Prud. A very good boy also, and one that has learned well.

Then she addressed herself to the eldest, whose name was Matthew: and she said to him, Come, Matthew, shall I also catechise you?

Matt. With a very good will.

Prud. I ask then if there was ever anything that had a being antecedent to or before God?

Matt. No, for God is eternal; nor is there anything, excepting himself, that had a being, until the beginning of the first day. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is.

Prud. What do you think of the Bible?

Matt. It is the Holy Word of God.

Prud. Is there nothing written therein but what you understand?

Matt. Yes, a great deal.

Prud. What do you do when you meet with such places therein that you do not understand?

Matt. I think God is wiser than I. I pray also that he will please to let me know all therein that he knows will be for my good.

Prud. How believe you as touching the resurrection of the dead?

Matt. I believe they shall rise the same that was buried: the same in nature, though not in corruption. And I believe this upon a double account: first, because God has promised it; secondly, because he is able to perform it.

Then said Prudence to the boys, You must still hearken to your mother; for she can teach you more. You must also diligently give ear to what good talk you shall hear from others; for for your sakes do they speak good things. Observe also, and that with carefulness, what the heavens and the earth do teach you; but especially be much in the meditation of that book which was the cause of your father’s becoming a pilgrim. I, for my part, my children, will teach you what I can while you are here, and shall be glad if you will ask me questions that tend to godly edifying.