat, thinking and pining, and longing, a cry of "Hout man bahr! hout, ya bint!"—fish from the lake! fish, O lady! struck upon her ears; and, gazing down below, she beheld a fisherboy with a basket of little fish for sale. An idea—a sublime idea—struck the love-sick Gulnare; and, calling the fisherboy, she let down a basket and bought a dozen of his ware. With the greatest care, she then made as many incisions in

the melon, and carefully inserted the fish in the hollows, wisely closing up the apertures with the light green rind. With heightened color, and in a perfect fever of excitement, Gulnare awaited the arrival of her spouse. At last he came, and, greeting him with a feigned admiration worthy of her sex, she set the melon before him. Taking his knife, Abdallah, the son of Joseph, proceeded to open the fruit, where, to his infinite surprise, he found a fish imbedded in the insidious crimson interior. The second cut discovered another, and so on, each incision bringing forth a fresh one to light.

"Allah akbar! shur ya Gulnare!"—God is great! behold, O Gulnare!—cried Abdallah. "Some africe has been at work here. What is to be done? Let us send for Haddi Osman, the dervish, to exorcise the fruit. These fish are twelve demons of Tanga, that were bound by Solomon, the king, and if we touch them, we shall be ruined, and they set free!"

"Nonsense!" said Gulnare, "the melon grew near the lake, and the fish have eaten their way into it. Do not, then, think, O son of Joseph, that thou alone hast a liking for fish? Quiet thy mind, and thank Allah that he enabled thee to make a double bargain with thy money. Quiet thy mind, O my lord, and I will prepare thee a supper of fish, such as thou never hast enjoyed, and behold thy kef shall afterward be as the first hour in paradise, midst the seventy hours that Allah will give thee!"

Thereupon, like a dutiful spouse, she proceeded to cook the mischievous fish, with her own fair hands. After remaining absent some little time, she returned, with a perfectly innocent air, saying:

"Sorry am I, O my lord, to have detained you with my toilette! let us now enjoy the fruit your bounty has provided."

"But where are the fish?"

"Fish—what fish?"

"Why, the fish we discovered in the melon!"

"Fish in a water-melon! Allah akbar! what does my life mean?"

"Why, did we not find twelve little fishes in the melon I brought from the bazaar? Didst thou not say thyself they had eaten their way into it?"

"Allah have mercy upon me! Aman! Aman! (grace.) Now I think my lord is wandering in his mind. Who ever heard of fish living in a water-melon?"

"Scolding daughter of an improper person," replied the irate Abdallah, "cease thy foolish talk, and bring me the fish, or by the beard of the Prophet, I will chastise thee for thy impertinence!"

"Fish in a water-melon! Ha! ha! ha! Pray to the Prophet, old grey-beard, that he preserve thy senses! V'Allah, (by Allah) I fear me thou art possessed!"

This was too much for Abdallah to bear, and, seizing his wife by the shoulder, he gave her a sound box on the ear. "Thou madman!" shrieked Gulnare, "thou art possessed of a devil! Help! help! murder!"

Gulnare shrieked; Abdallah stormed and raved; at last, breaking from her enraged husband's grasp, Gulnare rushed into the street, and wended her steps to her mother's house. Here she explained how her husband had suddenly gone mad, and described to them the whole scene that had just passed. Abdallah himself soon appeared, in a towering fury, to fetch his wife back; but on being asked whether he really had believed and said there were fish in the melon, and answering in the affirmative, his wife's relatives thought it high time she should be separated, and all the disputants adjourned to the "shum's," to hear his decision.

Here Abdallah stated his case, having first, in the full consciousness of his good faith, accepted the wager of a fine steed, which the perfidious Gulnare had offered him, and related all that had passed between him and his wife.

"And dost thou really affirm that thy melon contained these twelve fishes thou speakest about?"

"V'Allah, V'Allah! I am speaking the truth!"

Thereupon followed a long discussion; some arguing for the possibility of the miracle, others denying it in toto, asserting that it was an optical delusion—a kind of mirage, in fact—till at length one wise man expressed his opinion that this was a minor question; because, if the man, in the first instance, had suffered from a delusion, he was still laboring under one, and was, therefore, of unsound mind; if, on the other hand, he really believed in what was an evident impossibility, he was a lunatic all the more. Lastly, supposing, for the sake of argument, there had been these twelve fish—these transformed africes—what could have become of them? It was clear there never had been any fish in the melon.

Abdallah hereupon began to vociferate still more loudly than before, and swore, in his senile rage, that he would be avenged on the woman who thus dared to trifle with him.

"Nay, then, Abdallah, son of Joseph, we cannot allow thee to vent thy mad ire on an innocent woman. It is clear thou art possessed. Thy suit is granted, O woman, surnamed Gulnare, and thou art divorced from the husband of a tainted mind. Go in peace, for the law hath spoken!"

And thus it was decreed. Abdallah was circumvented, and Gulnare set free by her own cleverness.

Another time a man appeared before the shum, to complain of some injury done to him, betting a horse upon the issue. Unfortunately, the shum, who was a good judge of horse flesh, if of nothing else, soon perceived that the horse was lame. Judgment was, therefore, naturally in favor of the defendant, and on the plaintiff's upbraiding the judge for the injustice of his decision, the learned man said, "How can you expect a lame horse to win the race?"

Many say, does not God know our wants better than we? What good is it, then, to pray? God knows our wants, and it is for that reason He wishes us to speak to Him, for God Himself is our first want, and to pray to God, is to begin to possess God. A father knows the wants of his child; but is the child, therefore, to address no word of petition or gratitude to the father?