

Detroit, Mich., Jan 19.

Am A. W. Touge,

My Dear Sir:-

Was very happy to receive your kind and helpful letter of the 5th inst., and was sorry to hear of your illness. I trust by this time you are enjoying better health. We have been having some steady cold weather here for the past two weeks, and the result seems to be a relaxation of the "grip."

I was much struck with your remarks on prayer - or rather the common practice of prayer, for I take it you endorse all Christ taught concerning prayer. It seems to me that true

prayer is a condition of heart rather than an act, and with this view the apostolic exhortation to "pray without ceasing" is possible of fulfilment. But these "opiate" prayers, it seems to me, do not rise higher than our heads. I recently saw an incident recorded of a minister's little girl, which illustrates your idea. She had been out walking one winter's day with her mother, and had seen a poor, bare-footed and scantily dressed child shivering in the snow. The sight impressed her greatly, and when prayer-time came, she told the Lord about the case in about these words: "O God, I saw a little girl today, in her bare feet, out in the snow, and with no hat or cloak on; and — but it's none of our business, is it, God?"

Having to speak at a mission in our city last Sunday, I took a text suggested by your letter - "Not every one that saith Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of the Father which is in heaven." I was surprised to find, in my preparation, how many persons Christ sent to do something, and what stress he laid upon the "doing" part of Christianity. We are too anxious that people should know how to say "Lord, Lord," in the orthodox way, that we forget the active and vital part of Christianity. What we need is to take a broader view of the mission of Christ, and to apply his teaching to the problems that vex us. Applied Christianity alone, it seems to me, is the remedy for the present social unrest.

I have lately been reading "Socialism and Christianity," by A. J. F. Rehrends, D. D., but it does not impress me as having the "Good Samaritan" ring about it. He seems to be a pupil of Atkinson; and though I gained much information in the book, it did not seem to me that he had much sympathy with the masses.

I have "Merrill Eastman" in circulation now, and I hear good words for it from all who have read it.

Pardon me for again infringing on your valuable time.

Yours for the Master,  
 Wm H. Verree,  
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 Detroit