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THE BOOK  
OF  
FAMILY AND PRIVATE  
DEVOTION.

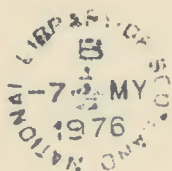
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## PREFACE.

It is quite possible that not a few excellent people, on taking up such a book of devotion as that which is here presented to the public, may feel disposed at first sight to object to the propriety of its being issued. "What!" they may perhaps be heard observing, "a book of prayers! Is prayer not to be offered from the heart? And when men and women have really been brought to the knowledge of the truth as it is in Jesus, do they not learn to pray to God, as well as to love Him, and walk in the way of His commandments?"

This is quite true; and we could ourselves state grave objections to a liturgy that was intended to supplant prayer altogether either in public or in private. Still there are exceptions to every rule; and it has been found to be a fact that many individuals have been prevented from offering supplication altogether, especially at the family altar before the members of their households, by timidity and a want of natural fluency, to whom such a volume as this Book of Devotion will be found to be of inestimable value. This might also apply very legitimately in the case of any female who may have been placed by circumstances at the head of a domestic establishment—at least till a commencement had been made of the religious exercise. And, in truth, the number is greater than might at first be supposed, of those who,

although they love the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity and truth, can never altogether overcome a natural shyness as to leading prayer in public, which amounts almost to an inability to do so. Even in these cases, however, it is hoped that the use of this manual for a short time will, to a large extent, put away this reserve and lead on to the practice of extempore prayer.

It has frequently been found that a minister's supplications on the Lord's day have been the means of conveying direct spiritual blessing to souls, as well as his sermons. We would expect, in like manner, that the very perusal of this Book of Devotion would be used in many instances by the Divine Spirit as the means of religious awakening and evangelical enlightenment.

The reader will observe that as many prayers have been furnished as will serve a household for morning and evening devotion throughout the course of a quarter of a year. Special supplications for sick and afflicted people have been added, as well as models of thanksgiving at food.

The Editor does not hesitate to say that the very names of the servants of Christ who have contributed to the work are a sufficient guarantee of its scripturalness and ability. It has been thought best not to indicate the authorship of each particular prayer, lest the knowledge of the fact should interfere, to any extent, with the appropriation of each petition on the part of the offerer.

The Editor commends the work to the blessing of Him who is the hearer and answerer of prayer.

Be not afraid to pray—to pray is right.  
Pray if thou canst with hope ;  
Though hope be weak, or sick with long delay ;  
Pray in the darkness, if there be no light.  
Far is the time, remote from human sight,  
When war and discord on the earth shall cease :

Yet every prayer for universal peace  
Avails the blessed time to expedite.  
Whate'er is good to wish, ask that of Heaven,  
Though it be what thou canst not hope or see ;  
Pray to be perfect, though material leaven  
Forbid the spirit so on earth to be.  
But if for any wish thou darest not pray,  
Then pray to God to cast that wish away.

*Hartley Coleridge.*

More things are wrought by prayer  
Than this world dreams of. Wherefore let thy voice  
Rise like a fountain for me night and day.  
In what are men better than sheep or goats  
That nourish a blind life within the brain,  
If, knowing God, they lift not hands of prayer,  
Both for themselves and those who call them friend?  
For so the whole round world is every way  
Bound by gold chains about the feet of God.

*Tennyson.*

Lord ! what a change within us one short hour  
Spent in Thy presence will avail to make !  
What heavy burdens from our bosoms take !  
What parched grounds refresh as with a shower !  
We kneel, and all around us seems to tower ;  
We rise, and all, the distant and the near,  
Stands forth in sunny outline, brave and clear ;  
We kneel, how weak ; we rise, how full of power !  
Why, therefore, should we do ourselves this wrong,  
Or others—that we are not always strong ;  
That we should ever weak or heartless be,  
Anxious or troubled—when with us is Prayer ;  
And joy, and strength, and courage are with *Thee*.

*Archbishop Chenevix Trench.*

Call upon Me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify Me.—Psalms l. 15.

In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.—Proverbs iii. 6.

Then shall ye call upon Me, and ye shall go and pray unto Me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek Me, and find Me, when ye shall search for Me with all your heart.—Jer. xxix. 12, 13.

Prove Me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.—Malachi iii. 10.

Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: for every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.—Matthew vii. 7, 8.

All things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.—Matthew xxi. 22.

Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation.—Matthew xxvi. 41.

He spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint.—Luke xviii. 1.

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.—Ephesians vi. 18.

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.—Philippians iv. 6.

Pray without ceasing.—1 Thessalonians v. 17.

For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and His ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.—1 Peter iii. 12.



Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed  
be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will  
be done on earth, as it is in heaven; give us  
this day our daily bread; and forgive us our  
debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us  
not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:  
for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and  
the glory, for ever. Amen.

## No. 1.

**O** LORD, we seek Thy face on this Thine own holy day as those who cannot live without Thy presence and Thy smile. Thou art great and good, high and holy, and we wish to think of Thee as Thou art, and to understand more of Thy nature, Thy perfect character and love. Raise our thoughts, O God, above the world and all its concerns, and give us a taste of the blessedness of those who are enjoying a full and perfect Sabbath at Thy right hand.

O Father, we have to confess with deep humility of heart that we have not lived in relation to Thee and the things of Thy kingdom as we should have done during the week which is for ever gone into the past. Those things which are bounded by earth have had too great a hold upon our souls. Our thoughts have been largely fixed on them, our feelings went out toward them, and they secured our interest more than they should. And if, Lord, there had been no Sabbath, with its holy suggestions, associations, and exercises, we might have become thoroughly secularised and unspiritual. We might, good Lord, have forgotten that we had souls, spiritual and immortal—that we have to do even now, whether we will or no, with the realms of the unseen—and with Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. But in Thy love and tender mercy Thou hast given us this day, which is thine own in a peculiar sense, that we may be brought face to face with our God, with the fact of our position as sinners, and with Gospel privileges, by means of which we may have fellowship with the Father, and communion, through the Spirit, with His Son. Oh, may such be our sweet experience during the hours of the sacred day which is before us. Oh, disappoint us not, O Lord, but draw nigh

to us as we draw nigh to Thee, that this may be in our innermost being a Sabbath holy to the Lord, when His will will be done in us, and by us, according to His own good pleasure.

O Lord God Almighty, what a wonderful thing is life! How marvellous are our lives! Thou hast in thine adorable and gracious providence raised us up this morning once more to consciousness and the full possession of all our faculties and powers. We stand on the threshold of a new day and a new week, which are as pages in our lives-histories, to be filled by us as we continue to exist. Grant unto us the Holy Ghost, that these pages may become records of holy deeds, noble thoughts, magnanimous emotions, and heavenly aspirations, that we may glorify our God while we live, and render honour to Him who bought us with His own precious blood and redeemed us from all iniquity. We know, Lord, that this is Thy desire. Thou desirest that our lives should be dedicated to Thy praise and glory, and that we should spend our days in the earth as pilgrims and strangers, looking for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. Keep these things before our minds, that they may enter into our experiences.

And, in order that we may overcome the world, may the Holy Spirit enable us ever to bear in memory that the first day of the week is calculated to teach us of the new and better life. It tells us that our Saviour is not a dead Saviour. He has risen. And where He is, O Lord, may our hearts be also. Raise us above the world. Pardon our transgressions, and purge our sins. Accept of us in the Beloved, in whose name we present our prayers. AMEN.

## No. 2.

**A** MERCIFUL Father, we approach the throne of Thy grace, that we may pour into Thine ear the joys and longings of our souls, and bless Thy loving name for all the good and precious gifts we have received from Thy bountiful hand. Lord, this day has all but reached its close. A short time and it will be gone, never more to return. And we desire to thank Thee, Lord, for all we have experienced of good during its hours, and all the protecting power which has shielded us from dangers unseen, both physical and spiritual. We are still in the land of the living and in the place of faith and hope. From the earth, on which Thy Son lived, we can pray to Thee, and we do so at the conclusion of this Sabbath day, that its end may be to us better than its beginning. When we close our eyes in sleep, may we do so with the consciousness that we are nearer heaven and the home of the ransomed than we have ever been before.

Lord, we beseech Thee to follow with Thy richest blessing all the labours of Thy servants this day over all the earth for the advancement of Thy kingdom. Wherever the gospel has been made known and Thy word read and expounded command Thou Thy blessing, that the seed may take root in the hearts of all who have heard the gospel, and that it may bring forth fruit to Thy praise. Grant, heavenly Father, that Thy servants who have ministered to others may be strengthened and nourished by the Bread of Life themselves, and thus be made more powerful for good. And especially, Lord, give a rich reward in their own souls to those who have been toiling in obscurity and depressing circumstances, that sinners might be converted unto Thee. Encourage



them in their labours by the thought that the posts of danger and of difficulty are those of honour, and those who suffer with Christ here, shall reign with Him in His kingdom for ever. May all Sabbath-school teaching, Bible reading at home and by the way-side, secret meditation and devout worship this day be followed with the benediction of Jehovah and the smile of the blessed Saviour. And to-night, Lord, may there be great joy in the presence of the angels of God over wanderers restored, sinners converted, and believers made more God-like and Christ-like.

And, O God, we must return to Thee the love of our souls for the loving kindnesses which have been ours during the hours of the Sabbath which are past. What are we thus to be watched over, provided for, and enriched? For every pure thought which we have entertained, for every devout affection which has filled our hearts, for every holy resolution we have formed, and for every new glimpse we have received of Thy face and love, we thank Thee, O God, the God of our lives and our portion for ever. May these mercies lead us to love Thee more, and to be animated by Thy Spirit unceasingly. May they, O heavenly One, constrain us to live close to God, and for the high ends for which we were created, that we may at last be prepared for the work and worship of that world where Sabbaths have no end.

Gracious God, we pray Thee to vouchsafe Thy presence and protecting power to us this night. When the darkness gathers around us and sleep seals our eyelids, may the Lord be near. O God bless us with the forgiveness of our many sins. And all we pray for and expect to receive, is for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

## No. 3.

MERCIFUL and blessed Father, Thou who wast, and art, and ever shall be, the pure and holy Jehovah, we would worship Thee this morning. Early would we seek Thy face, that we might adore Thy name and meditate on Thy greatness, purity, and Thy love. In reverence we bend before Thy throne, and with holy fear we take Thy name into our polluted lips. Yet, O Lord, we draw near to Thee with all confidence, in the name of the one Mediator who has His hands on us both, and through Him we present before Thee our hearts' supplications and desires.

We praise Thee, Lord, for raising us up from the image of death, and giving us ourselves to ourselves once more, as conscious and responsible beings. The strength and reason, the material and spiritual blessings we enjoy, are all Thine, and they have been granted without our asking, out of the fulness of Thy great heart. We acknowledge that we deserve none of them, O Lord, for we have, like all our forefathers, gone astray, and sinned against Thy holy will and law. But, though wrath was our due, Thou hast given blessing, and made life not only good, but a great good. It is to us desirable and happy. Realising our relation to Thee, and our dependence on Thee, we go forward to the work and the duties of the day, with cheerful hearts and resolute wills. Aid us, Lord, in their faithful and honest discharge. Whatever we are called upon to do, may we do it in Thy fear, and for Thy favour. Direct our thoughts, regulate our feelings, and shape our actions. Keep our feet from stumbling, our eyes from tears, and our lips from evil. May we, O God, ever act towards those who are associated with us in the business of every-day life, as Christ would have done had He been here. May our walk and

conversation be becoming the gospel, and all our works done in the Lord.

We would be mindful, O Father, as we pray to Thee, of those who are near to our hearts, though they may be removed from us in space. Thou knowest them all as they are, and where they are, and the mercies they stand in need of to-day. Lord, remember them in Thy love, and may the light of Thy countenance fall on their souls, and Thy Holy Spirit be their guide. Lord, may they look to Thee, and have their faces freshened, their characters ennobled, and their lives sublimed. Be their God and shepherd, and grant unto them all Thy richest gifts.

O Lord, we would bear on our spirits all men over all the world. They are all Thy creatures and Thy children, whom Thou hast formed in Thy image and after Thy likeness. Without Thee they cannot live as they should live, nor do those things they ought to perform. This day, Lord, mercifully bless them with all needful assistance, that they may do and endure whatever befalls them in Thy providence. Those who are peculiarly situated may they receive grace suited to their case, and be thereby enabled to work out their salvation with fear and trembling, looking unto Jesus, the author and the finisher of their faith.

Advance Thine own good cause and kingdom this day, O God, over all the earth. May it come in power, and extend from sea to sea, and from the river to the ends of the earth. Lord of hosts, gird Thy sword on Thy thigh, and ride forth conquering, till all will acknowledge Thy sway and crown Thee Lord of all.

Gracious Lord, hear these our prayers, and as Thou hearest answer and forgive. For all that we ask is in the name of Jesus Christ, Thy Son and our Saviour. AMEN.

## No. 4.

O THOU great and good Lord, we would this evening lift to Thee the thoughts of our minds and the needs of our souls. We cannot see Thee with our eyes of sense, nor handle Thee with the hands of the body, and yet, O Lord, Thou art near us, around, above, beneath, and within us, and that not as a mere power and existence, but as a living person, the Heavenly Father. As our Father, Thou dost care for us in our weakness, and Thine ear is open to the cry which we raise to Thee. Thou delightest to hear and to give. Thy blessedness is realised in giving, and ours is realised in receiving from Thy gracious hand and heart.

Adorable God, we would love Thee. Those things which are around us are Thine, and we prize them. Those inferior creatures which minister to our wants in many ways come from Thee, and are sustained by Thy will. Our fellowmen, who belong to the same human family, are near and dear to us, and from them we receive much good to cheer and strengthen. But all these, the work of Thy hands, though we possessed them fully, could not satisfy our souls. We must have Thee as our own God, else we will sink into darkness. Raise our thoughts then ever to Thee by the aid of Thy free Spirit. Set our affections on the glories of Thine own perfect character, till they gather around Thee as closely as a mother's affections round her offspring. Elevate our entire being to Thine own self, that our fellowship may be with the Father of the spirits of all flesh. And then, Lord, we will be filled with all Thy fulness and become Thy children, not only in nature, but also in character and sweetest experience. Thus, Lord, may we come to love Thee with all our heart and soul, and strength and



mind, and then our love shall not only go up to the Father of all, but will also return from the source whence it came, and go out in pure streams to those who are our kinsmen and brethren according to the flesh.

But, Lord, in our desire for the child-life and experience, we would not forget, before Thee, that we have hitherto fallen short of our position and privilege. We have, O God, failed to love Thee. Our sin and shame is that we have inverted the order of our being, and turned our affections downwards, instead of upwards, and manwards instead of Godward. Our hearts condemn us, and Thou art greater and purer than our hearts, and must condemn us the more. This we confess before Thee, and pray for forgiveness in the name of Him who never failed as a Son, and who took upon himself our sins as a Saviour. Behold Him, Lord, and look upon us through Him. We have no other name which we can name before the pure and holy Jehovah but the name of Jesus. And we thank Thee that we need none other. It is given under heaven among men that they might be saved. We lay hold on this name this night, and plead with Thee, for His sake who bore it on earth and bears it in heaven, to blot out the sins of our past lives. May they not come up in judgment against us. Receive us in Christ Jesus graciously, and love us freely, that the future of our lives may be spent in Thy service, doing Thy will and seeking the good of those among whom we live. May Thy forgiveness, as we retire to rest, enter our hearts, and give us peace and joy in the Holy Ghost, so that while we are in the body the Lord may be consciously with us, and that when we die we may be with the Lord. And all this we ask in the name and for the sake of our blessed Saviour, whom Thou hearest always. AMEN.

## No. 5.

WE come, O God, before Thee with our morning desires, as those whom Thou in Thy adorable love hast made to worship and serve Thee. Thou hast not made us after the manner of the heavens and the earth, and all that they contain. These things are unconscious, though great, and they cannot render to Thee love and obedience, though they are numerous. But, Lord, Thou hast not created us as Thou hast created the sun, moon, and stars, or the earth with its stocks, stones, and material belongings. We have been formed in Thine image, after Thy likeness; Thou hast breathed into our nostrils the breath of life, and constituted us not only creatures but children—in miniature what Thou art in absolute perfection. We therefore draw near to Thee, as children to a Father, to make known our deepest wants and pressing desires. And as we do so, we pray Thee for Thy Holy Spirit, that He might bear witness with ours that we are Thine, and that our meat and drink should ever be to do the will of our Father who is in heaven. Teach us, O Lord, our duty. Inspire us with Thine own inspiration, that in our thoughts, emotions, and actions, we may ever render to Thee a reasonable service, a becoming worship.

But, O God, as we think of Thy love, purity, and authority, and our own ways of living, we keenly feel that we deserve none of Thy mercies, none of Thy blessings. Thou hast made us children, but we have lived as enemies. Thou hast blessed us as if we had honoured Thy law in all that we thought or did, but we have trampled on Thy commandments, and done what we ought not to have done. Realizing this, we are condemned in Thy presence, and feel that if Thou hadst been strict to mark

iniquity and rigorous to punish sin, we would have been cut down long ere now as unprofitable and guilty servants. In the multitude of Thy tender mercies Thou hast spared us. For as Thou hast given Thine only begotten and well beloved Son, He has, as an expression of Thy love, become our Saviour, our Redeemer, our elder Brother, and is now before Thee as the propitiation of our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift. Oh may the love and mercy therein displayed enter into our souls, and impart the new life which shall make us new creatures, full of peace and the Holy Ghost.

And we beseech Thee, O heavenly Father, to enable us to understand all Thy relations to us in Christ Jesus our Lord. These are many and all-important, and the more we understand them, the more we shall fulfil the end of our being, and know where we are and where we are going. May our eyes be opened to see this day our fellow-men through the Cross of Calvary, and not according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. May our home duties be perceived in the light of the mission of our Redeemer. May we, as citizens of this world, act as Christ would have us to act in those things which belong to the social, civil, and political affairs of existence. And, blessed God, may we at all times think of ourselves, our bodies, lives, characters, and souls, as we stand affected by the blood shed for our deliverance. We are not our own, but bought with a price. May we therefore, at all times, glorify our God and Saviour in our inner and our outer conduct, and work out our salvation. So living, we shall live unto the Lord; and dying, we shall die to the Lord. Living or dying, may we be the Lord's, for His name's sake. AMEN.



## No. 6.

WE bow before Thee, O Thou who art the Lord of Hosts, and acknowledge Thee as the God of creation, of providence, and of grace. Thou art the eternal, the infinite, and all-perfect One, whom angels and archangels adore in heaven, and whom we, sinful creatures though we are, should adore in the earth. Before Thy throne the hosts of angels stand and extol Thy name and celebrate Thy praise. May we, too, be able to do so this evening, as we approach Thy throne of grace.

We thank Thee, O Lord, for Thy goodness to us during the day which is past. Thy mercies have come with the rising of the sun, and they did not depart at his going down. Out of Thy love Thou hast vouchsafed to us all those good and perfect gifts which are essential to our being and well-being, for soul and body, for time and eternity. Thou hast given us health and all that it imparts. Thou hast bestowed on us the controlling and enlightening power of reason and all it makes known. The good things of a spiritual and material kind which have been strewn on our paths are more in number than the hairs of our head, and by them our terrestrial journey has been made bright and blessed. Assist us ever to behold the Giver in His gifts, and to cherish within our deepest beings the gratitude which is becoming in those who receive so much.

And, Lord, we beseech Thee to grant unto us Thy Holy Spirit, to enable us to use the mercies we receive for Thy glory, and the benefit of ourselves and others. Forbid, Lord, that they should be tied up in a napkin and cast aside, without being improved. May we be ever impressed with an ever-deepening sense of our individual responsibility in relation to Thee, O God, so that life shall

be employed fulfilling our duties, and practically working out what is vouchsafed to us by our heavenly Father. Let the past of our lives suffice for evil, ingratitude, and indolence; and may the present and the future be redolent of love, resplendent with light, and made important by holy resolve. Then, Lord, Thy love shall have its full sway in our hearts, and shall lead us to live, not for ourselves, but for Him who loved us and gave Himself for us.

We would at this time, O Lord, mention before Thee those whom we love, whether they are near us or far away from us. Thou knowest them all, and Thou knowest that we desire that they should share Thy protecting power, Thy enriching mercy, and Thy salvation. The downcast, the weary, the sick, the careless, and the dying watch over, and aid according to their necessities and longings. May their experiences of the dark things of life be over-ruled for their growth in divine knowledge and in grace. By these things may their purity be promoted, their trust strengthened, and their life made brighter, till the mists and the shadows depart, and the day-star arise in their souls.

Let Thy mercy, divine Father, extend to all men the whole world over. Cause Thy face to shine on the whole human race. Hasten, O Lord, hasten the day when pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father shall be the regulating power of all nations, kindreds, and peoples, and when Jesus shall see in a regenerated race the fruit of the travail of His soul, and be satisfied.

These, our prayers, are before Thee. They are presented in the name of Jesus, and for His sake we beseech Thee to answer them according to Thy holy will. And to Thy holy name, Father, Son, and Spirit, shall be all the glory, now and for ever. AMEN.

## Dc. 7.

**E**ARLY, O God, do we seek Thee, that we may begin the duties of another day in Thy fear, and with Thy blessing. Grant us at this time the spirit of true prayer and supplication, that with all sincerity and earnestness we may make all our wants known. O Lord, these wants are numerous, for our dependence on Thee is continual. Without Thy power we could not live, and without Thy constant love we would not be able to enjoy existence. If it were not for Thee, the morning, with all its freshness and inspiration, would lose its beauty, work would be deprived of its pleasure, and rest would have none of its sweetness. But Thy presence and grace sanctify all things to us, and give us heart and courage to go forth to the duties of life with renewed energy and zeal.

O Lord, the day before us is hid from our eyes, but it is known to Thee. We do not desire, Lord, to know more than we do know, for our longing is to walk by faith more than by sight. One step is sufficient for us when we have Thy hand in our feeble hand, and we can trust Thy goodness where we cannot trace Thy working. O God, be our God, our Guide, our Shepherd during the hours of active life which are before us. Thou knowest what we will be called upon to do, to endure, to think, and to feel. Temper the blast, Lord, to our weakness, the temptation to our powers of resistance, and make the burden no heavier than we are able to bear it. Keep us, good Lord, from sin in thought, word, and deed. Make us honest and upright in our dealings with our fellow-men and with Thee; and may holiness to the Lord be inscribed on all that we do and say. Impress us more deeply than ever with the conviction that we are not our



own ; we are Thine. Thou hast bought us, Thou hast sustained us and blessed us, and our duty is to glorify God in His Son in all that we are called upon to perform or to bear.

Our desires, O Lord, would extend beyond ourselves at this time. We would remember that we are members of a great family, scattered over the world, who wear the nature we wear, and are bound to us by ties we dare not deny or endeavour to cut asunder. Some are nearer and dearer than others, but all are to be loved with pure hearts fervently. For them all we beseech blessing and mercy. Our limited minds cannot name them one by one, or tell Thee of their necessities or deepest wants. But, O God, we rest in the assurance that Thou knowest them altogether, and at this present moment they are all under Thine eye, and, we thank Thee, dear to Thine heart. Father in heaven, smile on Thy children of the race of man, and draw them to Thyself by the power of Thine own love and gospel. May they no longer stray from Thy bosom and Thy fold, but, laden and weary with sin, sorrow, and the ways of the evil one, may they arise and go to their Father that they may receive forgiveness, and be restored to their position as Thine adopted children.

For this end, O Spirit of God, bless with Thine own richest blessing all the agencies that are employed by Thy people for the spread of the truth as it is in Jesus. There is no gospel but Thine. To-day, Lord, may that gospel have free course and be glorified. May it be made known by lip and life, by the Bible and works of religion, till all be blessed by Thy saving power, and have their sins forgiven, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

## No. 8.

**O** LORD God Almighty, Thou art great and good. The heaven of heavens cannot contain Thee, and Thy glory is far exalted above the skies. Thou hast been from everlasting, and Thou shalt be to everlasting the unchanged and unchangeable Jehovah, the same yesterday, to-day, and for evermore. O God, give us, as we approach the throne of grace, a sense of Thy holiness, nearness, and loving kindness. May the world and all its concerns be banished out of our minds, and may we be shut into the closet with Thyself, that we may pray to Thee in secret, in spirit and in truth.

O Lord, we adore Thee for Thy goodness to us during another period of our earthly pilgrimage. Thou hast not only spared us in life, but Thou hast crowned our lives with Thy goodness and Thy grace. Had it not been for Thy Son we would have been left to perish in our sins, and to reap the rewards of the evil deeds we have done in the body. Wrath would have been our due, darkness would have been our abode, and lost spirits would have been our companions. But, O Lord, Thou didst look upon us in our undone and wretched condition, and so loved us as to give Thine only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him might not perish, but have everlasting life. Thanks, everlasting thanks, be unto the Father for the unspeakable gift of his own Son. We thank Thee, O God, for the Holy Ghost, who has revealed the Son in all the fulness of His mediatorial greatness unto our souls. If it had not been for Thy Spirit, O divine Father, we never would have turned our faces towards the Cross and the Lamb of God, who has taken away the sin of the world. He came to seek us when we had gone astray; He led us to think when we desired to be thoughtless;

and He took of the things which pertain to our eternal peace, and shewed them unto us when our hearts were turned to the world. In Thee we have our salvation, and grant unto us the still greater blessing of having in Thee, and Thee only, our hearts' portion. Then shall we rejoice in our God, and live as seeing the Invisible One. Our path shall then be Zionward, Godward, and gloryward.

Father in heaven, as the shades of the night close round our bodies and dwellings, may Thy arms kindly fold us in their embrace. Like weary children, we would seek rest in Thy bosom and strength from Thy love. Forbid, O Lord, that we should forget that as we sleep Thou wilt watch our beds, and through means of slumber refresh our bodies and our souls. And when the morning dawns, may we be found still here, if it be Thy Fatherly will, that with Thy servant of old we may be able to say, "When we awake, we are still with Thee."

We would remember all those whom we should bear on our spirits before Thee. Those whom we love, and who love us, bless and guard. Those who are bound to us by the ties of nature and of grace smile upon. Some of them, Lord, are far removed from us in body, but they are not separated from Thee, for Thou art as near to them as Thou art to us. Graciously bless old and young, rich and poor, the weak, the sick and the dying. May all men share in Thy benediction, O God of all grace.

Grant, O Lord, that righteousness, temperance, and true religion may increase over all the world, till under their benign sway, the family of man shall rejoice. Blot out our iniquities, and love us freely, for the Lord our Saviour's sake. AMEN.

## No. 9.

**H**OLY and heavenly Father, we thank Thee for the privilege we enjoy of communing with Thyself. We seek Thy presenee ere we renew the work of the day, delighting in the thought that we shall go forward to that work in Thy strength. We thank Thee Thou hast taught us something of the sweetness of fellowship with Thyself. We thank Thee for the pure and satisfying joy that fills our hearts in Thy realised love and presenee. We look up to Thee, and call Thee Father. Whom have we in heaven but Thee, and there is none on earth we desire beside Thee. Our souls thirst for Thee, the living God.

We thank Thee for earthly comforts, but we find that these are most enjoyed when we see Thee in them all. We thank Thee for our earthly friendships, but we find that all relationships are sweetened when sanctified by Thy presenee. We praise and adore Thee for what Thou art in Thyself. We would meditate with reverence and delight on the perfections of Thy nature. The love that fills Thy heart passes all understanding. Thy purity is not marred by any taint of evil. Thy power knows no limitations. Thy wisdom is supreme and glorious. Thy grace is rich and free. Righteous art Thou in all Thy ways, and holy in all Thy works. Who would not fear and magnify Thy name. When we reflect what we ourselves are we feel humiliated in Thy presenee. Not only are we weak and ignorant—creatures whose days are as an handbreadth, and whose breath is in their nostrils; we are clothed in the garments of unrighteousness, and have to cry out before Thee, Unclean, Unclean! We have sinned against Thy love, and come short of Thy glory. We mourn our ingratitude and our sinfulness

before Thee. We have good reason to bless Thee that in the midst of many sins and imperfections Thou hast not ceased to love us, and that in Thy wisdom Thou hast provided salvation for us.

We thank Thee for what Thou hast taught us of Thy gracious purposes of mercy revealed in the gospel. We thank Thee for the sweet peace Thou hast shed abroad in our hearts through Jesus Christ. It is our earnest desire to live every day in harmony with Thy holy will and under the influence of Thy love. We would walk in this world as strangers and sojourners, inspired with the hope of finding a resting-place in Thy home at last. We long to be assimilated to the image of Jesus that we may be witnesses in word and deed, in life and character for Him. Help us this day to walk in the light of Thy countenance, and teach us to glorify Thee in all our different experiences. Prepare us for whatever may be before us, and fulfil Thy promise that as our day is, so our strength will be.

And now we entreat Thee that Thou wouldest bless all for whom we ought to pray. We would remember before Thee all ranks and conditions of men. We pray for those in authority that they may wield their power for Thee. We pray for the poor and the destitute. Let them be remembered by Thee; and may they know that Thou carest for them. Bless our country. Prosper its trade and commerce. Bless the labours of those who cultivate the land, and give abundant increase. Give wisdom to all engaged in education work; may they teach under the influence of Thy Holy Spirit. Bless all religious and philanthropic institutions, and give grace to all who labour in Thy vineyard. Let thy kingdom come with power in our midst. For Christ's sake. AMEN.



## No. 10.

OUR Father who art in heaven, we draw near to Thy sacred presence near the close of another day. We bring to Thee our tribute of worship and adoration. We bless Thee for all that Thou art in Thyself. Thou art the King, Eternal, Immortal, Invisible, the only wise God. Thou needest not the praise of our lips, or the homage of our hearts, to add to thy inherent glory. But we thank Thee that Thou deignest to look upon us in Thy grace, and that Thou art pleased when we seek Thy face, and bow our spirits before Thee.

We give Thee thanks for Thy love to us during this day, and for all the gifts Thou hast bestowed upon us. Thou hast dealt bountifully with us, opening Thy hand and supplying our every want. Thou hast protected us in the midst of dangers seen and unseen. For life and health and home comforts, and dear friends to share Thy mercies with us, we bless Thee. Follow with Thy blessing, we beseech Thee, the work of this day. Bless our feeble efforts to live to Thy praise. Help us everywhere and at all times to testify to Thy goodness and mercy, and to manifest the Christ-like spirit in our intercourse with others. Wherein we have failed to live as we ought to have done, do Thou forgive us. The evil that has mingled with our good do Thou pardon. Whatever impurity has had a place in our thoughts, affections, and motives, do Thou take away for Thy Son's sake.

Teach us to aspire to be pure as Christ is pure, and to be perfect like our Father in heaven. Bless our household we humbly pray Thee. May the younger members seek Thee early and find Thee, and may those who are older never forget Thee, nor allow their love for



Thee to diminish aught in intensity. May all the relations we sustain be sanctified and sweetened by Thy own friendship, and may we be drawn closer to one another by our increasing nearness to Thyself.

For all friends we pray. May they all belong to the household of faith, and have a growing interest in spiritual things. If any dear to us are yet out of Christ, speedily bring them to Thyself. Arouse them to earnest thought about the future. Help them by Thy Spirit to see their need of the Saviour. Our neighbours around us we also remember before Thee. Pour out Thy Holy Spirit richly on those who have given their hearts to Thee, and who are striving to live for Thy glory. Help us to esteem them highly for Christ's and their work's sake. Save the unsaved amongst them, and may the whole neighbourhood have the fragrance of religion.

All Christian and philanthropic efforts put forth to-day do Thou smile upon and follow with Thy enriching blessing. Prosper Thy cause in our own land. May our country be exalted by the righteousness that exalteth nations. May the gospel have free course in it. Thy church throughout the world do Thou bless. We thank Thee for the spread of Thy truth to all lands and nations, and we pray that Thy servants who uphold the banner of the cross in heathen countries may be specially strengthened by Thee. May they have wisdom for their arduous and trying work, and may Christ through their labours see of the fruit of the travail of His soul and be satisfied. Hasten the time when all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of God.

And now we commit us to Thy care for this night. Breathe upon us of Thy peace, and give us the sleep of Thy beloved. We ask all for Christ's sake. AMEN.

## No. 11.

OUR God and Father, we lift our hearts to Thee in supplication and thanksgiving. We bless Thee for Thy kind care of us during another night, and for the new mercies we have received this morning. Our wants return with the return of the day, but Thou, shepherd-like, dost anticipate each one, and like Thy people of old, we awake to find the manna around our tents. We bless Thee, Thou infinite and adorable Jehovah. We make mention of Thy loving-kindness during the night. Thou hast wrapped around us the curtain of sleep, and we have been refreshed and strengthened by it. Thou hast shielded us from danger and harm. Thou hast renewed our powers, and now we lay ourselves on Thy altar.

Be pleased, O Lord, to continue Thy kindness to us during the hours of this day. Our way we commit to Thee, do Thou guide and direct all our steps. For the duties that await us we ask of Thee strength, for we can only serve Thee with Thine own. Help us to engage in our work, and to conduct our business in the right spirit. May we labour, not with eye-service as men-pleasers, but as serving God, and our work shall be sanctified and sublimed in being done for Thee.

Help us to adorn Thy Gospel in our bearing towards all with whom we may associate this day. Preserve us in integrity and uprightness. Help us to be just and true in all our actions. May no spot of evil rest upon or defile our conscience. May we do nothing to wound Thy heart, Thou infinite and loving One. Save us from grieving Thy Holy Spirit. May we be clothed with humility, esteeming others better than ourselves. May we ever live in the exercise of Christian faith and love, and hope that those with whom

we have intercourse may learn from us as epistles of Christ. O that our walk and conversation may be worthy of Him, and tend to convince the careless amongst our friends and neighbours of the realities of eternity.

Whilst we are out in the world, wilt Thou, Divine Father, watch over our dear ones at home and protect them from all harm. Keep from sin those who are so far advanced in life as to be exposed to the allurements of the world, and the influence of the ungodly. May the lambs of our fold share Thy tender care. Bless to-day all who have important work in hand. Give them the wisdom and the strength necessary to carry on that work to its completion. May none faint in the path of duty, and may none grow weary in well-doing. And do Thou add to the number of labourers in Thy vineyard so that the knowledge of the Lord may more and more cover the earth. The weak and tempted ones do Thou remember. Put Thy strong arm around them and deliver them from evil. May they remember that the wages of sin is death, and turn away their eyes from viewing evil, and their feet from the paths of wickedness.

Those who have seen the light of the morning in sore pain, and whose tears have prevented the dawning of the day, do Thou comfort. Recover the sick where it is possible and seems good unto Thee, and wipe the tears from sorrowing eyes. Those who feel as if the burden of life were too heavy for them, and as if they must sink beneath the weight, do Thou cheer and sustain. Help us to sympathise with the tired and the weary, and, so far as we can, to bear their burdens, remembering that Jesus bore our griefs and carried our sorrows. May Thy kingdom be advanced in our world to-day, and Thy great and holy name be magnified. For Christ's sake. AMEN.

## No. 12.

**A**LMIGHTY God and Father, we bow down in Thy presence and wait on Thee with thanksgiving and supplication. Thou art the Refuge of Thy people, and to whom should we go but unto Thee. Thou hast revealed Thyself to us as the Father of Spirits, and we bow before Thee with filial reverence and filial love. Thou hast sent forth the spirit of adoption into our hearts and made it easy for us to hold fellowship with Thyself. We feel the sweet drawings of Thy love, and find that it is not difficult to ask Thy help in our time of need.

We bless Thee for Thy kindness to us in Jesus Christ, Thy Son. Thou hast redeemed us from sin and restored us to Thyself. Thou hast received us, though prodigals, as Thy children and given us the place not of servants but of sons. We are heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ. All the riches of our inheritance heart cannot conceive, nor tongue express, for they are unsearchable, but we have the hope of being like Christ—seeing Him as He is. We rejoice to know that none can despoil us of that inheritance, and that it will never corrupt nor fade away. Our prayer is that Thou wouldest help us to walk worthy of Thy love in Christ, and of our high calling as the sons of God. We lament, Divine Father, our many weaknesses and imperfections. We have to mourn that in many things we sin and fall short of the example of Christ.

We pray that Thou wouldest help us to make greater progress in the divine life. Help us to lay aside every weight, and the sin that most easily besets us, and may we daily gain victories over the world and the flesh, and rise higher and higher in spiritual attainments. Help us to use well the means of grace which Thou hast given us,

that our minds may be stored with Thy truth, and our hearts enriched and permeated with Thy love. Help us each day to serve Thee with the powers Thou hast given to us, and to show forth Thy praise to the generation of which we form a part. And as at the close of each day we are nearer to our eternal home may we be more meetened for its high service and its pure felicities.

We entreat that Thy blessing may rest upon us to-night. Thy hand has been upon us for good another day. In the midst of much trouble and pain we have been strong. In the presence of sickness and disease our health has been preserved, and while the angel of Death has been knocking at other doors he has passed over our home. We thank Thee that our table has been furnished, and that Thou hast given us dear friends to enjoy with us the gifts of Thy love. We pray that Thou wouldest bless this day's efforts to serve Thee, and to walk consistently with our profession as the followers of Christ. What Thy pure eye may have seen amiss be pleased graciously to forgive, and teach us to rise superior to the evil around us and the impurity within us. We commend us, and all our interests, and all our dear friends to Thy fatherly care. May the blessings of Israel's God rest upon them.

May the poor be remembered and helped by Thee this night. Give to every suffering one a sweet sense of Thy presence and sympathy. Comfort the mourners, and lead them to enjoy more fully Thy friendship. May the dying have the valley into which they are entering brightened by the prospect of the immortality which Thou hast given us in the Gospel of our blessed Redeemer. What we need, and have omitted to ask, be pleased to grant us in the riches of Thy wisdom and love. For Jesus Christ's sake. AMEN.



## No. 13.

ALMIGHTY and ever-living God, we wait on Thee with our morning sacrifice of adoration and thanksgiving. Thou hast renewed Thy mercies to us another morning, and we feel constrained to renew our praise. We thank Thee for Thy watchful care throughout the night. Thou upholdest the universe by Thy power, and Thou thinkest upon all the works of Thy hands great and small.

We thank Thee for Thy gifts to us Thy dependent creatures, and we bless Thee that Thou hast taught us to look to Thee, and trust Thee as our Heavenly Father. We thank Thee for what we enjoy as a family—for the food and raiment that are ours, for our freedom from bodily ailments and diseases, and for all spiritual blessings. We thank Thee that Thou hast taught us that Thou dost love us, and that it is Thy will that we should love one another. May our love to Thee be warm and constant, and our love to each other pure and unselfish.

Keep us ever within Thy fold, Thou great Shepherd of Thy people, and may we never desire to step aside from the ways of Thy commandments. Help each of us to be faithful in life. May we be strong to wrestle against and overcome all evil within us. May we purify ourselves as Christ is pure. Help us to bear worthily the burdens Thou dost lay upon us. May none of us rest contented with receiving and enjoying Thy love, but remembering that, as we freely receive, we are freely to give. May we contrive every day to do some little good to others, and show forth the praises of our God and Father. May we all seek, by the character we bear and the life we live, to lead others with us in our heavenward journey. Help us to feel more than ever we have done

the sad condition of those who are far from God and from righteousness. Help us to sympathise with Jesus in the redeeming work He is continually carrying on. May we this day be led by Thy Spirit into some path of usefulness, and be instrumental in blessing some sin-burdened soul. And as a family may we all win the Master's well-done, and receive at last from His hands a crown of righteousness.

We pray for the families to which we are related, and all our kindred. May they share with us all temporal mercies, and be partakers with us in all heavenly and spiritual blessings. May we feel the special obligation lying upon us to labour for their spiritual welfare. Bless them this morning according to their different needs. If any are in sorrow comfort them. If any are in trouble, do Thou help them. Give wisdom to guide them in all their ways, and be pleased to bless and prosper the work of their hands. Keep them from yielding to any evil influences that may surround them in the world, and check any impulses to sin by the indwelling of Thy Holy Spirit. And Divine Father, we pray for our fellow-men around us, that they too may be blessed of Thee. Thou knowest the hearts of all men. We pray for the ungodly, may they be led to know Thee.

May that kingdom that is righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Ghost speedily come into all our hearts. All nations do Thou bless. Their kings and rulers do Thou guide. Teach them to rule in Thy fear, and to remember that they must give an account to God the Judge of all. Over-rule all that is transpiring in the world for the welfare of our race and the glory of Thy great name. Bring all wars to an end. Let the spirit of peace and good-will rest upon the nations. We ask all for Christ's sake. AMEN.

## No. 14.

**A**LMIGHTY and ever-blessed God, we would gather ourselves for a little around Thy merey-seat and hold fellowship with Thee ere the night elose upon us, and we seek rest in sleep. We rejoyce to think Thou art ever ready to receive us, and to grant us the blessings we ask of Thee in the name of Jesus. Giving does not impoverish Thee, and withholding does not enrich Thee. Help us now to realise that we speak to One who is ready to hear and to answer. How many good things hast Thou bestowed upon us unsolicited? How richly hast Thou showered upon us of Thy bounties in providence.

We thank Thee, most gracious Father, that Thou hast taught us that we belong to Thee, and art eared for by Thee. We can say with Thy servant of old, "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want." We desire this night to realise anew that we are not our own. We are the Lord's. We have been bought with a price, and it is only our reasonable service when we strive to glorify Thee. Help us continually to remember that while in the world we are not of the world. Thou hast called us as Thy ransomed ones to be a peculiar people for Thyself, and to show forth Thy praises. May we ever live in relation to the things of earth as strangers and sojourners, our eye being fixed on the home above, and our desires laying hold of heavenly things.

Help us to deny all ungodliness and worldly lust, and to live soberly, righteously, and godly, while we are spared here below. May we remember that the time is short, and give all diligence to make our calling and election sure. May we remember that we have a crown of righteousness to gain, that we have treasure to store up in heaven, that we have got work to do in the vine-

yard of our blessed Master. Teach us to work whilst it is called to-day, that the night may not come upon us before our work is done. As children of the light may we walk continually in Thy light, and thus we shall be meetened for that blessed inheritance to which we look forward.

Wherein we have lost sight of our high calling, or failed in our duty to-day, do Thou graciously forgive, and inspire us with purer and nobler desires. Follow with Thy blessing the labours of the day. Own our feeble efforts to advance Thy glorious kingdom, and make us increasingly powerful for good in the world. We pray for the spread of Thy truth everywhere. Bless the labours of Thy people in all parts of the world, and speed the glorious time of which Thou hast told us in Thy Word, when they shall not teach every one his brother, and every one his neighbour, saying, "Know the Lord," but when all shall know Thee, from the least to the greatest.

For the temporal mercies of the past day we give Thee thanks. Thou hast liberally supplied our wants, and caused us to drink out of the river of Thy pleasures. We thank Thee especially for Jesus, the Bread of Life. May we ever live by faith in Him. And now we commend us to Thy care. Let Thy fatherly blessing rest upon us. All friends and relations do Thou bless. Keep them all mindful of Thyself. Forbid that any of them should give all their energies to the things of this life, forgetful of the life to come. May the poor, the lonely, and the sad, the tired and the suffering, share Thy blessing. Remember the tempted, and succour them, and those in perils on sea or on land, and send them deliverance. May we and dear ones rest securely under the shadow of Thy winds. For Christ's sake. AMEN.



## No. 15.

**A**LMIGHTY God and Father, we bless Thee for the return of the day of rest. We thank Thee that Thou didst bless the seventh day, and sanctify it. Help us to sanctify the hours of this day. May we redeem it for the enjoyment of the privileges and the discharge of the duties that belong to itself. We thank Thee that its sacred associations, and the release it brings from worldly toil, make the Sabbath so desirable a day. May we ever regard it as the holy of the Lord, and honourable. With devout gratitude we acknowledge Thy goodness in this land of ours. We thank Thee for its Sabbaths, its Bibles, its churches, its ministers, and its Christian congregations. May we never forget how much our spiritual life depends on the favourable circumstances in which we are placed. Keep us from ever thinking lightly of sacred times and sacred observances. May we strive rather so to use them that they shall become to us as rivers of blessing in a desert place. When we consider our varied and high privileges, and how low the tone of our spiritual life often sinks, and how little we accomplish for Thee in the world, we would take shame to ourselves. We are unprofitable servants, and it is of Thy mercies that we are not consumed. Help us to remember our unworthiness, that no feeling of self-righteousness or sinful pride may ever have a place in our hearts.

We bless Thee for the great love wherewith Thou hast loved us. Thou hast reconciled us to Thyself by the precious blood of Thy dear Son. Thou hast wooed our hearts by Thy Holy Spirit, and restored us to the exalted position of heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ. We would respond anew this morning to the drawings of Thy love and the pleadings of Thy Holy Spirit. Use us as



Thine own—we are Thine ; and fill us with all the blessed fulness of God.

Bless us as a family, and may all that is said and done by any one of us this day be in harmony with its sacredness, and pleasing to Thee. May all our intercourse and engagements tend to draw us closer to Thyself, and increase our knowledge of, and our love to, Thee. May we so serve Thee in our hearts and in our home that we shall be all the better fitted to serve Thee in the church and in the world.

Accompany us when we go up to Thy house of prayer. May we give to Thee the glory that is Thy due, and may our souls be refreshed and strengthened as we wait on Thee. Bless the church to which we belong. Let Thy smile rest upon all its members. Satisfy with Thy goodness those who assemble in Thy courts, and enrich with a sweet sense of Thy presence and Thy sympathy those who are unable, through illness, to leave their own homes. May they be comforted with the conviction that in all their affliction Thou art afflicted, and that, sanctified by Thee, it will work out for them an exceeding and eternal weight of glory. Give to Thy servant who speaks to us to-day an unction from the Holy One. May we hear with all respect, and give earnest heed to the things that are spoken. May Thy truth awaken and enlighten and purify and gladden many hearts, that Jesus may be glorified and precious souls saved. Speed the time when all flesh shall see the salvation of God. For Christ's sake. AMEN.

## No. 16.

**D**IVINE Father, we come to Thee near the close of this day, to thank and bless Thee for Thy goodness to us during its hours. We bless Thee for the privilege we have had of worshipping Thee in Thy sanctuary this day, and we thank Thee that we can turn aside and commune with Thee now in the retirement of our own home. Help us still to realise that Thou art near, and teach us to wait on Thee with becoming reverence and holy fear. We would humble ourselves before Thee in deep penitence as we think how far we have come short of Thy glory, and consider our demerits in contrast with Thy marvellous loving kindness. We feel constrained to say with the deepest contrition, "What is man that Thou art mindful of him, and the son of man that Thou shouldest visit him." We bless Thee that in Thy matchless grace Thou hast respect to us, notwithstanding the evils that cling to us. We bless Thee for the temporal mercies enjoyed by us this day. They are of Thy providing. We thank Thee for health of body and for soundness of mind. May we ever spend our strength in accordance with Thy will. May our understanding be enlightened from above, and its powers be employed in Thy service.

We thank Thee for hearts with which we can love, and for the dear ones who live in our affections and make life rich by their friendship and society. We bless Thee above all, Thou ever-blessed and adorable Jehovah, that Thou hast taught us by Thy Holy Spirit to know and confide in Thy love. Lead us still closer to Thyself. Be pleased to reveal to us still more of Thy grace and Thy glory, and cause us so to enjoy Thy presence that we may each be able to say from our inmost hearts,

“Whom have I in heaven but Thee, and there is none upon earth that I desire beside Thee.”

We thank Thee for all that we have heard and experienced of Thy grace this day, and we pray that Thy own enriching blessing may follow the sacred services in which we have been privileged to take part. Let the dews of Thy Holy Spirit descend upon our hearts, that they may be fruitful as a garden of the Lord. We pray for enlarged views of Thy gracious purposes in Christ Jesus, for a stronger faith, for a deeper piety, for broader charity, for greater earnestness.

Let Thy presence overshadow us in our home this night. As a family, may we never forget Thee, nor provoke Thee to remove from us Thy love. Bless the families and households around us. May the sacredness of the Sabbath be remembered, and the fragrance of the Saviour's name be enjoyed in them.

Bless the proclamation of Thy word in our land. May its restraining and constraining influence be felt in the hearts of men in all their work and in all their intercourse throughout this week, so that the life of our nation may partake of the sweetness and purity of this day that Thou hast blessed. Bless all in positions of influence, and let their influence be consecrated to the cause of the Redeemer. Bless all in other lands who labour in Thy vineyard. May their number be multiplied, and may Thy kingdom come, and Thy will be done on earth as in heaven. Forgive our offences this day, and teach us ever to serve Thee with holy fear. Keep us from evil while our little day on earth continues, and when it closes, be pleased to receive us to Thyself, that we may behold Thy glory, and love and serve Thee with sinless hearts. For Thy name's sake. AMEN.

## No. 17.

**O** LORD, our God, most gracious and merciful. Our fathers trusted in Thee, they trusted and Thou didst deliver them. They cried unto Thee, and were delivered: they trusted in Thee and were not confounded. Thou didst not hide Thy face from them, but when they cried unto Thee, Thou didst hear and answer. Blessed be the Lord, because he hath heard the voice of our supplications.

Once more, O Lord, do we assemble to present our prayers unto Thee, and to adore Thine infinite perfections manifested to us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Give ear unto us, O Thou that hearest prayer! Harken unto the voice of our cry, our King and our God, for unto Thee will we pray. O send out Thy light and Thy truth, let them lead us; let them bring us to Thy holy hill and to Thy tabernacles. We would worship and bow down before the Lord our Maker. For Thou art our God, and we are the people of Thy pasture, and the sheep of Thy hand. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ. By Him would we offer the sacrifice of praise unto God continually, giving thanks to His name.

Our prayers and praises are unworthy, O Lord, of Thy notice. Do Thou accept them in the name of Jesus. We thank Thee that Thou hast sent Thy son into the world not to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. We bless Thee for that faithful saying, worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Enable all in Thy presence to cleave closely to the Lord. May the heavy laden go to Him for rest. May those who sit in

darkness see the light of life. May we all learn of Him who is meek and lowly of heart, and thus find rest to our souls.

Bestow upon us, we beseech Thee, those temporal benefits which are necessary for our health and well-being upon earth, but prevent us from fixing our affections upon earthly things. May we see clearly the transient nature of every object which surrounds us in the world, and may we count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Jesus Christ our Lord. May Christ dwell in our hearts by faith; that we, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints, what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height, and to know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge.

We mourn the vice of drunkenness which degrades our nation; open the eyes of the church to see its hideous iniquity, and give her no rest until she rise in her united strength to sweep this gigantic evil from the land.

Help us, O Lord, to keep ourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ. Remembering that here we have no continuing city, but seeking one to come may we hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto us at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Being heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love Him, may we remain faithful unto death, and enter at last into the full possession and eternal enjoyment of that inheritance which is incorruptible and undefiled and that fadeth not away. We present our supplications in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
AMEN.



## No. 18.

**M**OST merciful Father, in whom we live and move and have our being, we rejoice in Thy mercy, and give thanks at the remembrance of Thy goodness and faithfulness. There is none like unto Thee, O Lord, in heaven above, or on earth beneath, who keepest covenant and mercy with Thy servants that walk before Thee.

And we rejoice that Thou art a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness. We praise Thee, O Lord, for Thy tender mercy to us and to all men. We thank Thee especially for Thy redeeming love. Thou hast forgiven the iniquity of thy people who believe in Thee and in Thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Thou hast covered their sin. We bless Thee for Him who is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but for the sins of the whole world. We praise Thee that Thou didst set Him forth to be a propitiation through faith in His blood, to declare His righteousness for the remission of sins that are passed through the forbearance of God.

O our Saviour and Lord, we thank Thee for Thy dying sorrow, Thy anguish of heart, and Thy pain of body, endured for our sakes. Although Thou wast rich yet for our sakes Thou didst become poor that we, through Thy poverty, might become rich. Thou wast wounded for our transgressions, bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement of our peace was laid upon Thee, and with Thy stripes we are healed. We pray Thee to enable us, by the aid of Thy Holy Spirit, ever to keep in memory the glorious truths of Thy sacred Gospel.

In the midst of our thankfulness, O Lord, we do not forget our own unworthiness of all Thy mercies. We would confess our sin, praying Thee to forgive it for

Christ's sake, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. We have wandered from Thee, we have forgotten Thy goodness, we have broken Thy laws. Justly might we have been condemned and cast out from Thy presence. But Thou art long-suffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, for Thou willest not the death of a sinner. In Thy mercy Thou hast spared us, giving us innumerable opportunities of seeking Thy face, and of securing all the blessings we need.

And when we stand among Thy saints enable us to comprehend that Thy gospel, old yet ever new, hath lost nothing of its former power: Thy truth as full of light, Thy love as fragrant as in the days of old. O enable us to realise that we have but to open our hearts and Thou wilt fill them with infinite inspirations;—that Thou descendest to rebuild us in all the glorious harmonies of the regenerate man; and that with Thy ten thousand voices, Thou art entreating us to be reconciled to Thee, and to conform our lives to Thy beautiful exemplar,—our spirits to Thy law of limitless, everlasting love.

Have mercy upon us, O Lord, forgive us all that is past, and inspire us continually to serve Thee in the future with gladness and loyalty of soul. Keep us safe in the hour of temptation, guard us from every evil thought and word, preserve us in all temporal and spiritual danger which may await us. We commit ourselves, and all near and dear unto us, into thy Fatherly care this night and every night. Be Thou ever near to protect and shield from all harm. Let our prayer come up to Thee, O Lord, with acceptance through the mediation of our Divine Redeemer, and let a sense of Thy gracious presence abide with us always. We ask it in the name of Jesus Christ. AMEN.

## No. 19.

OUR Father who art in Heaven, we lift up our thoughts to Thee, earnestly desiring to worship Thee in spirit and in truth, and to thank Thee that Thou hast permitted us again to see the light of a new day, in the enjoyment of soundness of mind and so much health of body.

We thank Thee that Thou hast come near to us, making our lives glad with the sunshine of Thy loving-kindness. Thou hast scattered the clouds of ignorance and sin with which we were surrounded, enlightening our minds and forgiving our iniquity. Thou hast made us to rejoice in the greatness of Thy compassion and the sweetness of Thy mercy.

We thank Thee that throughout the life journey on which we have travelled, Thy goodness has evermore been our safeguard and Thy thoughtfulness has anticipated and provided for our daily necessities. In our sorrow Thou hast been to us a Comforter, in our sickness a kind Physician, in our sinfulness a redeeming Saviour, and in our bereavements a sympathising Friend and Brother. Often has our suffering led us nearer to Thee, becoming the Angel of Thy mercy when our sin had led us away from Thy presence. All our true enduring joy has come from Thee, and Thou hast perpetually shown us the greatness and the constancy of Thy love by the multitude of Thy tender mercies.

We give Thee thanks at the remembrance of thy holiness! We adore Thee for Thy long-suffering forbearance, and gentleness! We have often left Thee to follow after evil; but Thou hast never left us nor forsaken us. We have often forgotten all Thy love and neglected all Thy interests; but Thou hast remembered us evermore.

Therefore, O Lord, because Thy loving-kindness is better than life our lips shall praise Thee! We will praise Thee, O Lord, with all our hearts and glorify Thy name for ever and ever!

May Thy presence, O Lord our Redeemer, hallow and sanctify the whole of the remaining period of our lives. In all our secular engagements enable us to acknowledge Thee, and do Thou direct our paths. Strengthen us in trial, direct us amid difficulties, and preserve us in danger. We pray Thee, O Lord, so to order and inspire our thoughts that the consciousness of Thy great love may abide with us always. May we be able to say with truth—we love Him because He first loved us. May the thirst for spiritual blessings be deepened within us, and do Thou supply us with rivers of heavenly light and love.

We commend to Thee the thousands of those who are unsatisfied with earthly joys. May they be guided to the fountain of blessing and salvation. May the cold and indifferent be awakened from their sleep of death! May Thy Church be baptized with fire from above! Endowed with divine power and tenderness, may those who love Thee be successful in winning multitudes to the faith and service of Jesus.

We earnestly pray Thee to shower down the richest blessings of Thy grace upon our whole family circle. Bless, preserve and guide us all, we beseech Thee, and may we be prepared through the discipline and trial of Thy service on earth for higher employments and nobler joys of the heavenly kingdom. These, our humble petitions, we present in name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, to whom with Thee and the Holy Spirit—One God—we ascribe all glory and praise, now and evermore. AMEN.



## No. 20.

**A**LMIGHTY and most merciful Father, we, Thy children, would draw near to Thee with filial confidence in Thy merey and love. We adore Thee as Lord, the Lord God, mereiful and gracious, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin.

We thank Thee that Thou hast shown to us the glory and tenderness of Thy nature, not only in Thy words of truth, written for our instruction and comfort, by holy men of old; but also in Him, the Word, who is the brightness of Thy glory and the express image of Thy person. Thou hast appeared to us, Thou hast touched us. Thou hast spoken to us by Jesus Christ, Thy Son, the chief among ten thousand, and altogether lovely, and we with unveiled faees have beheld the glory of the Lord, full of grace and truth.

O Lord, we would seek to be ehanged by beholding, and loving, and absorbing the beauty of the Lord. Help us by Thy Holy Spirit to enter into the sphere of the loveliness of Christ. Teach us to understand it more clearly. May Thy light and fire go through our minds with enlightening and eleansing power while we look upon our Divine Saviour and His redeeming love. Do Thou pour the life-giving streams into our souls through Him who is the Life. May the clear radiance of the heavenly realm come to our hearts through Him who is the Light and the Love.

If we have prosperity, may we remember that it comes from Thee, and may we be forward to let others share in our fulness and joy. If the cloud of adversity sweep over our heads may we be ealm under it, trusting in Thee. If affliction and bereavement should come, help us to be patient and submissive, and may our hope be



ever steadfast, taking hold of those things that are within the vail. Keep us faithful in duty, and save us from all selfishness and sinful pride. May we feel that when we have done all we are unprofitable servants, having done no more than our duty, and that our best sacrifice sinks into insignificance in the presence of the Saviour's amazing sacrifice for us.

O Lord, enable us to yield to Thee not only the hours of devotion but the whole of our lives. Show us how to give Thee not merely a portion of our worldly goods, but all that we have. We desire to have nothing that is not Thy gift, and we would give Thee all, that Thou mayest use us and what we have for Thy glory. Thou hast many who have not enough, O Lord. Enable us to help them by bestowing Thy gifts to us on their behalf, so that they too may praise the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

Thus may we follow Thee, for Thou in the days of Thy flesh didst go about doing good, leaving us an example that we should follow in Thy steps. Following Thee in Thine own footsteps, O Lord, we would journey homeward to behold Thy face in glory. May we all in the end, after the trials of earth are over, the tears of earth are shed, and its dangers for ever passed, receive from Thy gracious hand that crown of life which Thou hast promised to them who love Thee.

And now, O Father, we commend ourselves and all we love to Thy care. Let us retire to rest with Thy blessing. Watch over us this night, and keep all evil far from us. And if it be Thy holy will, raise us up again on a new morning fitted for the duties of another day, for Christ our Saviour's sake.

And to Thy name we will give praise. AMEN.

Dec. 21.

WE thank Thee, O God, that Thou hast made known unto us the tenderness and constancy of Thy affections. We thought of Thee as far removed from us, in our ignorance and sin, until Thou Thyself, the friend of sinners, didst draw near with the light of Thy truth, speaking to our hearts in the sweet accents of forgiveness and tender sympathy.

In the beginning of a new day, we would again hear Thy voice. Blessed Saviour, our Lord and our Redeemer, and yet our Brother too, let us hear Thee as we have heard Thee in days that are past. Speak as Thou didst to them of old who were sore afraid in the darkness, saying to our hearts, "It is I, be not afraid." Let us hear Thy voice as those of old did when Thou didst say, "As my Father hath loved me so have I loved you, continue ye in My love."

We thank Thee for all the evidences of Thy thoughtfulness on our behalf. Thy goodness has provided for our wants as a household and family. Thou hast preserved us from danger and crowned our existence with blessings innumerable. Justly might we have been deprived of the rich gifts of Thy providence and grace. We have been unworthy of all Thy care. Nay, we confess that we have deserved to be banished from Thy presence and shut out from the light of Thy countenance. But Thou hast been very pitiful unto us and hast shown unto us that Thy mercy endureth for ever.

We pray Thee to forgive our transgressions and enable us to be faithful and true to Thee. May we lay aside every weight and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and run with patience the race set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith.

We pray for those who are near and dear to us that they may abide in Thee. Preserve them from every danger and deliver them in every trial and temptation. We pray, too, for all sorts and conditions of men, for kings and all in authority, that they may be divinely guided in their exalted spheres and that they may be just and merciful, seeking to act righteously and to glorify Thy holy name.

We pray for Thy special help and grace this day. Order all things for us, blessed Lord, as shall be for our good; every circumstance, every event, every trial, every opportunity; health and sickness, joy and sorrow, success and failure; comfort and distress: be Thou with us in all, and give us at all times Thy wisdom and grace.

Grant we may never count any duty either too great or too small for us. Give us grace to keep watch over our thoughts and motives, over our words and actions. Set it before us, O Lord, as our Christian ambition, to make the gospel of Christ real and attractive to all who come under our influence. And do Thou, Lord, so help our endeavours, that whether we eat or drink, or whatever we do, we may be enabled to seek and promote Thy glory.

We beseech Thee to provide for the poor and the suffering everywhere, and to influence the hearts of those who are rich, through Thy word and by Thy spirit, to care for the needy and distressed, and thus to fulfil Thy blessed will.

We are now about to separate after uniting our petitions for the blessings Thou alone canst give. Let Thy gracious sanctifying presence accompany us all. Dwell Thou within as the Comforter and sanctifier of our souls. We ask it in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

## No. 22.

MERCIFUL Father of all, at the close of another day we kneel at thy throne of grace, and thank Thee that Thou hast come so near to us in Him who is the brightness of Thy glory and the express image of Thy person. When lying in darkness and sin Thou didst become to us the light of life, scattering the clouds which surrounded us by the bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness.

When our sins had stricken us with the leprosy of guilt and condemnation we found the healing balm for all our pain in the blood of sprinkling. When overwhelmed with the storm and tempest we sought a shelter for our aching hearts, Thou didst save us in our distress and sorrow, becoming to us as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land.

In the time of our greatest need, when all others were powerless to help us, when friends had left us to suffer alone, we found Thee to be the Friend of sinners, a friend that sticketh closer than a brother. All our sin has been insufficient to stem the tide of Thy redeeming love, that love which will endure to the very end, which many waters can never quench, and from which no power can ever separate us. Thou wilt never leave us or forsake us. Thou wilt be our Guide even unto death.

O Lord, our Redeemer, we would live evermore in Thee and to Thee. We would enter fully into the realm of purity and holiness. We aspire to the glorious life which is filled to overflowing with Thy life. Kindle within us the deep ardour of spiritual affection like unto that which burns within Thine own heart. Shed abroad in our hearts the purifying fire of holy zeal and divine



enthusiasm. May the hallowing unction of heaven rest upon and permeate every faculty of our nature. Let Thy gentleness make us great in everything that is true and pure and holy.

May our homes be temples of peace and devotion. Let the presence of the Most High abide in every heart. May those who dwell under our roof be visited with showers of blessing from on high. May those who are absent continually look for Thy guidance and evermore behold the glory of Thy reconciled countenance.

Pity and rescue the poor inebriate. Pity and help his wife and family. Rouse the church to a knowledge of the sin that is produced by the use of strong drink, and the nation to a sense of the crime and misery occasioned by the traffic in drink. Prosper all efforts to mitigate this great evil and to remove its cause. Save us from all other sins. Look upon the haunts of vice and sweep them away from our land.

We pray Thee, O heavenly Father, to give us a spirit of true repentance, that we may deeply feel our sins, and earnestly forsake them, and hunger and thirst after that holiness without which no man can see Thee. Forgive us, for our Lord Jesus' sake, all that is past. Endue us with Thy Holy Spirit, that we may not continue in any evil way, but may awake from the sleep of sin to the life of righteousness.

Confiding in Thy protection, and resting in Thy love, we retire to rest after the work and labour of the day. May the blessings for which we have asked, so far as they are in harmony with Thy will, accompany us now and ever.

And to Thee, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, three in one, we will give the praise, for ever and ever. AMEN.



## No. 23.

**E**TERNAL and ever blessed God, the source of all holiness, purity, and truth, we draw near to Thee in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, earnestly desiring that Thou wilt graciously manifest Thy presence unto us while we kneel before Thee, and enable us to worship Thee in spirit and in truth.

Day by day, O our Father, we waken to sin and infirmity, and find ourselves far off from availing ourselves of the strength and the holiness promised to us in Christ Jesus. When we would do good, evil is present with us. Even when the spirit is willing, the flesh is weak. Even when we perceive the way in which we should go, we turn aside from it through sloth and self-indulgence, or walk in it with sluggish and languid steps.

Deeply conscious of our unworthiness and sinfulness we humbly pray that we may be cleansed from every stain. O do Thou satisfy us early with Thy mercy. Thou art the Fountain of living waters. Give us to drink of those streams which make glad the city of God. May the healing waters of Thy love and forgiveness be within our hearts as perennial streams springing up into everlasting life.

We rejoice, O Lord, in those gracious provisions of mercy and salvation which Thou hast prepared for us and for all men. We praise Thy name that Thou didst not withhold from us Thy best, Thy unspeakable gift. We adore the majesty of Thy love manifested to us in the life and in the death of our Redeemer. We praise Thee and glorify Thy holy name at the remembrance of Thy loving-kindness and tender mercy.

We thank Thee, our blessed Saviour, that Thou didst endure the cross, despising the shame, bearing our sins

in Thine own body on the tree, giving Thy life a ransom for all. Herein, indeed, is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Oh may that love constrain us evermore to yield ourselves to Thee in faithful, earnest, loving service, in humble, reverent obedience, to the end of our sojourn on the earth. To this end do Thou give us abundantly of Thy Holy Spirit.

May our minds be filled with Thy truth, that our hearts may overflow with Thy love. Mercifully bless and preserve all who are dear to us. May those who are uniting with us in this season of devotion be the recipients of every spiritual blessing that they need. May they be branches of the True Vine, bringing forth rich and abundant fruit. The absent we commend to Thee. Guide their feet into the paths of righteousness and peace. May they be Thine when Thou makest up Thy jewels.

We pray for a blessing to rest upon the ministers of Thy word, the visitors of the sick, and all who are endeavouring to do Thy work in the world. May they be rewarded now by seeing the fruit of their labour and hereafter with those promised crowns of righteousness which never fade away. Through Thy church may the world be brought to know Thee. May the blessings of peace rest upon the troubled earth, that Thy Gospel may be freely declared and innumerable trophies of its power won to Christ, from every tribe and nation under heaven.

We present our petitions in the name of Him who loved us, and gave Himself for us, to Whom, with Thyself and the Holy Spirit, be all the praise for evermore. AMEN.

## No. 24.

**O** LORD, Thou art our light and our salvation, whom shall we fear? Thou art the strength of our life, of whom shall we be afraid? With reverence and humility would we approach Thee. Enable us to do so with true hearts and full of faith, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. O Lord, hear us when we cry unto Thee, have mercy upon us and answer us. Hide not Thy face far from us, put not Thy servants away in anger. Thou hast been our help, nor wilt Thou leave us or forsake us, O God of our salvation.

In the multitude of Thy mercies we are spared once more to offer our united worship and supplication. Let our prayer come up to Thee acceptably through the merits and mediation of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We pray that Thou wouldest preserve us during the whole of this day from all the snares and dangers which may be upon our pathway. Guide Thou our faltering steps. Guard Thou our minds from sinful and unworthy thoughts, and prevent us from cherishing wrong or evil desires. May our minds be stayed on Thee. May Thy Holy Spirit reveal to us the things of Christ.

Elevate and ennoble all our thoughts and purify all our aspirations and motives. May we not be conformed to this world, but transformed by the renewing of our minds, that we may prove what is that good and perfect and acceptable will of God. In waiting upon Thee may we experience an accession of spiritual energy. Clothe us with the helmet of salvation and the robe of righteousness. Help us to wield the sword of the spirit, and to ward off all the fiery darts of the wicked by the shield of faith. Thus prepared may we, by Thy grace,

stand in the evil day and come off more than conquerors through Him who loveth us.

Disappoint all plotters of mischief, and defeat all whose hearts are bent on working evil. Defend those who are exposed to danger on sea or land; comfort the sorrowing; deliver the tempted; relieve the distressed; restore the sick; and lift above all doubts and fears those appointed unto death. Guide those who teach, preach, and write, that they may say and do nothing against the truth, but for the truth.

We pray Thee, O bless and sanctify all who are here assembled for Thy worship, and to Those who are absent do Thou grant all the guidance, protection, and mercy that they need. Deliver, we pray Thee, all who are in danger or distress.

Accept our praises and thanksgivings for all Thy mercies bestowed upon us: for life and breath, for food and clothing, and for all the comforts of our home; for strength and so much health, and for every faculty and every opportunity, for kindness and affection and brotherly love; for the knowledge of Thee as our Father, and of Jesus Christ as our Saviour; and of the Holy Spirit as our Comforter; and for the means of grace and communion with Thee; and for the hope which Thou hast given us of a place hereafter in Thy presence.

Prepare the dying for their last hour on earth, and soothe the sorrows of the bereaved. May the fatherless and the widow find in Thee their salvation and joy. May all who suffer experience the comfort of Thy Holy Spirit, and with Thy bright presence may their sorrow and gloom for ever flee away. Let Thy kingdom come and Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. And to Thy name shall be the praise for ever and ever.—AMEN.



## No. 25.

**E**VER-BLESSED Father and Friend, we rejoice that in all ages men have been able to find Thee, and to rest in Thy presence, or in Thy sure word of promise. In the morning of the world, when it seems to us as if thick darkness covered all the earth, Thou didst reveal Thyself to Patriarch and Prophet, and with what noble faith they rested in Thy word!

In later times, when still Thou wert seen but in the glory-cloud, or mercy seat, what wondrous elevation, what raptures of emotion Thou didst impart to those who sang those noble Hebrew psalms! But surely Thou hast prepared better things for us for whom the Word has been made flesh, and who have beheld His glory as the glory of the only-begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. To us is given the privilege of being always in the bosom of Infinite Compassion—of being comforted by the quickening presence of Thy Spirit—and ever looking into the face of our Immanuel, God with us.

We desire, Almighty Father, to realise all this fulness of Thy love and power. We have the greatest confidence in Thee. We do indeed desire to be the children of the Spirit. We do renounce before thee all our evils, whether they are accretions from the world, or pollutions of our hidden life. For time and for eternity we trust ourselves to Thy divine embrace. We clasp Thee with all our capabilities of affection; we inquire of Thee with all our powers of thought; we yield ourselves in all strength and steadfastness of will to be Thine, and to do Thy will for ever.

Make us to-day and henceforth to feel that Thou seest us, and comest to take full possession of all who



yield themselves to Thee ; that Thou art able to subdue all opposing forces to Thy will ; that thou givest peace and purity, and power to them who learn the sweet lesson of trust and confidence in Thee.

This day uphold and maintain us in Thy truth as we try to do our duty in the world. Thou knowest how often we are hard beset with the hypocrisy, and fraud, the cant, and scepticism, the practical unrighteousness by which we are assailed on every side. Enable us who are led by Thee, and who listen for Thy divine footsteps every hour, to triumph over all our enemies, and feel that Jehovah's arm is not shortened that it cannot save.

And in all our Christian life uphold us. See that we have on our heavenly armour, that with no man-made weapons, but with those forged by grace, we fight our heavenly warfare. Make the words of our lips battles for truth and righteousness. Make all our prayers, our aspirations, our endeavours, victories.

We would also ask Thee to enlarge our interests in the welfare of our fellow-men, and the advancement of Thy kingdom. Oh that we may feel the burden of the world's sin, and travail for its eternal redemption. Teach us day by day to take advantage of the open door which Christ has set before us all.

May our influence inspire, our example instruct, and our knowledge guide our fellow-men into the higher Christian life. Let thy blessing rest upon all missionary enterprise, all temperance agencies, all teachers of righteousness and truth ; and may the kingdom of Christ rapidly advance towards its complete and final triumph in our native land.

Answer these our prayers in peace, and all the glory shall be Thine through Christ. AMEN.

## No. 26.

**O** LORD, our God, we come to Thee after the toils and burdens of the day, with a refreshing sense of Thy tenderness and sympathy with all that troubles us on earth. We bless Thee that Thou art touched with a feeling of our infirmities; that Thou dost know our frame in all its mysteries, and rememberest that we are dust.

There is not a joy or a sorrow, a longing or an aspiration, but finds some response in Thee. We come to Thee because Thou art so good that there is no dear name by which we may not call Thee. Thou art our kind and tender Father, forgiver of our sins, remover of our transgressions, healer of our infirmities, bestower of all joy, source of all blessing. Would that our hard hearts might break and open to Thy presence, until we should feel the waking of a new life in our souls, as we see the dead face of the fields melt gently into liquid loveliness before the touch of spring; then would we answer Thee with all the fruits of love, as the autumn harvest-fields respond to the brightness of the summer sun.

Lord, we are weary of our sins, our weakness, and our vanity, and we long for the fulness of Thy kingdom in our hearts. There is no rest for us but in Thee. How good it is to turn from the contemplation of our fickleness to lean upon Thine everlasting will. How healing to pass out of the bewildering guesses of our fancy into the glorious certainties of Thy revealed truth. How inspiring to feel our weakness changed into Thy perfect strength, our sorrow kindled into joy, our littleness all merged in Thy almighty greatness.

Gracious Provider, it becomes us to acknowledge that goodness and mercy which have been about our path

to-day. We have toiled and been weary, but Thou didst sustain us. We have given our hearts to labour, but Thou hast called on us to look up. We have thought too much of self, but Thou hast breathed into us a gentle charity. We have been anxious for our daily bread, and Thou hast reminded us of Thy promises. We have been allured by the wiles and the vain-glorious pomps of life, but Thou hast made us feel their vanity, for we have seen the vision of a dying world, and over it the transeendant brightness of a kingdom which remains for evermore.

And here to-night, while we bless Thee for all the bright attractions of this life—its beauty and music, its love and wisdom, its law and liberties, its hopes and joys—we are pleased to know that they shall either pass away or be transfigured into sublimer forms, compared with which these are but vanities. Oh that we may live as pilgrims, with our faces ever set towards the bright for-evermore. And when the path of life is rough and steep—our feet sore and bleeding, our hearts failing, our dear companions dropping by the way—may we realise that there remains a rest, a land of perfect love, where we shall meet again, in the endless summer of the brightness of God's face.

And now, O Lord, the night is closing in on us, and we must seek our rest. Let it come with refreshment to the weary, strength to the weak, and courage to the faint of heart, and may the waking of to-morrow be the type of the waking that succeeds the final sleep, and ushers in the beautiful and happy morning of eternity to Thy renewed and deathless children.

Forgive us all our sins, and kiss us with the kiss of peace, which seals upon our souls the blissful faith—waking or sleeping, living or dying—that we are the Lord's.  
AMEN.



## No. 27.

**G**OD of all Grace, we lift up our hearts to Thee, humbly owning that Thou art the Giver of every good and perfect gift, and that in us, as to the selfhood, dwelleth no good thing.

We praise Thee, O God, that Thou hast given to us in Jesus Christ such an honourable name in which to approach Thee. What are we, that we should be called Thy sons, and permitted to take upon our sinful lips Thy great dear name—our Father? Teach us to understand its meaning, and to acknowledge Thee in all the fulness of the living virtues which such a name contains. May we draw near to Thee in the conscious knowledge, the solacing experience of Thy tender, sin-forgiving, spirit-healing character, yet bating nothing of a just and reverential sense of Thy great righteousness and eternal enmity to all sin and error.

Oh that we may have an adequate conception of what it has cost Thee thus to reveal Thyself to us. Explain to us afresh the mystery of godliness, God manifest in flesh. Let us feel anew the matchless pathos of Bethlehem, of Nazareth, of Gethsemane, and Calvary, until we feel ourselves enshrined in the love which has bought us with its priceless sacrifice, then we shall come to Thee with all the tender and joyful confidence which Thou longest to discover in Thy children.

We desire to thank Thee for the temporal blessings which Thou hast granted us since last we knelt at Thy feet. Sleep has visited our eyes, the morning has renewed its bounties; the promise of the day is fair, and we are grateful unto Thee, our generous Benefactor. Accompany us to whatever experiences lie before us throughout this

day. Help us in every hour to feel that by all its toil and care, its sorrows and its joys, its certainties, and its surprises, Thou art training us to exercise a holy trust in Thee, and calling forth in us those divine qualities which shall fit us to be princes in the everlasting kingdom of our Father.

And if it be Thy will to visit us with sorrow and vexation, lead us to see that not in the earth but in Jesus only we have our real and abiding treasures—Love, wasteless as the heavens; Power, mightier than nature's force; Joy that sings above the funeral pyre of all our disappointed hopes; Beauty that is fadeless because renewed by the sunnier breath of God's increasing inspirations; Life, triumphant and immortal, in which all our heartfelt longings are for ever satisfied.

Bless, we beseech Thee, our dear children. Preserve them from every accident and from all the pollutions of an evil world. May they advance in wisdom as they grow in years, and early manifest that piety which inherits the blessing of the Lord.

Be gracious to our sovereign the Queen, and to all the members of the Royal Family, and may the dignities of this world not prove incompatible with the meekness and humility which inherit the kingdom of heaven, Endow with wisdom all those who are under her and over us, that our legislators may ordain just and equitable laws, and our magistrates administer them without favour to the rich or prejudice to the poor. Give prosperity to the nation, but when trade and commerce thrive may the people not forget that it is not wealth but righteousness which exalteth a nation.

Hear these, our prayers, and bless us through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.



## No. 28.

WE praise Thee, Almighty Father of our spirits, for all the gifts of love with which Thou hast crowned another week. We especially thank Thee that Thou hast spared us as a family from the invading presenee of death; and while others mourn that the tender ties of love are rent asunder, we gather here to rejoiee in our unbroken union.

Every day of the week Thou hast supplied our needful bread, sustained us in our toil, crowned our labours with all deserved success; and, amid all our unfaithfulnesses, Thou hast not withdrawn Thy free Spirit from us. As we think of all Thy goodness, may the remembrance kindle our most heart-felt gratitude, and excite in us a hopeful trust for days to come; so that we shall look with no anxious thought at to-morrow's wants, nor fear that Thy kindness shall ever fail.

While we rejoiee in all Thy goodness towards us as a household, we would personally humble ourselves before Thee in consideration of our great unworthiness, and the imperfekt service which we render Thee. Day after day we go out, and, while busily concerned with all the temporal interests of our life, are too unwilling to find the opportunity of doing some work for Thee.

Teach us, Lord, how to overcome the indifferenee, or indolenee, or worldliness, which may stand between us and Thy service. Keep us from becoming too much absorbed in earthly things—from growing into drones or into drudges in the world's hire; but while we do our daily work with an earnest and faithful spirit, yet lift us up into the abiding eonsciousness of our spiritual and eternal natures, and make us loyal to those nobler instincts and intuitions which are Thy voice in our souls.

Above all, guard us against a false and flattering estimate of our character and position in Thy sight. If we say that we are Thy children, may we see to it that we have the witness of Thy Spirit in our hearts, whereby we cry, "Abba, Father." If we think of ourselves as Christians, may we see that Christ is formed within us, else we are yet as reprobate silver. If we have reason to be pleased with any Christian work that we have done, any pure emotion felt, any lofty strain of worship offered, may we have the grace to think but little of ourselves, and feel that we are still Thy poor unworthy servants.

We thank Thee, O Lord, that after toil there cometh rest. The night is welcome to the weary—the Sabbath to the heart that is burdened with its sin, or stupefied with the din and glare of the world. Guard us through the night; prepare us for the coming day within Thy house, that we may worship Thee with a perfect heart. Oh that Thy Sabbath were better prized and kept! Thy Word more carefully studied! Thy Church more dearly loved!

Oh that the time were come for the world to enter upon her millennial rest—the toil and trouble of its unbelief for ever at an end in a Christian faith that covers the remotest islands of the sea. Hasten, O Lord, the downfall of every vice, philosophy, and religion which hinders the diffusion of the Gospel of Thy Son; and in its wake may every virtue flourish which honours Christ, and makes man good and happy.

And unto Thee, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, shall be all the glory, world without end. AMEN.

## No. 29.

OUR Father which art in heaven, we come to Thee this morning at Thy bidding. Every morning we would draw near to Thee as Thy children; but to-day we would approach Thee with a larger sense of freedom, and praise Thee with a fuller joy, because Thou hast said that this day is to be redeemed from the toils and cares of the world and sanctified by a holy communion with Thy Spirit as our Father in heaven.

When we look upon those other creatures of Thine which Thou hast made to share the earth with us, we can see that Thou hast wonderfully exalted us above them all, for they keep no Sabbath, and have no instinct to worship Thee. We take this day, then, as Thy witness to our need of Thee—to Thy desire for us; we accept it as a pledge of immortality; the promise of a Sabbatism which remains for Thy weary people when the life-long week of this world's work is done.

Help us to come to Thee this morning in the light of this spiritual relationship. Since Thou art our Father, may we draw near to Thee with the confidence and trust, the dependence and humility of children;—destined for an endless life, may we be free from all material interests and set free our thoughts and aspirations for eternal things;—heirs of the promised inheritance, may we seek above all to have our hearts made pure, our robes washed white, that we may honour Thee while we live, and be ready to enter into Thy holy heaven when we die.

Pardon us, good Lord, all our unfaithfulness. As a family, and as individuals, we are unworthy of the mercies which Thou dost every day confer on us. We often forget Thy presence: we are often unthankful for Thy gifts: we but poorly use our splendid opportunities to

honour Thee; we are selfish when we should be generous; impatient when we should suffer long; proud when we should be humble; repining when we should be contented; careful when we should be restful; fearful and unbelieving when we ought to be going forth chanting the psalm of the Victor because we see Thy presence. When we consider all our multitude of sins, our hearts would faint within us did we not remember that Thou art "the God of pardons," and that in Christ Jesus Thou art granting us abundant mercy.

O God, our help is all in Thee; and to-day we desire to abide very near to Thee. Fill each hour with Thy presence. If we are precluded from the privileges of Thy house, make us quite content as we feel that Thou art with us sweetening the commonest duties of the home,—that the work we do to brighten the dwelling of Thy children cannot exelude us from the joys of Thy salvation.

O Lord, strengthen and inspire Thy servants who speak to us in Thy name,—who express our praises, breathe our confessions, and order the public saerifices of Thy altar. Let Thy favour abound toward them that we may profit by their ministrations, and Thou Thyself be honoured and delighted with the serviees of Thy temple.

And now, O Lord, we pray for all mankind. Let Thy grace be known upon the earth, Thy ways unto the Sons of men. Send forth Thy light and truth unto the remotest ends of the earth, so that all the sweet delights of our Christian homes, and all the redemptive agencies of our Christian churches shall be known amongst all that raece for which Christ died.

Grant us an answer to our prayers, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.



## No. 30.

OUR God and everlasting Father, we bend the knee before Thee to-night in dutiful submission and in love. Another day has fled beyond recall. The time of nightly rest has come. We cannot, like the beasts, lie down in sleep without remembering Thee. Thou art our God: Thou didst make us, and not we ourselves. Thou hast ever been about our path, and the blessings are endless that we have received from Thee. To-day Thou hast relieved us from the toils of life. We have not plied the heavy hammer, nor held the plough, nor been in the market, nor in any way has our thoughts been set upon selfish gain. Without Thee, such would have been his day's occupation; but Thou hast prepared a table for us in the wilderness; and to-day, while our bodies have had rest, our spirits have been fed with hidden manna, angel's food, and we are abundantly satisfied.

O Lord, we ask Thee to seal the sacred influences of this day upon our hearts as an abiding treasure. May Thy word which we have heard and read abide with us, to quicken and revive us when depressed with care and worn with toil; to defend and guard us when assailed with strong temptations; to guide us when perplexed by diverse paths and we cannot see our way; and ever to point us upward to heaven and Thee when liable to forget our Father and our home amid the engrossments of our toilsome life.

Hasten the time, O God, when all who worship Thee shall embody in their character and conduct the holy truths and sweet charities of our Christian religion. Alas, how often do Thy professed worshippers put Thee to shame by the injustice of their dealings; their cankered criticisms, their mean ambitions, their envy and their

pride, their narrow and sectarian spirit, their want of sympathy with the poor, the oppressed, the sinful. Save us, O Lord, from being partakers in such sins, and so breathe upon all Thy people of the upbuilding and beautifying potencies of Thy spirit, that they shall no longer tolerate these un-Christlike deformities, but passionately seek to love and practise whatsoever things are lovely and of good report.

We also pray Thee, Saviour of the world, to multiply the agencies for good which are at work among us. The world perisheth for lack of knowledge: increase the number of them that publish the word of salvation, and make all Thy people willing missionaries of Thy truth to the multitude who still are ignorant of Thee.

Father in heaven, we would not forget the many human hearts that need Thy saving strength to-night. The storms of circumstance, the blasts of sorrow, the perilous visitations of temptation, the nipping chill of neglect or of decay, have gone over them. Surely Thou wilt not forget them if we care to remember their afflictions. Be near to them in the moments of their trial; and if Thou can find no good man, no sweet pure woman to be Thy messenger and helper of their need, yet, Lord, breathe the spring-time that is in Thy living heart upon them and they shall live and not die, and yet waft the fragrance of a loving life to Thy feet for an everlasting offering.

And now, dear Lord, we leave us in Thy keeping for another night. Give unto us the sleep of Thy beloved; and may this house be girded by Thy almighty presence until the light of another morning calls us to renewed tasks. And to Thee shall be all the praise and the glory, through Jesus Christ. AMEN.

## No. 31.

OUR Almighty Father, help us to draw near to Thee this morning with the faith that Thou art, and that Thou art the rewarder of them that seek Thee. We cannot by searching find Thee out, nor when Thou art revealed to us can we understand Thee to perfection; but in our better moods we can believe that Thou art here as a quickening breath, a brooding love, to all Thy looking and receptive children. Oh that our hearts may be as one heart this morning—not merely recipient of Thy blessings but of Thine own self, in Thine infinite benignity, in the boundless sweetness of Thy comfort, and in all the soothing and inspiriting influences in which Thou dost impart Thyself unto Thy people and not unto the world.

We thank Thee for the blessings of the night which is gone, for the health of our bodies, the vigour of our minds, for whatever of a Christian tone there is in our spirits. Go forth with us, if it please Thee, to the toils and responsibilities of the day. Uphold our powers, direct our aims, prosper our exertions in the various spheres in which we are engaged, and enable us to begin and end the day in Thee, to whom all our powers belong.

We confess, O Lord, that with but little heartiness we often go forth to do our daily work. Our burdens sometimes seem too heavy, our reward too light. We think too much about the inconvenience and wrong we have to suffer in our unavoidable competitions with our fellow-men, and we strive too little to abide in that charity which thinketh no evil, which beareth all things, and is ever kind. Oh that the trumpet of the gospel may sound all the day in our heart's ears! Oh that with its clear,



celestial tones it may call us up out of our complainings, and jealousies, and all bitter memories, into the consciousness of our higher and immortal life! Oh that we may know to-day the peace of a contented spirit, and rise into the blissful heights of a truly regenerate heart! Help us to find that our pathway is direct, and straight, and plain, and that our Shepherd goes before us to lead us in the way. If we faint, renew us with Thy Spirit; if we turn aside, restore our feet; and if we are attacked by foes, visible or invisible, may we know that Thy shield is before us, Thy armour is upon us, and that the sword of Jesus cleaves the way where duty leads.

Shine, O Lord, into the dark places of the earth with the light of Thy Gospel. May the habitations of vice, ungodliness, and cruelty, become homes of faith, love, and purity.

Be near this day to those whom we call kindred. Strengthen them as they are engaged with duty—protect them if beset with danger—comfort them if overtaken with any sorrow. Especially bless the children of this family. Guard them from the youthful lusts and foolish habits to which ungodly youth are given; and endow them with the wisdom which will safely conduct them through all hurtful temptations to a pure and noble after-life. We also ask Thee to keep our hearts tender and sympathetic toward all our neighbours, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life, and fail in no obligation which can be expected from a genuine friendliness.

And now, Lord, we go forth to our various occupations committing ourselves to Thy care. Grant unto us to meet at night in peace, to rest awhile in mutual love and trust and the unnumbered joys of a household which Thou hast blessed. And all that we ask is in the name of Christ. AMEN.



## No. 32.

WE come to Thee this night knowing that Thou art the Lord God merciful and gracious, slow to wrath and plenteous in mercy. Our hope is in Thy name.

We confess before Thee that we are constantly beset with sin and always prone to evil. In the morning we go forth with elated hopes, determined to carry ourselves with more than ordinary nobleness through the duties and hardships of the day ; but, alas ! too often we return crest-fallen and dejected because our holy resolutions have been broken, and we have yielded to vanity, to passion, and to selfishness, and have proved ourselves to be most weak wherein we thought ourselves most strong. Perhaps it is because we have trusted too much in ourselves and too little in Thee, but this will not hide our sin,—rather does it intensify our shame that we should be capable of misunderstanding or neglecting the help which we have in Thee.

Pardon us, most holy Lord, the sins of all this day. We cast ourselves on the unfailing promise that Thou wilt forgive every faithful confessor ; and here upon our bended knees we wait to hear Thy word speaking in our hearts, “Thy sins be forgiven thee.” And also grant to us the cleansing of Thy Holy Spirit. Take away from us all filthiness of the flesh and spirit—the pride that makes us look so foolish—the worldly aims that so belittle us—the indolence, dulness, and stupidity that make us so inapt in our dealings with spiritual realities—for we desire to have a full deliverance from all that is common in us and unclean.

Fill us with Thy divine Spirit—a Spirit of wisdom, pure and peaceable ; a Spirit of love, strong and gentle ; a Spirit of joy, free and tender—bearing us on wings

of victory to an enduring triumph over all the low, mean tempers of the world and the flesh.

We thank Thee, gracious God, for the abundant mercies of the day. Thou hast made Thy sun to shine on us, the heaven to canopy us ; all the beauty and bounty of nature has been provided for our delight. But better still, Thou hast given to us the bread of life and the wine of joy in Jesus Christ, and to all the promises of Thy word Thou hast been most faithful. For Thy goodness, sake, continue to bless us.

When we are weary, refresh us ; when bereaved, comfort us ; when perplexed, make Thy light to shine upon our path ; when beset with sore temptations, deliver ; and when "the shadow feared by man" falls on us, Lord, reveal the prospects of immortality that we may look away beyond the gloom to the goodly land across the river.

Grant that we may never doubt or limit Thy love, but thankfully cast ourselves upon it, and live in its light and in its strength. Give us the seal of Thy Holy Spirit, that we may have His witness within, and be renewed day by day to Thy willing service.

We thank Thee, O Lord, for what Thou hast done to-day for those dear to us. Bless them and us to-night, that we may rest safely under Thy shady wings. Be near to all who this night will lie upon troubled beds—whom sweet sleep will not visit, and who will watch eagerly for the coming of the morning. Keep them in perfect peace that trust in Thee ; and to those whose days are not to be lengthened in the earth impart the willingness to go, and the clear faith-sight to discern the land afar off towards which they journey.

And all that we ask is in the name of Christ thy dear Son. AMEN.

## No. 33.

OUR Father, we delight to think of Thee as present in this home; never absent. We part in the morning and return in the evening. Thou art always here. More than a guest, more than a friend, more than we are to one another in this family, Thou art our Father, loving every one of us.

We think of the home in Bethany, of the sisters and brother whom Jesus knew, and who were glad to receive Him as their guest. We would welcome Jesus as our friend, and would rejoice in Him, Thy beloved Son with whom Thou art ever well pleased. Because He is our Saviour, the Lord our righteousness, we come to Thee with filial love, for He has taught us to call Thee Father. He loved sinners, and died for our sins. We thank Thee for Thy unspeakable gift, and for the glorious Gospel. We thank Thee for redemption through His blood.

For the tidings of salvation for every man we give Thee thanks, and pray that daily the kingdom of Thy dear Son may increase. May all who love Jesus make known to others the riches of Thy grace. Prosper every society which seeks to lead men to the Saviour. Bless all ministers of the Gospel at home and abroad. May they never forget the message they are sent to deliver. May they live in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and every time they hold forth the word of life increase their love for Thy truth, for Thy service, that they may be good representatives of their Lord, seeking to save sinners, to comfort mourners, and to bind up the broken-hearted. Grant unto all who speak for Jesus much wisdom, gentleness, and courage.

When Thy people are forgetful of their high calling, remind them that they are to live as pilgrims travelling

towards a better land. May we, as a family, be kept by Thy power through faith unto salvation. At the great day may we all be amongst the blessed, safe for ever.

Teach us all Thy truth, and unite our hearts in love and obedience. Knowing Thy will, may we serve Thee with gladness. May we all rejoice to run in the way of Thy testimonies, so that we may go together from strength to strength, until we attain to Jerusalem the Golden.

May the wisdom that begins with Thy fear so develop Christian character that the children may feel the yoke of Christ to be easy, and learn self-control, resisting all kinds of temptations. May Christ live in them that they may be witnesses for Jesus, and known as living epistles. Spare them if it please Thee, that they may grow in influence for good, that they may find pleasure in work, in self-denial for Christ's sake, in helping others, in protecting the weak, assisting the poor, teaching the ignorant, learning the lessons of patience and industry in daily duties well done.

We ask for health of body and mind, for food and raiment, for a Christ-like disposition and useful employment. May all the members of this family strive to be good and to do good. May every talent be used, every power of mind strengthened by exercise. May we all remember that all we have we owe to thy bounty, and thankfully enjoy thy gifts in nature, providence, and grace. May all of us know the blessedness of giving, and increase the spirit of liberality within us in days of prosperity.

Accept, we beseech Thee, of our thanks for life continued, for reason, for sight and hearing, for the love of righteousness, the hope of glory, and the assurance of forgiveness for Christ's sake. AMEN.



## No 34.

**O** LORD, we believe Thou lovest us and carest for us. Thou knowest that we have not loved Thee as we ought. Sometimes we feel like strangers, near one another on the highway, without sympathy, without love enough, or time enough to stop and speak. This may grieve Thee, for we are Thy children, and we ought to know better Thy loving care. We wish not to cover our sins, for our hearts are open to Thee. Be pleased to forgive us.

There seems so much to do through the day that we put back the time for prayer to its close, and often we are so tired that our desires are summed up in one desire for rest. Have mercy upon us in our weakness, and let Thy blessed forgiveness give us peace before we sleep. The time that we have spent was Thy time, and we see now that we might have turned aside for a little and talked with God.

Help us to think more of Thy friendship than we have done in the past, that day by day we may rejoice in Thy love, and take delight in Thy company. This world we confess sometimes fills the field of our vision. Open our eyes to see Thee in it. Thou art not far from any one of us and yet we forget Thee. Being in Thee, living by the breath Thou givest, kept in the body by Thy power, having our thoughts of good and the sense of right from the light within which is Thy light, how strange it is that we forget our God. We thank Thee for the love that makes us mourn our coldness and carelessness.

We pray that we may know more of Thy redeeming love, and rejoice more in Jesus Christ as our Saviour from the penalty of sin, and from the power of it. May we

daily die unto sin, and live unto righteousness! May the hope of glory animate us with new courage in days of trouble! If clouds should cover the sky and the gloom of adversity thicken around us, keep us cheerful by the sunshine of Thy presence.

Teach us Thy compassion, and remind us that "like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him, for He knoweth our frame." Thou wilt not blame us for what we cannot help; and it may be that we err in thinking hard thoughts both of God and man. But our best actions are tainted we fear with sin. We are far from perfect. We come and go to and from the lines of Thy truth. Save us from all vanity and pride. Oh that we had constantly the blessedness of the man who walketh not astray! We love Thy law; keep our feet in the paths of righteousness. "The Lord is righteous in all His ways and holy in all His works. The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon Him, to all that call upon Him in truth. He will fulfil the desire of them that fear Him; He also will hear their cry, and will save them. The Lord preserveth all them that love Him."

We believe Thy word. We trust Thee. Preserve us all this night, O Lord. Watch over our dwelling. May the morning find us refreshed with sleep, recruited in strength, and ready to praise Thee. Increase our faith and love by revealing to us more of Thy glory in Thy word and in Thy works.

May Thy Holy Spirit show us more of Christ, and draw us nearer in sympathy to Him, that we may all grow in likeness to Him, in gentleness, goodness, benevolence, self-sacrifice, and holy activity. Bless all our friends and all the friendless, for Christ's sake. AMEN.

## No. 35.

UNTO Thee, "the King eternal, immortal, invisible," do we now approach, desiring to worship with great reverence and humility. Is not this room filled with Thy glory, for Thou art here? May the thought of Thy perfect purity, Thy loving heart, Thy wisdom and power, the excellence which is Thine for ever, impress us and make this place, where we kneel in family worship, holy ground. This morning we praise Thee for what Thou hast taught us of Thy love and truth, of Thy goodness and merey, in Jesus Christ.

The light of another day gives us joy; and we pray that sin and misery may disappear from this world as the darkness of night has fled before the dawn.

We seek, O Lord, to know better the perfections of Thy nature and character. We might offend an earthly potentate by speaking as we do to Thee, for our talk is like the broken words of infaney. We feel the poverty of the best forms of speech when we place our thoughts beside Thee, and try to climb up nearer to Thy heart. But we are Thy children, and Thou hast told us to seek Thy face. Smile then upon us—Thy little ones, here at Thy footstool, trying to love Thee, great Monarch—Ruler over all worlds! Our homage is only poor tribute, our service is very imperfect, our hearts are not pure, our sins are all known to Thee. In talking of our faults we might offend an earthly friend. It is because Thou art so perfect, so good, so sympathetic, that we come to Thee; for Jesus, the Friend of sinners, has shown us the Father, and for His sake Thou wilt not turn away the children of men who come to Thee with their feeble praise, dull minds, and cold hearts, bewailing their sins, and too frequent indifference to what is noble and pure. Hunger

and thirst demand supplies for wants felt by the body in its weakness. Sustain us this day with food that we need, that we may be able to work.

O Lord, have mercy upon us. Blot out our transgressions. Create within us clean hearts, and renew our aspirations after what is holy and Christ-like. Our life is not hidden from Thee, and all the chords of our nature are known to Thee. Thou hast sanctified this earth by the mission of Christ. Our world, small as it is in Thy great universe, is illumined by the light of the Sun of righteousness. Christ has been partaker of the nature which limits our endeavours, and in the narrow compass of toil and duty He pleased Thee.

Help us to please Thee by making everything we do pure and true by the sincere desire to glorify Thee in all things. Improve our worship by improving our thoughts and feelings. "Thou art able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think." Work in us to will and to do of Thy good pleasure. We beseech Thee make the most of us for good. By Thy power may we become strong to resist all temptations. By Thy gentleness make us great. We can trust Thee, O Lord. Tenderly wilt Thou deal with us. We wish to be useful. Supply, we pray Thee, the conditions, spiritual, intellectual, physical, needful for the right performance of all work we ought to do.

Grant us wisdom, calmness of mind, clearness of thought, energy of purpose; and as Jesus humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, help us all to learn to be humble and obedient, that we, when dying, may look back on a life well spent in Thy service. For Christ's sake. AMEN.



## No. 36.

**O** LORD, it is meet for us to wait on Thee, to own Thy care, to feel Thy love, and to praise Thee for life and joy. Thou hast been as a shield to us this day. Thou hast kept us safe from harm. Thou hast been with us all the ways in which we have had to go, and we are not the worse for this day's work, thanks to Thy care. We know that pain may come each step we take, for there is much in this world to wound and to chill the blood, to pierce the hand, to crush the foot, and to hurt the head.

There are some sick and sore who long to be well, who would be glad for rest this night. Thou hast led us through the hours of this day, and we bless Thy name that we are here in health, free from pain. How can we thank Thee for all Thy gifts? We come to tell Thee that we have found "it is no vain thing to seek the Lord," to praise Thee that we have been drawn to love Thee, to know Christ our Lord, and by Him led to hate sin and to wish to choose the right path.

Oh! send forth Thy light and Thy truth, let them lead us up the hills of this life and guide us to the home on high. Our road, we fear, may not be smooth nor straight each day as it has been this. The sky may not be so bright. When clouds veil the sun, let the light of Thy face be our joy. When the way of life is hard to climb, be Thou our strength and stay. When the stream of death is near, help us to hope to the end and to cross in faith, kept safe by Thy arm. We need not fear when God is at our side and Christ is our guide. The dark night is light with Him.

What hast Thou not done for us? Thou hast sent Thy Son to die that we might live. Oh may we all

love Thee and serve Thee day by day. Yet sin may lie at our door. If we think not of the times we have done wrong, it may be this day, in thought, in word, and deed, we may grieve Thee by hard hearts. We would not hide our sins from Thee. We turn from it. Free us, we pray Thee, from the stain of sin. But Thou must wash us to make us clean. We thank Thee for the Lamb of God. We look to the blood that was shed for us. Make us by grace pure as snow. May each one of us have this aim—"To me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."

Be near to all our friends this night. Fold the lambs in Thy arms of love. May they have few woes and a long term of life here, if this be Thy will. We trust them to Thee, and for them we ask health more than wealth. Give us grace to train them in the right way that neither us nor they may look back with grief on the days of their youth. May they grow good as they grow strong. May they find work fit for them to do. When the years bring new hopes, find them helps to rise in the world. Oh may they all love Thy law and wear the yoke of Christ. May it be their joy to be in Thy church and to aid all who love the Lord and work for Thee.

O Lord, bless each child, be their Friend when we have gone to our long home. May we all meet at last at Thy right hand in that land where there is no curse, no sin, no night.

We praise Thee that in this life there are bright days and joys as well as griefs. May all the world learn soon to sing of Thy love, and trust Thy will as the best for all. Our wants are known to Thee. Give us what is good in Thy sight, and save us from all ill. So be it, for Christ's sake. AMEN.

## No. 37.

**F**OUNTAIN of Life and Light, merciful God! we bless Thy holy name that our eyes have been opened to see a new day, with the beauty which Thou hast spread over earth and sea. May many lift up their hearts in praise as they see the flowers by the wayside, and hear the songs of the birds, and watch the waving grass in the fields.

We thank Thee for the joy which Thou hast made possible by keeping the gates of knowledge open, and wisely adapting air and light to carry messages to the mind, through the ear and the eye. For all sounds of pleasure, for all sights of beauty in the valleys and on the hills, for the clouds, so wonderful in their changes of light and shade, so needful to water the earth that it may bring forth the buds and blossoms on the fruit trees, and nourish the blades of corn; for all thy works, Giver of all good, Father of lights! we render Thee our morning sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.

May it ever be a delight to all of us to meet with Thee at the family altar; and grant that we may carry the calming influence of meeting with God into all the business of the day, that we may be more gentle, more patient, more diligent, more fervent and joyful in spirit, from this communion with Thee, our Father.

Go with the children to school, and teach them to honour their teachers, to learn well their lessons, and to set a good example to their school-fellows in truth, purity, and unselfish conduct. Protect them, and bring them safely home.

May all servants strive to please God, and whatever they do, may they endeavour to do well, as in Thy sight.

May all who have the care of households be mindful of the laws of health ; and to promote the comfort of all, may they arrange times and duties for the best.

Bless the sailors. Protect those on shore as well as those at sea. Guide all captains to take the right course, that they may attain to "the desired haven."

Bring the blessings of commerce to every land, that the interchange of produce may bind nations together in peace and friendship. May all forms of labour in the country and the town be carried on in a right spirit. Lessen the deceit in trade ; prosper all honest workers in the shops and factories, at the loom and at the forge. May miners be protected at their work. May all railway servants be skilful and steady, quick to see signals of danger, and prompt to act for the good of all. Protect them in their varied duties and dangers.

Bless those who have to work with their minds more than with their hands. May merchants be sober-minded, honourable, and upright. May all professional men be worthy of trust and high esteem for wisdom and prudence, for goodness and decision of character.

On all governors and judges and magistrates bestow the spirit of wisdom and righteousness. May both Houses of Parliament remember their responsibility to Thee ; and be on their guard against "spiritual wickedness in high places." May wise laws be enacted and bad laws be repealed. May a policy of peace and good-will be promoted by the British Government.

Bless Her Majesty the Queen, and grant that her influence may continue to be felt for good far and wide.

We desire that "Thy kingdom may come, Thy will be done on earth as it is done in heaven." For Christ's sake.  
AMEN.



## No. 38.

WE adore Thee, Creator of the heavens and the earth, universal sustainer of all worlds, sleepless watcher over all Thy creatures! Wilt Thou in Thy tenderness, watch over our home to-night? Let the everlasting arms enfold the children and keep them safely through the darkness. May sweet sleep be given to all of us, that we may find our strength restored, and awake to praise Thee for Thy goodness.

We are soon tired, and a few hours of toil exhaust the energy which makes work pleasure. Thou art never weary, never old, never fatigued with the cares of all the systems of stars and all the orders of beings that constantly require to be sustained by Thy power and wisdom. Thou art too good to forget the little ones, and we trust them to thy care. May they grow in strength and beauty, "in favour with God and with man;" and as they increase in stature, may they increase in wisdom.

Again we have to confess our unworthy deeds, our hasty words, and wrong feelings, known to Thee. "Against Thee, Thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Thy sight," for the thoughts are not concealed from Thee, and all transgressions of Thy law of love are marked against the sinner. We do not plead not guilty. We do not seek to frame excuses. We cry, Have mercy upon us. Hide not thy face from us. Blot out our iniquities. We are grieved that we have grieved Thee. We look unto "the Lamb of God bearing away the sin of the world," and we beseech Thee, for His sake, to pardon our offences. "Make me to have joy and gladness, that the bones which Thou hast broken may rejoice." O Lord, keep us from mock confession of sin and from all insincerity. Grant that we, "being delivered out of the hand

of our enemies, may serve Thee without fear, in holiness and righteousness all the days of our life."

We thank Thee for all the bounties of Thy providence we this day have enjoyed. Bless Thou the work in which we have been engaged. May it increase well-being, and promote prosperity.

Remember Thy promise to the widow and the fatherless. Open Thou their hearts to Thy sympathy, and give them the sunshine of Thy love.

Be mindful of the poor and needy; and incline the hearts of the wealthy to benevolence, that they may be rich in good works.

Build Thou the walls of Zion; and let all those that help to strengthen Thy church be strong in the Lord, warm with love to the Redeemer, and zealous in gospel work. Encourage all students who are preparing for the ministry. Give them wide views of duty, a firm grasp of first principles, a longing to be fishers of men, and increasing skill in the art of winning souls. May they not forget to study Thy word, and may they strive to gain the prize of the high calling of God. Teach them to govern themselves, to adopt wise methods of work, to form good habits of thinking and speaking, to "follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart."

Abundantly bless all teachers and preachers of the gospel, that from minds well filled with knowledge, and souls fired with enthusiasm for Christ and His cause, they may feed the flame of devotion in all churches, and rouse the lukewarm to diligent service. For Christ's sake. AMEN.

## No. 39.

**A**Lmighty and Everlasting God! our thoughts are turned to Thee, and we wish to be guided by Thy Holy Spirit in our supplications. Every day we depend on Thee, for we cannot act nor speak without Thy help. Every day we have had proofs of Thy kindness; and benefits received call for gratitude and consecrated service. "Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me bless His holy name . . . who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with loving kindness and tender mercies."

This day offers new opportunities of well-doing. May we improve them! New temptations may assail us, besetting sins may renew their attack: be Thou, "O God! our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." We desire to be pure in heart, to be upright in conduct, to be kind to all, "to walk humbly before Thee, to do justly, and to love mercy."

For all the ties of kindred which unite us in families we thank Thee. For those who watched over us and sought to train us in the truth, who warned us against evil ways and sinful companions; for the love of our parents, the influence of our teachers, the kindness of our friends, we give Thee thanks, O Lord; and pray that we may be able to show our appreciation of the care exercised over us by caring for others. We trust Thy word—"the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear Him, and His righteousness unto children's children; to such as keep His covenant and to those that remember His commandments to do them."

Guard us this day in our hours of work and hours

of leisure. May we see much to admire, and little to blame, in the conduct of those whom we meet. May we prosper in every undertaking, if this seem to Thee good. Assist us in all our duties, we humbly beseech Thee; and help us in sorrow, as well as in joy, to say, Thy will be done. We rejoice that the Lord reigns!

Reveal to us more of Thy truth, that we may perceive Thy hand in history in the affairs of nations and families, and trust Thee in the days of darkness. Make wars to cease; break the germs, great and small, as Thou hast broken the bow and the spear and burnt the chariot in the fire. Scatter the people who delight in war, and bring about an age of peace by the preaching of the gospel and the blessing of Thy Holy Spirit.

May all believers "adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things." We thank Thee that the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared unto all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world, looking for that blessed hope and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.

O that all men would serve under the Captain of our salvation, fight the good fight of faith, and be faithful unto death! Visit every home to which we stand related, and bless all our friends, old and young. Give to us this day the food we need. Help us, by industry, forethought, and self-denial, to provide for our household.

May the children grow up in Thy fear and love. May our Church and Sunday-school prosper. Bless all who love the Lord Jesus in sincerity and truth. Unite all who love Thee in the war against sin, that many may be led to the Saviour willing captives, for Christ's sake. AMEN.



## No. 40.

ACCEPT, O Lord! we beseech Thee, of our evening sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Through all the hours of this day Thou hast protected us. Dangers unknown to us Thou hast averted, and saved us from accident, disease, and death. We desire to remember the longing for health on the part of the sick and the suffering, and to sympathise with all the afflicted. How deep ought to be our gratitude that we are, in Thy kind providence, free from pains, and able to enjoy work and rest!

We thank Thee for life, and every good thing which we have received. We have come to the end of this day, and we remember that we are so much nearer the close of our life on earth. May we all so know Jesus, who brought life and immortality to light, that we may feel the power of the endless life elevating us above the degrading influences of this world, and preparing us for the employments and enjoyments of heaven.

We thank Thee for the assurance of Thy love. "In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. Herein is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins." May our love to God and man increase every time we look to Jesus. Help us to think often of Christ, of all He did and all He suffered, that we may be drawn to run after Him—to follow Him with alacrity, to manifest His spirit and to imitate His conduct, delighting to do Thy will.

How often have we been guilty of disobedience? Thou knowest the sins we have committed this day. We sometimes forget the thoughts, words, and deeds which displease Thee. But we desire to humble ourselves before

Thee, and to acknowledge that we have sinned. Thou art faithful and just. For the sake of Christ, be pleased to forgive us, and teach us to hate sin and to love righteousness more and more.

We plead with Thee for the careless and the prayerless. Have mercy upon them, and call the wanderers again to return. Still display Thy loving kindness; and let Thy Holy Spirit convince them of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment to come. We desire the conversion of sinners; and we rejoice to believe that Thou art not willing that any should perish, but that all should turn and live.

May some means be found of providing homes for the homeless. Bless all workers for Christ, all who are caring for orphans, all who are trying to give to fatherless children some training in good principles of living, and some knowledge of the love of the Divine Father.

Prosper the temperance movement; and may all sections of Thy Church unite in teaching men by example and precept to abstain from all evil. Awaken the interest of politicians and statesmen in the evils resulting from the liquors licensed for sale, and grant that wiser laws may soon be enacted. Bless our country; promote the happiness of all classes by times of prosperity if this seem best to Thee. In days of adversity, may we consider the goodness of our God, and wait patiently; even when working in sorrow, may we look for the clear shining after the rain.

Our friends at home and abroad we commend to Thy care. Help us to feel kindly and to act justly to all our relations and to all neighbours.

Be pleased to accept of our gratitude, to answer our petitions, and to forgive us our sins, for the sake of Christ.  
AMEN.

## No. 41.

WE worship Thee, O God of the morning, and bless Thee as the Father of light, from whom cometh down every good and every perfect gift. Thou hast opened our eyes to see the light of a new day—Life-giver, we praise and thank Thy name. Thou hast caused fresh vigour to eourse through all our veins—we owe our strength to do and to enjoy to Thee, the Lord Almighty, and we hold ourselves debtors to Thee in love and service. Thou hast continued to us the blessings of home, and given us anew to share the sweets and joys of family love and social fellowship—accept, we beseech Thee, our renewed thanks for these good gifts. Thou hast spread our table, and filled us with food and gladness—may we spend the strength they afford in doing our Father's will.

Through the day to the beginning of which Thou hast brought us, defend us, O Lord, by Thy mighty power. Keep our thoughts from all vanity. Keep our hearts from all idolatry. Keep our lips from speaking guile. Keep our hands from every evil work. Keep our feet from every evil way.

Enable us, O Father, not only to abhor that which is evil this day, but also to cleave to that which is good. May things true and honest, and just and pure, and lovely and of good report, be loved and sought, and followed and found by us: and may everything brave and praiseworthy be admired and done. Let our whole behaviour be such as Thou canst commend. May conscience, enlightened from above, excuse and not accuse, because we have tried to do the things which please Thee. May we, by the help of Thy good Spirit, be patient with the obstinate, calm with the perverse, kind to the rebellious, loving to the bad. Taught in the school of our Lord



Jesus Christ, may we show that we have learned that none are so abandoned as to be abandoned by Him: none so impure that they may not find refuge and cleansing at His feet: none so outcast that He would not say to them, "Come unto me." Help us to do as He did, and so to fulfil His royal law that the blessing of the poor and needy, and those who are ready to perish, may come upon us now, and win for us His "well done" at the end.

We have no might, O Lord; do Thou increase strength in us. We are often wise in aspiration and prayer, but very foolish in our doings, and our words are often vain. Impart to us the wisdom that cometh from above, that we may be pure and peaceable, gentle and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

To this end let the mind be in us which was in Christ Jesus, and may we be baptized with the Holy Ghost who was given unto Him without measure. Let Thy free Spirit make us free-born, and be in us all to-day the Spirit of power and purity and meekness. We know not the way we take: be Thou our guide. When we are exposed to danger, be Thou our shield. Let us neither faint nor fear, nor slide nor fall, because underneath are Thine everlasting arms. May we all, young and old, walk with God to-day, and talk with God many times before the day is done. Give us joy in our work and in our play; and whatever else we win or lose, may we get the blessing of the Lord which maketh rich. Hold Thou us as by Thy hand, that we stumble not. We wait on Thee that Thou mayest renew our strength, and help us to mount up as on eagles' wings, that we may run and not be weary, and walk and not faint. And this we humbly beg, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.



## No. 42.

**M**OST gracious God, help us to turn to Thee our thoughts and our hearts at the close of another week of our life-journey. Every day we have had a place in Thy thoughts, and, unworthy though we be, our place in Thy loving heart has not been forfeited. We would be very grateful, because the Lord has been thinking on us: and very humble, because we are not deserving of the many precious gifts which His love has bestowed. Let the incense of our gratitude and the offering of our humble and hearty thanks come up before Thee with acceptance through Jesus Christ, our strength and our Redeemer.

We know not the way we take: but Thou knowest, and Thou art the leader of faithful souls, and the guide of all who seek the land above. It may be, O Lord, that the land is not far off from some of us: yet we have not been faithful, and we have been seeking, with too much longing desire, the things of earth beneath. Be pleased, O Lord, to forgive us if, in laying hold on things seen and temporal, we have let slip the things that are unseen and eternal. Forgive us if we have been heedless of the things heard by us day by day from Thy holy word, and have suffered ourselves to be floated away from them. Turn us again, O Lord of hosts, and give us rest to-night in the haven of Thine eternal truth.

While we remember the way by which Thou hast led us, and some of Thy many benefits, let us not forget the ways in which we have desired to go, nor the things that displease Thee which we have done or willed to do. For we all, like sheep, have gone astray: we have turned each one to his own way; and our only plea is thine own glad gospel. Thou hast laid on Him who is mighty to

save the iniquity of us all. Speak to us Thy pardon, let us share Thy peace, and may Thine evening blessing rest on us, young and old, through the loving Shepherd and Bishop of souls.

We are weak to-night, and some of us worn and weary. Even the children are aweary of their mirth and play on the holiday when their hard tasks are done. Be pleased, O Lord, to give to us all the sleep which Thou givest to Thy beloved that strength may come, and vigour and keen relish for the duty and enjoyment of the Sabbath of our Lord. Make our Saturday evening worship the preparation of the Sabbath, that its rest may enter into us as its morning light dawns on our eyes.

Fill us with the mercy we have begged from heaven, that we may not lie down unforgiving. Let Thy gentle Spirit carry our message of pardon to any who have done us even a little evil, and bring to us a sweet assurance of forgiveness from any whom we have wronged or to whom we have been unkind. Then shall we lie down at peace with all, because at peace with Thee, and be ready around the family altar to offer to Thee our morning gift, and in the sanctuary to hear Thy message of good, without the heart-condemnation of the man who does not love his brother. Remember, we beseech Thee, our loved ones. Minister unto them of the joy of Thy salvation, and clothe them with Thy favour as with a garment. Be specially gracious unto and deliver any of them that are in trouble, and lighten them with the light of Thy countenance.

Hear Thou in heaven, Thy dwelling place, and, this night and evermore, grant that we may abide under the shadow of the Almighty, for the sake of Jesus Christ, whom Thou hearest always. AMEN.

## No. 43.

OUR Father and our God, we bless Thy name for Thy loving kindness and tender mercies which we have experienced anew. We thank Thee for the return of this day of rest that is sacred to the memory of our Saviour, who rose to-day. Through his death and resurrection Thou hast begotten us to the living hope of an inheritance incorruptible, undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for all who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation. Life and immortality have come to light. We rise to-day to walk in the light of Him who is the Light and Life of men.

We thank Thee for the Sabbath as a day of hallowed associations, blessed privileges, and sweetest communions. This is the day of hope, of joy, and peace. May it be to us a sweet foretaste of the rest which remaineth for the people of God—a blessed preparation day for heaven. May our eyes be opened to see the things which are of God; may our ears be opened to hear the sweet voices of heaven; may our hearts be filled with heavenly love, that our affections may be set on the things which are above, where Christ sitteth at the right hand of God. May we be made more and more spiritually minded, which is life and peace.

O God, come down to visit with Thy grace us and all Thy waiting, worshipping people. May the cloud of Thy presence descend upon us. Come near and give us a rich Sabbath-day's blessing. May Thy benediction rest upon us, and Thy Spirit be poured out on all the assemblies of Thy people.

Bless the preaching of Thy Gospel to-day. May it prove the power of God to the salvation of many. May Jesus see of the travail of His soul and be satisfied in

many being saved. Let the whole world be blessed. Send forth Thy light and truth to the ends of the earth. May Thy kingdom come, until Thy will be done on earth as it is done in heaven.

We thank Thee for the triumphs of the Gospel; for the unutterably blessed effects of Christianity in the world. The wilderness has blossomed as the rose. We thank Thee for so many loyal hearts, and for the gracious fruits of the Spirit in the lives of Thy redeemed children. Brood upon our souls, that we may catch something of Thy nature and know Thee more in the ineffable tenderness and pity of Thy heart and infinite love to us-ward. We need a firmer grasp of spiritual realities. Let us, O Lord, be filled with all Thy divine fulness.

May Thy people seek to rise to the high stature of perfect men in Christ Jesus. May they regard true Christian manliness as the highest idea of life, that they may adorn the doctrine of God, their Saviour, in all things.

We pray for union among Thy people. Unite the household of faith more and more by the bonds of love. May they vex one another less, and may their separations be healed. May they seek for the things which make for peace, and whereby they may edify one another. Bless our country in all its interests, religious and civil, our Sovereign, and all the members of the Royal Family. Direct our senators. May peace be maintained; may righteousness everywhere prevail; may intemperance and every evil be overthrown.

Graciously hear this our prayer, and vouchsafe unto us an abundant answer. For the sake of Thy Son Jesus Christ. AMEN.



## No. 44.

**D**IVINE and ever blessed Father, we present ourselves before Thee to offer up our evening sacrifice. We bless Thy holy name for all the mercies of the day, for Thy mercies are new to us every morning and Thy faithfulness every night. Thine eye has been on us, and Thou hast kindly watched over and protected us throughout this day. Bless the Lord, O our souls, and all that is within us be stirred up to magnify His holy name. What shall we render to the Lord for all His benefits towards us? O God, what have we that we have not received? And we receive all of Thy mercy, for we have sinned against Thee. We have often forgotten and forsaken Thee, we have been unthankful and unmindful, and at times have wasted and perverted Thy good gifts.

Forgive wherein we may have grieved Thy holy Spirit and sinned against Thee, and grant to us a sweet consciousness of Thy forgiveness, and shed abroad Thy love in our hearts by the Holy Ghost. We thank Thee for giving us a being in this world of Thine and for giving us souls capable of knowing, loving, serving, and enjoying Thee. We thank Thee for this world, so beautifully and gloriously fitted as a residence for man; for the sun of day, for the air we breathe, and the scenes of beauty we behold; for all in the world that is of Thee, for all that sweetens life. Help us to read Thee and enjoy Thee in Thy works—all Thy works praise Thee. Help us more and more to understand Thee and comprehend Thee. We measure Thee in the greatness of Thy power, and in the richness of Thy resources, by our own deficient experiences. We forget that Thou art King of kings—King of time, and God of all the earth; that Thou dwellest in eternity, that all power and wisdom are with

Thee, and that Thy resources are boundless and infinite as Thyself.

We pray that Thou wilt be very gracious to every one according to his need. Thou knowest the hearts of all men. All things are before Thee. Give forth the consolations of the Holy Ghost, that the glory of Thy character may appear and Thy glorious love be fully experienced. Grant that all the events of Thy providence may be blessed to us spiritually and to our eternal weal. We are strangers and pilgrims. May every joy that comes to us be like the prelude and dulcet undulations of the heavenly bells that call us hence to our heavenly home. May we so live, thinking of our future, that death shall be radiant with hope. May the assurance of our blessed immortality prove a balm in every trouble, a light in all darkness, an inspiration to Christian enterprise, and to all the noble activities of redeemed life.

Grant unto us, heavenly Father, that we may live as ever seeing Him who is invisible, as Thine ancient saints did, and felt thereby strengthened and mighty to do deeds of worth, and astonishing the unbelief of man, and nobly performing Thy commands. Teach us better to serve Christ in our ordinary and daily avocations, that at last we may receive His "Well done, good and faithful servants, enter into the joy of your Lord."

Be with us all while we are beneath the shades of night. Thou who never slumberest nor sleepest preserve us. We will lay us down in peace and safety, for Thou sustainest us and makest us to dwell in safety. Be near to all loved and dear ones wherever they are. Spread Thy covering wings around them and us. Be our God and guide us now and evermore. For Christ's sake. AMEN.

## No. 45.

OUR Father who art in heaven, we approach Thy throne of heavenly grace through Jesus Christ, our Mediator, and we do so with feelings of pleasure, gratitude, and trust, to offer up our morning sacrifice of thanksgiving and praise for the mercies of the past night and this morning which we have experienced to be new. On the past night we laid us down to sleep, and we have slept and waked because Thou, Lord, hast sustained us and made us to dwell in safety. We thank Thee for waking us up from that emblem of death to conscious thought and conscious enjoyment, to see the light and enjoy the good of a new day. We thank Thee for the sun of day and for the sun of righteousness, for the blessings of Thy providence, for daily bread which sustains our bodies and supplies our returning wants. We thank Thee also with all our hearts for the Bread of Life, for Christ Jesus, Thine unspeakable gift, the best and greatest pledge of Thine everlasting love. "He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up to the death for us all, shall He not with Him freely give us all things?" Thou, O Lord, art the fountain of all our blessings. We come to Thee for we need Thee, gracious Lord—we need Thee every hour. Out of Thine infinite resources may we all receive according as Thou seest we need.

We confess, O God, our sins and failures. We have often been unmindful of Thy goodness, and at times we vex and grieve Thy Holy Spirit. O Lord, pardon our every sin, forgive us, we humbly entreat Thee, all our iniquities. Let the light of Thy countenance rise and shine on us as the sun rises and shines on the earth when the morning is without cloud. Thou, Lord, art ready to forgive and plenteous in mercy to all who call on Thee.

We pray Thee to be with us throughout this day. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Bless all dear and loved ones. It is our privilege to commend all such to Thee. And let Thy blessing this day rest on all Thy people everywhere. May Thy cause prosper and prevail. Send forth Thy light and Thy truth among all the nations of the world.

Bless all missionaries and other labourers at home and abroad. May the stated labours of these, Thy servants, be owned and blessed. Give them wisdom to act wisely to win souls, patience to bear trials and discouragement, faith to make them strong and courageous, love to make them tender and compassionate. Lord, encourage them. Give them to see that they are not labouring in vain or spending their strength for nought.

Bless all the ministers of the Gospel, may they be clothed with power. Help them to be sincere, earnest, and untiring in their work. May they often be led to think of and look up to the Master, to cherish His Spirit, and walk in His footsteps. Endue the Christian ministry with an unction of the Holy Ghost. May there be a truly revived ministry, characterised by a fervency of spirit and boldness in the faith.

Lord, the fields appear to be white unto harvest. We pray that Thou wouldst send forth more labourers, men of faith, men of devotedness, men of power, fit for the Master's use.

Have mercy on the sick and afflicted. Hear the cry of all who call on Thee. And now hear us as we anew commend ourselves to Thee. Forgive us our sins, and do for us more than we can ask or think, for all we ask is for Christ's sake. AMEN.



## No. 46.

OUR Father which art in heaven, we are glad and thankful to call Thee Father, even while we tell Thee our grief that we have not behaved this day as children of God should have done. We have forgotten Thee, disobeyed Thee, and grieved Thee by our evil behaviour. Oh forgive us, Lord, for Thy dear Son's sake, and speak to us Thy pardon, that we may lie down in peace.

We are ashamed and blush that in the battle of life we have been wounded because we had not on the whole armour of God. We confess that we have had our conversation too much in earth, too little in heaven. We have loved the world, and walked in its ways. We have indulged the flesh, and made provision for its lusts. We have not resisted the devil, but have suffered him to make us his prey. Heal our spirit wounds, Thou tender Physician of souls. Make us heavenly-minded, O Thou, our risen Lord. Help us to crucify the flesh with its affections and its lusts. Help us to beat down Satan under our feet.

Be pleased, O Lord, to give us all Thy Holy Spirit. We are pleased to give good gifts to our children. Help us to remember that Thy dear Son is Thy best gift, and that with Him Thou wilt freely give us Thy Holy Spirit, and all other needed gifts.

Thy goodness was renewed to us this morning, and Thy tender mercies are fresh to us to-night. We renew to Thee our homage of heart and life. Thou hast filled us with food and gladness, while many have not had enough, and others had nothing to spare. Our happy home is unbroken and undisturbed, while many poor little children have to sleep in the streets. Many hearts are very desolate

to-night, and many homes are very empty, because parents or children or friends are sleeping their last sleep. We are all in the land of the living, and we praise and bless Thee that we are spared to each other. We thank Thee for home shelter, for food and fire and comfortable clothing, and we pray for sweet rest and refreshing during the silent watches of the night.

Hear our prayer, O Lord, for the homeless, the friendless, and the forsaken. Hear us for all sick persons and dear little children; and hear us for all prisoners and captives. Be pleased to give us the gifts and the graces that shall enable us to practice in harmony with our prayer, that we who call Thee Lord, Lord, may truly please Thee by copying the good Samaritan, and doing unto the needy and the sorrowful as we should like them to do unto us if our cases and places were changed to-night.

We are glad because of every word of blessing and every promise of good which has been sounded in our ears from Thy holy world; and we long and pray for the coming of the day when Thy blessing shall be enjoyed by all men everywhere.

Prepare us, good Lord, by the worship of this evening, and by the rest of the coming night, for the toil and the service of the coming day. If Thou dost open our eyes to see the light, grant that we may rise from our beds to spend the day better than the day that has now flown. And help us to rise through daily duty and daily enjoyment, and through sorrows and joys, nearer, O God, to Thee, and to the stature of perfect ones in Christ Jesus.

We ask Thy forgiveness and blessing, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. AMEN.

## No. 47.

**A**LMIGHTY God and Father, with the return of the day we bow our spirits before Thee, and present to Thee our tribute of worship and adoration. It is at once our privilege and our duty to look up to Thee and acknowledge Thee ere we return to the occupations of life.

Give us enlarged conceptions of Thyself, that our worship may be offered intelligently, and being sincere may be acceptable in Thy sight. Save us from the mere form of godliness; may we ever possess much of its spirit and its power. Our hearts burn within us as we meditate anew on Thy loving-kindness. Our reverence deepens when we reflect on Thy glorious majesty. Who is a God like unto Thee, or to Thy greatness round about Thee; Thou art exalted infinitely above the noblest of created intelligences, dwelling alone in Thy majesty and power and glory, and yet the lowliest creature Thou hast made shares Thy beneficent care. Thou art the holy, holy, holy Lord God Almighty, and yet our sinfulness does not prevent Thee from seeking our welfare.

How tenderly hast Thou watched over the human family since the beginning of time, bearing with them in all their weakness, and exercising Thy long-suffering mercy in the midst of multiplied transgressions! We will praise Thee, O Lord, for Thy marvellous loving kindness to the children of men. We rejoice to know that Thou art the same yesterday, to-day, and forever. Thou art enriching us still out of Thy fulness, and causing us to drink of the river of Thy pleasures. We desire to realise anew our need of Thee. May we understand our helplessness without Thee, and feel that more than the child needs the mother's tender

care, do we need God. We depend on Thee for life and health. We owe to Thee all our home comforts and joys, and our daily mercies. We need Thee to dwell in us by Thy Holy Spirit to regulate our thoughts and desires, for we are vain and foolish without Thee. We need Thee to direct our actions, for we are prone to err. We rejoice to think that we can look confidently for Thy presence and guidance. Thou hast taught us that Thou dost own us as Thy children, and dost care for us with all a father's care. May this be our strength and our joy as we go forth to the duties and engagements of this day. Give to us the filial heart, and may we have a very sweet sense of Thy favour.

Help us to live as those who are the children of God, and whose citizenship is in heaven. Teach us to follow whatever Thou dost love, and to eschew what would be displeasing to Thee. May no shadow of evil rest on us to-day in thought, word, or deed. May our path be the path of the just, which is as the shining light, shining more and more to the perfect day. We ask of Thee this day our daily bread, and we pray that our souls may be fed with heavenly manna. May we have sweet thoughts of Jesus, and may the beauty of His life keep our hearts fixed on Him.

We pray that the spirit of wisdom may rest upon us to-day, that we may act discreetly for Thy glory and welfare of our fellow-men. May we be able to dwell in love with those around us, seeing all things and judging them as they appear to Thy holy and loving eye. May we be successful in lessening the evil of the world and promoting its happiness. And may Thy kingdom come, and Thy will be done on earth as in heaven. For Jesus' sake. AMEN.



## No. 48.

**A**LMIGHTY and adorable Jehovah, we lift our hearts to Thee in thanksgiving and supplications. Thou art nigh to those who draw nigh to Thee, and we lift our voices to Thee in prayer, feeling assured that Thou dost hear, and wilt answer us abundantly. We thank Thee that though Thou dwellest in the high and holy place Thou art not unmindful of us, and though we have proved unworthy of Thy love Thou hast not ceased to love us.

We bless Thee for the health of this day, and for all the things that have made life enjoyable. Thou hast caused the light of Thy countenance to shine upon us, and we have been made glad. Thou hast shed abroad Thy love in our hearts, and taught us the sweetness of fellowship with Thyself. Thou hast enriched us with all heavenly and spiritual blessings in Christ Jesus, and we thank Thee for Thy unspeakable gift. Thou hast gone before us in our way through life, and hast made the crooked places straight and the rough places plain. What shall we render unto the Lord for all His benefits towards us? We pray that we may never be insensible to Thy goodness, nor forget that we owe to Thee all the blessings we enjoy. May our hearts ever burn with love and gratitude to Thee, our God and our Father.

We pray for grace to serve Thee aright, Thou ever-blessed God. May we feel our obligation to live to Thy glory, and may we count it a privilege to be permitted to do something for the advancement of Thy kingdom in the world. Help us to be diligent in the use of whatsoever talents Thou hast given us. May we not measure our duties by our own attainments in the past, or by the shortcomings of others, but set Christ Jesus before us as our great exemplar, and strive to follow in His

footsteps. May we not be satisfied with what we have already known and experienced, but ever long and seek after fuller revelations of Thyself and richer experiences in the Divine life. Help us to set our affections on things above, where Christ is, and through Him may we die to sin, and live unto righteousness.

We pray that we may have Thy blessing to-night according to our varied wants. Bless our home. May Thy presence overshadow and sanctify it. Bless the members of our household. May we all be taught by Thy Spirit the true end of life, and may we all seek the blessedness that comes from living in harmony with Thy holy will. Bless our friends. May they be the friends of God, that our mutual love may be sanctified by Thine own, and know no end. Hear our prayer for our beloved land. Bless our rulers, and all who are in authority. May they rule in Thy fear and govern the affairs of the nation in righteousness. Bless the people. Pardon us for our national sins and vices, and deliver us from them, that as a people we may be law-abiding, virtuous, and God-fearing, and shine amongst the nations as a city set on a hill. Bless the poor, and those who feel the times to be hard. Give to those who have riches, generous hearts and liberal hands. May they remember that they are the stewards of Thy bounties.

Comfort those who mourn to-night for the loss of loved ones. Look in Thy mercy on the widow and the fatherless. Let the prayer of the afflicted and the cry of the needy come up before Thee. Bless any who are grieving over past sinfulness, and forming resolutions to do better in the future. Strengthen and sustain them by Thy grace. Hear our supplications, and answer us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

## No. 49.

**I**T is Thy will, O Lord, that we should lift up holy hands without wrath or doubting. May there be nothing in the state of heart of any now in Thy presence to hinder our morning prayer from entering into Thine ear and moving Thy fatherly and omnipotent hand.

Thou art the God of truth, and Thou desirest truth in the inward parts. May our minds at all times be full of sincerity and truth; and may we as suppliants now and always be preserved from all taint of hypocrisy by the solemn thought that there is no possibility of mocking Thee. May our prayer at this time have all the characteristics of prevailing prayer. Thou lovest the voice of prayer. May it be with us a delightful exercise; and the oftener and longer we pray, may we pray the better. We are not worthy to approach Thee, for we have sinned and come short of Thy glory. Our own hearts condemn us, and Thou art greater than our hearts, and knowest all things; but our comfort is this, that with Thee there is forgiveness that Thou mayest be feared.

We bless Thee for providing us, in Thy grace and mercy, with the spotless robe of Christ's righteousness. May we all appropriate it with the hand of faith, and, appearing before the throne of grace arrayed in it, may we find how true is the declaration of the apostle, "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." Thou art the Eternal God, and Thou measurest out time to us. May we look on our time as a tablet for which we shall one day be held accountable; and do Thou make plain to us how Thou wouldst have us to spend our time. May we employ it more than we have done in doing justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly with our God. We confess that we have not put that




value upon it which we should. Pardon our misspent time, and teach us so to number our days that we shall apply our hearts unto wisdom. We are but of yesterday, and know nothing, but Thou hast made us sharers in Thine own immortality, and there is no ignorance in Thee.

May we be willing to be taught by Thee in all the matters that concern us, and ever be mindful of the relation of time to eternity. May we charge our memories with it that we are candidates for immortality, and by a life of faith in Him who loved us and gave Himself for us, and patient continuing in well-doing, may we seek for glory, and honour, and immortality—eternal life.

Have mercy on those who are failing to improve the time which Thou art meting out to them. Change their views with regard to its preciousness; bring vividly before their minds its uncertainty, swiftness, and shortness; and so influence them that they shall not treasure up unto themselves wrath against the day of wrath, but shall feel that now is the accepted time, and that now is the day of salvation.

For the church's and the world's sake spare those everywhere who are making a right use of their time, and may they more and more employ it in imitating Him who went about doing good. Oh for hearts this morning to praise Thee! Truly Thy kindness is marvellous and merciful. Thy blessings fall upon us night and day. They cover from sight the path which we tread. May the riches of Thy goodness and forbearance not be lost upon either young or old, but call forth in us all the spirit of repentance, and cause us to bring forth fruits meet for repentance. In Christ's name we offer up our prayer, and for His sake entreat Thee favourably to regard us. AMEN.





## No. 50.

OUR Heavenly Father, now that the shades of night have again fallen around this dwelling, and that we are about to seek the repose which exhausted nature requires, we desire to prostrate ourselves before Thee. Taught by the grace that has brought in salvation, may we deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, and live soberly, righteously, and godly.

May we aspire to be Thy dutiful children, and to be individually an example of the believers in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Forbid that our prayer this evening should proceed out of feigned lips. May it be deeply impressed upon us that prayer is a mode of glorifying Thee, and may Thy good spirit enable us, in all our approaches to Thee, to offer the heart's adoration.

We unite to thank Thee, our common God and Father, for the redemption of our lives during another day from destruction, and for crowning us with loving-kindness and tender mercies. May the incense of gratitude continually float upward from our hearts to Thee, and in ever-increasing abundance. Once more would we give ourselves into Thy keeping during the darkness. The darkness and the light are both alike to Thee. When we read in Thy book that He that keepeth Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps, may we feel that Thou art adequate to our case, and how becoming it is that we should commit ourselves and our affairs into Thy hands.

Awake us in the morning, if it be Thy will, refreshed and invigorated, and with wills set to shun the transgressors' way, and to run in the way of Thy commandments. Convert such of us as are still in our sins, and promote the work of sanctification in such of us as

have believed to the saving of our souls. May those of us who are young in years be influenced henceforth by the conviction that a flower, when offered in the bud, is no vain sacrifice; and may those of us who are far down the vale of years meditate much on the heavenly Canaan, and make all needful preparation for it.

We praise Thee, Divine Father, for the privilege of intercession, and pray that we may diligently use it. Forbid that we should look on our own things to the exclusion of the things of others. May we embrace in our prayers all men—friends, neighbours, strangers, and enemies. Prosper, temporally and spiritually, our beloved country. Excite and maintain in all classes of the community a spirit of sympathy and concord. May those who exercise power and authority do so intelligently, impartially, and under a deep sense of responsibility, and may they covet Thy approving smile. May the Houses of Parliament enact only such laws and pass only such measures as shall conduce to the welfare of the people and Thy glory. Be gracious to the sovereign of this realm. May she and her children be subjects of King Jesus, and be successful in winning the crown of life. May the arts of peace flourish amongst us, and may we be spared the horrors of war.

Give effect to whatever means are being employed at home and abroad to bring the world to the feet of Christ. Fulfil the desires of those who carry on the temperance and other good movements. May the church universal have understanding of the times, and stand forth wise, strong, free, pure, loving, and aggressive. Revive Thy work everywhere. All lands do Thou bless, and may this world we inhabit soon be changed into a province of heaven. AMEN AND AMEN.

## No. 51.

**A**DORABLE Jehovah, we rejoice that Thou art not to us an unknown God; we give Thee hearty thanks for the various revelations which it has seemed good to Thee to afford of Thy nature and character, Thy ways and Thy works. May the works of creation and providence instruct us concerning Thee, that we may the better understand Thee, and Thyself as made known in them, and desire the more profit from the study of them; may we look at them in the light of that book of truth and life, a portion of which it has been our privilege this morning to read. We have to acknowledge that we have not revered and prized Thy Word as we ought to have done. Forgive our practical neglect of it, and all our other sins, and grant that for the time to come we may set a higher value upon the Scriptures, and so search them as to possess ourselves of those treasures of wisdom and knowledge which they contain. May we take that Book, not only as the rule of our faith, but as the rule of our practice.

May we live impressed with the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus, and lay it constantly to heart that without holiness no man shall see the Lord. We bless Thee that in the written revelation there is all that is needful to salvation. We bless Thee for its plainness and completeness, for its variety and adaptation. May we not miss the eternal life in our perusal of it, and may it be matter of personal experience with us that the law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul, and that the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. So direct us in the private study of Thy Word, and in the public hearing of it on Sabbath days in Thy house, that we shall feel that we are being made wise by it unto salvation.



What knowledge of divine truth we may attain unto, may we desire to share with others, that they too may be lifted above their sin and their misery. Let us not forget how greatly the possession of the Bible adds to our responsibility, and, bearing in mind that to whom much is given of them shall much be required, may we, in all humility and docility, accept it as our guide to the better country. We magnify Thy holy name for what knowledge we already have of its gracious and glorious contents. May it grow from more to more, as that we may become increasingly acquainted with it. Do Thou, by the agency of that Spirit, under whose dispensation it is our privilege to live, shed light upon the sacred page every time that we take Thy Book into our hands. May our familiarity with its truths and facts have the effect of developing in us a genuine spirit of piety and benevolence. Intensify our sympathy with Thy servant who said, "Oh how love I Thy law! it is my meditation all the day;" and in going forth to the engagements of this new day, may we do so thankful for Thy past goodness, and resolved so to live that Thou wilt compass us with Thy favour as with a shield.

Prosper, we entreat Thee, all societies which have for their object the circulation of the Scriptures. Grant the guidance of Thy Spirit to those who are engaged in the work of Bible translation, and hasten the day when Thy Word shall have the place it deserves in every home, and its principles shall be found pervading and dignifying every life.

From the voice of our supplication, O Lord, turn not away Thine ear, and what we have failed to ask either for ourselves or for others, bestow for Thy name and mercy's sake. AMEN.



## No. 52.

**H**OLY Father, we confess ourselves to be weak, ignorant, faithless creatures, and we feel in now coming to Thee that it behoves us to ask Thee to teach us by the Spirit how and for what to pray. May there be no doubt in any of our minds as to Thy nearness to us, Thy sympathy with us, and Thy power to meet our every want of body and soul.

We thank Thee for what evidence we have that Thine ear is not heavy, that it can hear, and that Thy hand is not shortened, and may we often be constrained to say with Thy servant of old, "I love the Lord, because He hath heard my voice and my supplications." May we draw comfort from realising that Thou art the same yesterday, to-day, and forever, and take delight in making known our requests unto Thee. May we never lay ourselves open to the charge of restraining prayer before Thee, and regarding any form of sin in our hearts. Save us from presumption in drawing nigh to Thee, but may we be possessed, as supplicants, by a spirit of holy boldness. May we call to mind that Christ has passed into the true Holy of Holies with His own blood, there to appear in Thy presence for us, and that, while we pray for what we think best, Thou givest us what Thou knowest to be best.

We thank Thee, O God, for all the unsought blessings with which Thou hast strewn our paths, and we rejoice that Thou dost not restrict Thy giving to our asking. We adore Thee as the supremely good; and would give ourselves to prayer with the more confidence that Thou art too pure to sin, too good to be unkind. Let us not take one-sided views of Thyself, but contemplate Thee in all the aspects in which Thou hast revealed

Thyself. May we glory in Thee as a God of love, and at the same time cherish the belief that Thou art of purer eyes than to behold iniquity, and that Thy righteousness is as the great mountains. Fill our hearts with reverent love to Thyself, and give us a firm and high place among those with whom is the secret of the Lord.

Give us to rejoice in Thy faithfulness as reaching unto the clouds, and unto all generations, and may none of Thy promises remain unfulfilled because we fail to supply the necessary conditions. That the grandest of all Thy promises, eternal life, may be made good to each of us, may we abide in Christ as the true vine, and be faithful branches thereof. Avert from us, we beseech Thee, spiritual barrenness, and unstability, and if any of us be still outside the fold of the Good Shepherd, so order the events of Thy providence that we shall without further delay be induced to enter and find peace and safety. Speed the arrival of the period when the world's Redeemer shall sit enthroned in the hearts of humanity, when every human habitation shall have its family altar.

Save us from wrong views of ourselves. What have we that we did not receive? Let us not think more highly of ourselves than we ought to think, or that we can dispense with the petition, "Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those that trespass against us." May we lie down on our beds this night clean as to our hands and our hearts; and should death overtake us before the dawn, may our souls be found with Thee. Keep us from dishonouring Thee by the withholdment of confession from Thee. May we ever be of the number who praise Thee for all that is past, and trust Thee for all that is to come, and in tender mercy look upon us, for Thy dear Son's sake. AMEN.

## No. 53.

WE thank Thee, ever-blessed God, for the assurance contained in that Word which Thou hast given us to be a light unto our feet, and a lamp unto our path, that Thou art nigh to all who call upon Thee.

May we this morning, as a family circle, find Thee nigh unto us calling upon Thee, and may the language of our lips express the sincere desires of our hearts. We adore Thee as the God of families, and never can we sufficiently praise Thee for setting the solitary in families. Grant that the institution of the family may act so favourably on the character, and yield so much enjoyment, that we shall have evidence in our daily experience of its divine appointment. As parents and children, as brothers and sisters, may we so think, feel, speak, and act, that the blessing of the Most High shall descend copiously upon us, and that we shall be of service one to another in the things pertaining to the soul and eternity, as well as to the things pertaining to the present life.

We bless Thee, O Lord our God, for the relationship which Thou hast established among us; and we beseech Thee to give us a deeper appreciation of Thy purposes in them, and a clearer apprehension of the duties springing out of them. Deepen the sense of responsibility in those of us in the position of parents, and help us faithfully to discharge all parental obligations.

Gladden us with length of days; maintain health and strength; keep the lamp of reason burning strongly and brightly within us; prosper us in our worldly occupations and concerns, that we may provide honestly both for ourselves and those dependent on us. May our tempers be under proper control, and in our tongues the law of kindness; may our government of the household be

marked with firmness and gentleness, and this dwelling filled with an atmosphere of love.

Remembering that the soul is the better part of our children, may we take delight in teaching them the way of salvation, and be honoured to bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Preserve them long to us; ward off what would hurt them in body, spirit, or character; and, while youthful days are passing over them, may they turn them to good account. By whomsoever the seed of Thy Word may be east into their minds, may they retain it, and may it issue a blessed harvest. Enlighten them with regard to their duty to their superiors, equals, and inferiors, and may they never doubt or forget that the path of duty is the path of peace and safety. That their lives may be prolonged, may they honour their father and mother; and should any of them be soon or suddenly called away, may early deaths be early immortality.

Thou art interested, O Lord, in all the families of mankind, and we beg that Thou wouldst lift upon them everywhere the light of Thy countenance. May peace and love reign in them, and the time speedily arrive when religion and morality shall be enthroned in each and all of them.

We commend unto Thee those who act in the capacity of servants in this house. May they connect even the humblest duties with Christ, and perform them as unto Him, influenced by the belief that there is no respect of persons with Him, and that He is the best of Masters.

Accept us in the Beloved, and answer these our requests, in so far as they may be according to Thy will.  
AMEN.



## No. 54.

LORD God Almighty, we adore Thee as the infinitely intelligent, holy, and happy One. Thou art light, and in Thee there is no darkness at all. In now approaching Thee may our fellowship be with Thee, and with Thy Son Jesus Christ, whose blood was shed for us, and whose blood cleanseth us from all sin. Never let it be forgotten by us that it is through Him that we have access by one spirit unto the Father. Thou hast promised, for our encouragement, to draw nigh to those who draw nigh to Thee; and we beseech Thee to fulfil so precious a promise in our present experience. May none of us think of Thee as a God afar off, but realise that Thou art with us, and in us; and may we feel our need of unbroken communion with Thee, Father of our spirits.

May it tend to our spiritual elevation, and the purification of our lives, to turn our thoughts to Thee as the hearer of prayer, to Christ as the shepherd and bishop of souls, and to the Divine Spirit as our enlightener, comforter, and sanctifier.

We have to acknowledge that there is in us a tendency to live by sight and not by faith, and to get engrossed with the perishing things of time and sense. We bless Thee for our distinguishing gifts—reason, conscience, heart, and free-will, and we pray that since we are like Thee in nature, we may be like Thee in character. We do not ask to be made rich or great, but good.

Forbid that we should despise or abuse our bodies. May we bear in mind that they are Thy handiwork, and have been fearfully and wonderfully made, and that Christ came to redeem the whole man. May we not lose sight of the glorious doctrine of the resurrection of the body. Forbid that we should indulge a feeling of

contempt for that which is seen and temporal. We learn from Thy Word that by Christ was the world made, and that earth is Thy gift to the ehildren of men; but oh! save us from earthly-mindedness. May we remember that, created for Thyself, material good eannot satisfy us.

So present to us the things that are unseen and eternal, that we shall set our affections upon things above, and seek them with unquenehable ardour. May they hear a voice saying to us, "Keep thy heart with all diligenee, for out of it are the issues of life," and may we give our hearts to Christ as worthiest of Thee. May His love to us beget love in our hearts to Him in return, and may our love to Him be nourished by stated meditation on His absolute exeellenee, His uneeasing benefeenee, and His exceeding great and preeious promises.

As members of one family grant that we may be drawn one to another, and grow in moral beauty side by side, but may Jesus be the object of our supreme love, and may we express attachment to Him by our obedience to His eommands, and efforts to promote His eause. We praise Thee for what eonnection we have with it, and for what interest we feel in it, and we desire that we may be so direeted and fortified by Thy graee and truth that we shall never bring dishonour upon it. May we be ornaments of the church of which we are members.

Reeeive our united thanks for the supply of our necessities during the day to the end of which by Thy good hand upon us we have come, and now that we are about to lay us down to enjoy our accustomed rest, cause us to take quiet sleep, and may we deem ourselves nowhere safe but in the arms of Jesus, in whose name we lift up our hearts.

AMEN.

## No. 55.

**G**ATHER us, O Lord, on this, the morning of another day, around the family altar in a believing, humble, reverent frame of mind. Help us by Thy Holy Spirit to lay upon it an offering of righteousness, and in order that it may come up before Thee with acceptance, we would present it in that name which never loses its fragrance and its power. May we more and more realise the need of drawing near to Thee through the one Mediator between God and man, and pleading His merits as the reason why Thou shouldst be gracious unto us and bless us.

We thank Thee, Holy Father, for the kind and watchful care exercised over us during the past night. Impress it upon us that Thou givest us all things richly to enjoy, and enable us to cultivate a habit of associating Thy hand and heart with everything that ministers to health, strength, comfort, and usefulness. Keep us from forgetting that Thou art the source of all our blessings, whether of a temporal or a spiritual kind, and from grieving and provoking Thee by the indulgence of a spirit of unbelief, ingratitude, and rebellion.

May the refreshing rest of the bygone night, and the mercies of which we have this morning been the recipients, appeal to us as so many reasons why we should anew put confidence in Thee, place our affections upon Thee, and devote ourselves to Thy service. Dispose us often to meditate on the claims which, as our Creator, Preserver, bountiful Benefactor, and, above all, as the God of Salvation, Thou hast upon us, and may it be a joy to us to respond to them. May it be with us, from the youngest to the oldest kneeling before Thee at this time, a daily question—What shall we render unto the

Lord for all His benefits? and do Thou teach us that the best return we can make is to yield ourselves to Thee.

Alas! O Lord, that we should have proved so forgetful of our duty, so wayward and wilful. Forgive us our sins of omission and commission for His sake who gave Himself for us as an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savour, and may the memory of our great sinfulness, and Thy great goodness and forbearance, constrain, during this day, and all the time that may remain to us in this world, to the ordering of our lives as in Thy sight, and according to Thy just and good law.

Since it has pleased Thee to permit us to begin this day, preserve us to see its close, and as hour follows hour, may Thy fear be upon us and grace be given us to do those things which Thou hast commanded, and avoid what is displeasing to Thee. Thou hast a perfect knowledge of us and our circumstances. Our weak points are known to Thee. Strengthen us with Thine own might. Thou knowest what perils we are exposed to, what difficulties we have to contend with, what trials to bear, and what temptations to resist, and we pray that Thou wouldst so guide and guard us, so fill us with Thy truths and spirit, that we should have all necessary wisdom, courage, and patience, and that we shall go on our heavenward way rejoicing.

Forbid, O God, that we should rest satisfied with past attainments in grace. May we aim at greater conformity to the image of Thy dear Son, and make diligent use of the many precious privileges with which Thou hast entrusted us. May we not be content to go to heaven alone, but do all that in us lies to increase the number of the saved, and let it please Thee to supply all our need according to Thy glorious riches in Christ Jesus. AMEN.



## No. 56.

**B**EFORE retiring to our beds of rest, we desire, heavenly Father, to usher ourselves into Thy more immediate presence, and to pour out our hearts before Thee. May we realise the importance of ending and beginning every day with Thee, and holding that fellowship with Thee of which Thou hast formed us capable. Forbid, O Lord, that we should look on prayer merely as a duty. May we esteem it a high and holy privilege, and prize it the more that, forfeited by sin, it has been recovered for us by Him who came to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

Thy bounty, O God, flows an endless stream. Thou hast never held over us a shut hand. Never for a single moment, during all the years that we have lived in the world, hast Thou forgotten us, and every hour has come to us laden with good and perfect gifts. What a number of benefits Thou hast conferred upon us in the course of the day that has come to a close. May there be in us a deep sense of dependence upon and indebtedness to Thee, and, not satisfied with giving thanks, may we endeavour by the purity of our lives to manifest our appreciation of the countless blessings which, since birth, we have received from Thy bountiful hand.

Oh help us to live and serve Thee as the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation. While Thou dost fill our mouths with food, and provide suitable raiment, and other comforts, as they are needed, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and grant us a spirit of contentment and submission to Thy will. Thou knowest what is for our good, and we rejoice that Thou art too faithful to give, or suffer to befall, Thy children what would endanger their salvation or do them

spiritual harm. Keep us from calling in question Thy wisdom, or Thy faithfulness, or Thy tender interest in us.

The temporal good things which Thou sendest we are ever ready to accept and use. May we be more ready still to avail ourselves of the rich provision which Thou has made in Christ for our never-dying souls. We give Thee praise that we have Thy Book in a language with which we are familiar. Sanctify to us our daily reading of it. Dispel inward doubt and darkness by the entrance of Thy Word which giveth light, and may we lay our minds and hearts freely open to the light of the knowledge of Thy glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

For the degree in which those of us bowing at the footstool of mercy this evening have been preserved hitherto from accidents, disease, danger, and sin, good Lord, make us sincerely grateful, and, as we cannot protect ourselves during the night, or command peaceful and refreshing slumbers, extend Thy guardianship to us during our sleeping hours, raise us up when the light of the sun returns, and fit us each day we live to show forth the praises of Him who hath called us out of darkness into His marvellous light.

Be merciful unto, and bless, and cause Thy face to shine on all our relations and friends. May they all be Thy friends, reconciled to Thee by the death of Thy Son. Give them the victory over themselves, the world, and the devil. Have pity on the poor and destitute. May there be many to sympathise with and help them; if themselves to blame for the trials and woes which oppress them, incline them, ere it be too late, to cast off all evil habits, and to become rich in faith and rich toward Thyself. For Christ's sake hear and answer. AMEN.

## No. 57.

UNTO Thee, O our heavenly Father, do we now lift up our souls. Thou hast made us for Thyself, and we never find true rest till we find it in Thee. We thank Thee for sparing us to see the light, and to enter upon the sacred exercises of another first day of the week—commemorative of the resurrection of Thy dear Son and our Saviour Jesus Christ. It is the day which Thou hast blessed, and separated from all the other days of the week to be kept holy to Thyself. May we be strengthened by Thy Holy Spirit to sanctify it in our hearts, and to spend it in sweetest fellowship with a three-one God, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, and in joyful anticipation of a Sabbath in the skies, that shall never have an end.

Be very merciful to us, and bless us as a family. Blot out, we beseech Thee, all our sins: oh remember them against us no more. Fill us all with supreme love to Thee, and with true love to one another. Make us afraid to offend Thee either in thought, word, or deed. Be with us when we go into Thy sanctuary. May we rejoice when it is said unto us, Go up into the house of the Lord, and may we esteem one day in Thy courts better than a thousand in the tents of sin. Bless Thy servant, our pastor, and qualify him richly for all the work to which he has been appointed. Give him a message this day which Thou wilt bless to each of *us*, and to all who may be assembled together. Grant to us all the hearing ear, the understanding heart, and the applying conscience. May what is spoken be in harmony with Thy mind, and be greatly blessed, both to the conversion of sinners and to the sanctification of saints. For all Thy faithful ministering servants of every name we pray Thee that Thou wouldst bestow upon them all the gifts and graces

that are necessary for the right discharge of all their sacred duties. Emptied of self, may they be full of faith and of the Holy Ghost. Remembering their high and holy calling as ambassadors of Christ, may they speak Thy word with all boldness, earnestness, and success, warning every man and teaching every man, that they may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.

We thank Thee for the communion of saints. We know from sweet experience that it is good and pleasant for brethren to dwell together in unity. It rejoices our hearts to believe that we are children of the same holy Father, redeemed by the same precious blood, partakers of the same divine spirit, and all travelling to the same happy home in glory. Oh do Thou make us all one in affection and in aim, in prayer and in effort for the conversion of sinners, that Thou mayest be glorified in their present, future, eternal salvation.

We pray for the multitudes around us and everywhere, who are willingly ignorant of Thee and in open rebellion against Thee. How many, alas! are living without Thee, without Christ, and without hope in the world; blaspheming Thy holy name, profaning Thy holy day, neglecting Thy holy ordinances, turning a deaf ear to all Thy warnings and invitations, trampling under foot the blood of Thy dear Son, and doing despite to the Spirit of grace. Cut them not down in their impenitence. Earnestly do we pray for their awakening, conviction, and conversion to Thyself. For this great end, do Thou graciously bless the labours of all ministers of the gospel; all missionaries, both at home and abroad; all Christian workers, and Sabbath-school teachers. Oh make them earnest, faithful, and unwearied in Thy service. All that we ask is for Jesus' sake. AMEN.



## No. 58.

**O** MOST merciful and ever to be blessed Father, Thou hast graciously preserved us through another Christian Sabbath. With lowly minds and grateful hearts we bow at Thy throne of grace, and acknowledge the numerous precious blessings which Thou hast this day conferred upon us. For all that our eyes have seen, our ears have heard, and our souls have experienced of Thy love and mercy, we thank Thee. Many prophets and righteous men have desired to see the things which we see, and have not seen them, and to hear the things which we hear, and have not heard them. Oh do Thou write Thy law on our hearts, and constrained by the love of Christ, may we live not unto ourselves but entirely to Thee. Sanctify us wholly in soul, body, and spirit, and preserve us all blameless and harmless until the day of Christ. Bless to each of us, and to all others, the word preached this day. May it find an entrance into every heart, the fruit be unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. Glorify Thyself in Thy saints. Oh may the convictions that have been lodged this day never be effaced. Hast Thou not promised that Thy word shall not return unto Thee void, that it shall accomplish that which Thou pleasest, and prosper in the thing whereunto Thou hast sent it?

Pardon, O Lord, wherein we have offended Thee this day. We feel and confess that our best services are very imperfect, and our holiest are polluted; that we need to be sprinkled anew with the blood of Thy dear Son. Oh cleanse us and keep us clean. Thou art reminding us again that this earth is not our final resting-place, that our days and Sabbath days are passing rapidly away. Oh for grace to improve them while they last, and to be in constant readiness to leave this world, and to enter

upon the Sabbath which remains for the people of God in the skies. We bless Thee for the evidence Thou hast given us that not a few near and dear to us have already gone to the heavenly land, and that we hope soon to meet them again, and enjoy their society for ever, where there shall be no sin in our nature, no weariness in our service, nor sorrow in our song. Oh we bless Thee for the assurance that Jesus whom we love, and whose merits we plead, is now in heaven waiting to welcome us thither and to give us a place among the redeemed. May we walk worthy of Him who hath called us to such dignity and glory, and who expect through Thy grace soon to possess them.

We commend to Thy fatherly sympathy and care all who have been prevented from waiting upon Thee in Thy house this day by reason of affliction. Keep them as the apple of the eye. Preserve them in the hollow of Thy hand. Purify them in the furnace, and bring them forth as gold that is purified seven times. May all who are entering and passing through the dark valley and shadow of death be guided and guarded by the great and good Shepherd, and conducted safely to glory. We thank Thee for the assurance that Jesus hath abolished death, and brought life and immortality to light; that the sting of death is taken away and the curse turned into a blessing, and is now to all Thy saints the pathway to glory.

Bless all our loved ones, whether on land or at sea, at home or abroad. We bless Thee that Thou art everywhere at all times. Keep them all from the evil that is in the world. Sanctify them through Thy truth. Make them useful in their day and generation; and, finally, may we all meet in the heavenly kingdom. All that we ask is for Jesus' sake. AMEN.

## No. 59.

WE adore Thee, O Lord, as the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords. Thou hast established Thy throne in the heavens, and justice and judgment are the pillars thereof. Thy kingdom is everlasting, and Thy dominion endureth throughout all generations: all angels and men, all creatures and events are under Thy control and at Thy disposal; none can stay Thine hand or say unto Thee, What doest Thou?

We acknowledge Thee as the God of Providence, also opening Thine hand and supplying the wants of every creature in heaven and on earth, filling the former with Thy glory and the latter with Thy goodness. So minute is Thy care over us and interest in us, that the very hairs of our head are all numbered. Who shall not fear and glorify Thy name?

Thou seest, and we feel how utterly unworthy we are to receive even the least of all the mercies and blessings which Thou art continually bestowing upon us. Our iniquities are many and deeply aggravated in Thy sight, and we have all merited Thy righteous displeasure. The wages of our sin is death. Oh do Thou for Thine own name's sake, and the sake of Thy dear Son, purge them all away.

Make us truly sensible of the deep debt of gratitude which we owe to Thee, O our heavenly Father, for the care Thou hast had over us and the rich blessings which Thou hast bestowed upon us during our past lives, and during the past night. Our bed might have been our grave. We might have been lifting up our eyes in torment in the world of woe. Oh that we were sufficiently thankful for all the loving-kindness and tender mercies conferred upon us. In order none can reckon them unto

Thee; if we would speak of them they are more than can be numbered.

Make us grateful for the renewed expression of Thy love which we have this morning experienced in being permitted to read Thine own holy word, and surround Thy throne of grace. Enable us to appreciate and improve that means of grace as we ought, and as we shall wish we had done when we die. Through these may our faith be confirmed, our confidence established, our love increased, our hope exalted, and our joys multiplied. May we all live this day in union to Christ, and in sweet communion with Him, and receive from Him those supplies of grace, and strength, and wisdom which while on earth we need to perform its daily duties.

Be very gracious to all who are in trouble. Thou knowest perfectly their number and their needs: supply them all out of Thine infinite fulness. Grant them faith in Thee, love to Thee, and patience to endure whatever Thou art pleased to inflict. May the dying be cheered with the light of Thy countenance, and their souls welcomed with everlasting glory. Comfort the bereaved who are mourning over the removal of those near and dear to them. Appoint unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, and the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness. From the heart may they be able to say, "Thy will be done." Oh may we and all mankind everywhere be reminded in the calamities which abound, and the ravages of death, that this is not our permanent dwelling-place, and seek more earnestly the city which hath foundations, the pleasures which are at Thy right hand, and the joys which are for evermore. We ask all in the name, and for the sake of Thy Son and our Saviour Jesus Christ. AMEN.



## No. 60.

O GOD, our Heavenly Father, once more would we come to Thee in the name of Thy dear Son, and our Saviour. We confess our weakness as creatures and our unworthiness as sinners in Thy sight; we adore Thee as the high and lofty One inhabiting eternity and the praises thereof, whose Name is holy, while we are the creatures of a day born but of yesterday and know nothing; our days upon earth are only a shadow which continueth not. We are often warned of the brevity of time, and the frailty of our flesh, both by Thy word and the ravages of death around us. We see the young and the old, the rich and the poor, the righteous and the wicked, taken away.

Oh may we all hear Thy voice calling loudly to us both in Thy word and providence, saying unto us, Be ye also ready, Prepare to meet Thy God. How solemn it is to die and enter upon a new and untried state of being. Oh teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom, and to spend every day as if it were our last, and as we shall wish we had done when we appear before the judgment-seat of Christ.

We thank Thee, O Lord, that Thou hast graeiously spared us during another day, while not a few have been cut down, their countenance changed, and their spirits called away. We might have been among the number. We thank Thee for health and strength, while many are lying on beds of languishing and distress; also, for all the necessaries and comforts of life which we enjoy, while great multitudes are destitute of these; for all the mereies, temporal and spiritual, personal and relative, public and private, restraining and restoring, which Thou hast bestowed upon us; may we be truly grateful; may

we have grace given to improve them all to His glory from whom they proceed. Oh may it never be to the condemnation of any of us that light has come into the world, and we have loved the darkness rather than the light.

Help us all every day to welcome Jesus as the true Light, the best and greatest gift which Thou wouldst ever bestow upon a fallen world. Oh may we all walk in the Light of Christ and never stumble. May He possess all our hearts and be magnified in each of us, and by each of us, both in life and in death, throughout all time and eternity.

We thank Thee also, O our heavenly Father, for the future glorious inheritance which Thou hast prepared, and for the hope thereof which Thou hast implanted in our breasts. O Thou blessed Son of God, Thou art very precious to us, and hast done great things for us. We owe Thee a debt of gratitude which we feel we cannot pay. Help us, by Thy Holy Spirit, to acknowledge the obligation so long as we live, and when our pilgrimage is finished, when our work is done, and our warfare is accomplished, do Thou divide before us the waters of the Jordan, conduct us safely across to the other side, open to us the gates of the new Jerusalem, that we may enter in and dwell with Thee in Thy glory for ever. This is infinitely more than we have ever deserved to obtain, but not more than Thou hast of Thy great mercy promised to creatures. Till then, O our Father, do Thou hold up our goings; guide us and all near and dear to us in Thy paths.

May our footsteps not slide. Pardon all the sins of the past day. Give thine angels charge over us through this night, and the glory shall be all Thine for evermore.  
AMEN.

## No. 61.

WE thank Thee, O our Heavenly Father, that Thou hast opened our eyes to see the light of another new day, and hast preserved us through the silent watches of the past night. Unto Thee do we now lift up our souls, and acknowledge Thee as the Former of our bodies and the Father of our Spirits. We praise Thee as the Author of all life and intelligence, of all holiness and happiness, throughout the universe—the Father of Lights, with whom there is no variableness nor shadow of turning, from whom cometh down every good and perfect gift.

We bless Thee also as the God and Father of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, whom Thou didst send into our world in our nature to reveal to us Thy character, to suffer and die for our sins, and rise again for our justification, in whom we have redemption, even the forgiveness of our sins. Oh may we all abide in Him this day and every day, and may He always abide in us by His word and Spirit, that we may be kept from the evil that is in the world, and be living epistles of Jesus Christ known and read of all men.

Make us very grateful to Thee that Thou hast revealed Thyself to us as a God of light in whom there is no darkness at all; as a God of love in whom there is no malignity at all; and that Thy love is everlasting in its duration and infinite in its extent, that it encircles the globe and seeks admission into every human heart. Shed it abroad in our hearts more and more by the Holy Ghost given unto us, and also into the hearts of all mankind.

We thank Thee that we have tasted that Thou art gracious; that we have experienced Thy love and mercy in Christ Jesus. But we long to enjoy them more, and would therefore pray that we may be able to comprehend

with all saints what is the breadth and length and depth and height, and to know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge, that we may be filled with all the fulness of God. Oh may this excellent love of Thine be embraced and enjoyed by each and all the members of this family, by all our relations and friends and neighbours, by all our fellow-countrymen, and by all mankind. May they all dwell in love and dwell in God, and may He dwell in them.

Graciously grant thy richest and choicest blessings to the Church with which we are connected. Bless Thy servant and pastor whom Thou hast placed over us. Indue him with much wisdom and knowledge and power from on high. Make him a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth and giving to every one his portion of meat in due season. Bless the office-bearers also, and all the members with every heavenly and spiritual blessing in Christ. Bless all the churches of the saints. Fill them with the Holy Ghost. Unite them more closely to one another and to Thyself. May brotherly love continue and abound. Heal the breaches which sin has made. May all ministers and missionaries and evangelists at home and abroad be baptized with the Holy Ghost, and be duly qualified for all their solemn and responsible duties. Make them wise to win souls. Keep their hearts always in sympathy with His whose servants they are and whose word they preach. May they all have many seals to their ministry in the day of the Lord Jesus.

We commend ourselves to Thee. Take charge of us this day. Help us to spend it aright. Forgive, we beseech Thee, all our sins. Accept our morning service for the sake of Thy dear Son. AMEN.



## No. 62.

O LORD our God and heavenly Father, Thou art very great, and Thy greatness none can comprehend. Thy wisdom is unsearchable, and Thy ways are past finding out. Thy way is in the sea, Thy paths in the deep waters, and Thy footsteps are not known. Thou art worthy the homage and adoration, the love and the praise, of all in heaven and on earth. We confess that we have not loved nor served Thee as we ought. We have broken Thy holy laws and trampled under foot Thy sacred authority. Woe is unto us, for we have sinned against Thee times and ways without number. Shame and confusion of face belong unto us because of our trespasses and sins. Oh do Thou, for Thine own name's sake, purge them all away, and grant unto each of us the blessedness of the man whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered, unto whom Thou imputest not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.

We thank Thee that Thou art still proclaiming Thyself to us as the Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin. Grant unto us such clear and correct views of Thy character as shall lead us to trust in Thee at all times, and love Thee with all our heart and soul and mind and strength. We thank Thee for Jesus, Thy dear Son, for His incarnation and life, His sufferings and death in our room, for our sins—His resurrection and ascension to Thy right hand. Oh may we all be enabled to look steadfastly to Him. May we hear Him speaking to us from heaven. Help us by Thy Spirit to obey his commands, to observe His ordinances, and to imitate His example. May the same mind be in us that was in Him. Make us humble and gentle,

tender and compassionate, to all mankind. Oh for a larger measure of that love which suffereth long and is kind, which seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil, rejoiceth not in iniquity but rejoiceth in the truth, beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. We thank Thee for the glorious gospel of Thy grace, and for the commission to go into all the world and preach it to every creature. May this commission soon be executed, and may all ends of the earth soon enjoy the salvation of our God. Have respect unto the dark places of the earth, and may they speedily be enlightened. May wars at home and abroad be brought to an end, and may the peace which Jesus procured, proclaims, and bestows, soon be universally experienced, and His love shed abroad in every heart.

Have mercy upon the poor and the needy. Open sources whence their temporal wants shall be supplied. May they be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which cannot be moved. Succour the tempted. May they not be tried beyond what they are able to bear. Be the confidence of those who are on the sea, who see Thy wonders in the deep. Give the wind and the waves a charge concerning them. Conduct them to their desired haven, and may they be filled with praise to Thee for Thy mercy.

Accept of thanks for Thy kindness to us and to ours during this day. How manifold have been the tokens of Thy care. Keep us, and all near and dear to us, throughout this night. May no evil befall us nor plague come nigh our dwelling. Grant us refreshing sleep. When we awake may we be still with Thee, and meditate upon Thee during the night watches. Pardon all our sins, and bless us richly, for Jesus' sake. AMEN.

## No. 63.

O LORD, our gracious God and heavenly Father, in whom we live and move and have our being, we come to Thee. Thou art very great, and Thy greatness none can comprehend, of spotless purity, of immaculate holiness, of inflexible justice, and of inviolable truth. We feel our unworthiness to approach unto Thee or to take Thy name into our polluted lips. Behold we are vile, and what shall we answer Thee, O Thou observer of men? Iniquities, we confess, prevail against us, and as for our transgressions they are not hid from Thee. We come to Thee in the name of Thy dear Son, our once crucified but now risen and exalted Saviour. We plead His merits. We beseech Thee for His sake to pardon all our iniquities, to wash away all our sins. There is forgiveness with Thee that Thou mayest be feared, and plenteous redemption that Thou mayest be sought unto.

We thank Thee for the watchful care which Thou hast had over us during the past night, for the quiet rest and sweet repose which Thou hast given us. Oh do Thou shine into our hearts also, giving us the light of the knowledge of the glory of Christ. Increase our faith in Thee, our knowledge of Thee, and our love to Thee, and to Jesus Thy dear Son, who loved us and gave Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice of a sweet-smelling savour. May Thy Divine Spirit lead us, and guide our feet into the way of holiness, happiness, and usefulness, and preserve us safely to Thy heavenly kingdom. Help us to drink deep into the spirit of Christ, to imitate His example, to reflect His holy image, to be His faithful witnesses, His true representatives upon the earth. May we be enabled to hold forth the word of life, and to shine as lights in the world, that others through us may be won

to Christ, that He may be glorified and they may be saved.

Bless all Thy dear children scattered over the face of the earth. Thou knowest their wants. Supply them all out of Thine infinite fulness. Guide them in all their perplexities, aid them in all their difficulties, comfort them in all their distresses, strengthen them for all their duties, fill them with supreme love to Thee. May they all love as brethren, and oh do Thou preserve them from every evil way to Thine own heavenly kingdom.

Have mercy upon the ignorant and unbelieving who are sinning against Thee, and bringing ruin upon themselves. We thank Thee that Thou hast no pleasure in the death of the wicked, that Thou hast so loved the world as to give Thine only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. Awaken sinners to a sense of their sin. May they see and feel their need of a Saviour and of salvation, and believe in Jesus, who has come to seek and to save the lost. Oh may Thy Spirit operate mightily upon them and bring them to Christ ere, alas! it be too late, and they perish in their sin. May all the efforts that are being put forth for the world's conversion be crowned with success. May every valley be exalted, and every mountain and hill be made low. May the crooked places be made straight and the rough places plain, and the whole world soon see and enjoy Thy salvation. May we not only be delivered from the power and penalty of sin ourselves, but do Thou use us this day and every day as instruments in promoting Thy cause and advancing Thy kingdom on the earth. Oh may we not be slothful, but followers of them who, through faith and patience, inherit the promises. We ask all in the name of Jesus. AMEN.



## No. 64.

FATHER of all mercies and God of all comfort, we acknowledge Thee and the favours which Thou hast bestowed upon each of us during another day. Thou hast graciously delivered our souls from death, our eyes from tears, and our feet from falling. It is to Thee that we are indebted for life and health, for food and raiment, for all the temporal and spiritual blessings which we now enjoy. Ever since we had a being hast Thou watched over and preserved us, loaded us with benefits, and crowned us with loving kindnesses and tender mercies.

We feel, O our Father, that we are not worthy of one of the least of these. We confess that we are sinful dust and ashes. Oh we thank Thee that Thou hast not dealt with us according to our sins, nor requited us according to our desert. Truly, as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are Thy ways higher than our ways and Thy thoughts than our thoughts. We bless Thee that Thou hast remembered us in mercy, that Thou hast devised the wondrous plan of human redemption, and sent Thine only Son to execute the same. All we like sheep have gone astray, every one after his own way, and Thou hast laid upon Him the iniquity of us all. Make us thankful that we have heard the good news of a Saviour's love to us, and of His death for us, and that we have been enabled by Thy Spirit to believe the same.

May we not be unmindful of thy favours. May our souls and all that is within us be stirred up to bless Thee and Thy dear Son whom Thou hast sent. Risen with Him, do Thou enable us to seek more and more those things which are above, where he sits at Thy right hand. Help us to remember that the things which are seen are uncertain and unsatisfying, and must all perish with the

using. May we remember that time is short, that life is precarious, and that we shall soon be overtaken by the night of death and the darkness of the grave, when all our opportunities for getting good and doing good on earth will come to an end. May Thy Spirit pervade all our souls, and make us a holy, happy, and useful family. Eradicate all selfishness from our nature, and may we be enabled to lay aside all malice and guile and every evil feeling. Keep the door of our lips, that we may not sin with our tongue.

Bless all our near and dear friends. Grant them health of body, peace of mind, and purity of heart. Oh preserve them from the snares and temptations of Satan and of the world. Save them from all sin, and make them eminently useful. May we and all connected with us dwell in the secret place of the Most High, and abide under the shadow of the Almighty; and when all Thy wise purposes are done with us on earth, oh receive us to Thine own eternal glory in heaven.

Be very near to all that are in trouble. Speak comfortably to their hearts. Grant them patience to bear whatever Thou art pleased to inflict. May their afflictions, which are but for a moment, work out for them a far more exceeding, even an eternal weight of glory. Oh may sinners feel how vain it is to contend with Thee, and cease the conflict; and may saints be purified more and more.

Graciously watch over us and ours through this night. Grant us the rest and the sleep of Thy beloved. Forgive the sin of the past day. Do to us and for us far above and beyond what we can either ask or think, for the sake of Jesus, Thy dear Son. AMEN.

## No. 65.

**A**Lmighty and everlasting God, we approach Thy presence in the freshness of new strength and energy to dedicate unto Thy service all that Thou hast bestowed upon us. May these powers, talents, and opportunities granted us be wisely and earnestly used for the advancement of Thy glory and the wellbeing of those with whom Thou hast associated us. Forbid, Lord, that we should fall short of what Thou dost desire at our hand. May Thy Spirit so uphold us that we shall not offend Thee in word or deed. And may our watchfulness be so keen and steady that the least tendency to evil may be instantly checked. Give us, we pray Thee, that diligence and devotion in our toil which will make the hours pass pleasantly over us, and which will secure for ourselves and the principles of our religion the honour and respect of all our neighbours.

Father, we ask for that kind and sympathetic fellowship with Thee which, in the midst of whatever ill we have to suffer, will keep the fretful spirit far from us. May we be as anxious to show forth the meekness and gentleness of our Saviour in the little and fleeting trials of life as in the great. O that the beauty of his character may adorn every point of our behaviour. Should we at any time utter the hasty word, or the unkindly tone, or do that which is even tinged with the feeling of pride, self-will, or greed, may we be quick to confess, to correct, and to restore. Save us from marring our usefulness with others, or our happiness with Thee.

Go with us, we entreat Thee, where we go. Share with us in our labour and in our joy. When we may be ready to fail, or fall into error, bless us, O Lord, with Thy counsel and guidance.

Holy and loving Saviour, who hast implanted in our bosom a tender affection for those whom Thou hast placed near us, and those with whom Thou hast knit us in kinship and friendship, we pray Thee that whatever good things Thou dost supply unto us, that the same may be richly provided for them. Lord, make plain to them, in Thy continued mercy, the fatherly interest Thou hast in each of them. In our gratitude for each other's good, in our prayers, and in our mutual help, may we daily be drawn closer to Thee, and thus, in Thy grace, closer to one another. Send to those of them who are far removed from us, encountering, it may be, dangers by land or perils on the sea, or beset by much to tempt them, that measure of protecting care which will save and help them. Raise up around them friends who will guide, comfort, and gladden them. May their distance from us lead them, through all their trials, ever nearer unto Thee.

Lord, Thou art good, and Thy mercies fail not. Continually are we asking, but more than all we ask are we constantly receiving. Help us so to live that the love we bear to Thee may not only be intensified, but that it even to the world may become more patent by our holy and religious efforts how anxiously in all things we seek to serve Thee.

Forgive, we pray Thee, the sins we have committed in our former days. They have been a grief unto us, and we know they have been a sorrow unto Thee. Receive us again, O Lord, and love us freely, not on account of anything we can do, or give, or promise, but for the sake of the merits of Him who died to save us, and in whose name we present all our prayers. AMEN.



## No. 66.

AT the close of another day's labour we humbly ask Thee, our kind and gracious Father, to follow with Thy blessing all we have tried to do for good, seeking to make it pleasing unto Thee and helpful unto those around us. It is but little we have done compared with what we wished, or ought to have accomplished; but we plead that by Thy help we may step from even it up to higher and nobler life through the time which is to follow.

What Thou hast seen amiss in our conduct, Father, forgive; what we have left undone enable us at the earliest opportunity to complete; and what Thou hast still in store for us to finish show clearly unto us, that we may gladly fulfil Thy design. May Thy good Spirit watch over us and all ours through the darkness and stillness of the night. Let all our thoughts and meditations upon Thee be sweet and profitable: and when the morning dawns, if Thou dost spare us, may our first and freshest remembrances be of Thee and Thine.

Lord, we entreat Thy favour for those who may now be solitary and in sorrow through some sad bereavement. Point them forward to a time of joyous re-union, when Thou shalt again restore unto them all they have lost upon earth: and with new faith and zeal may they seek to fit themselves for such companionship in Thy presence. Bless, too, the poor, the orphan, the widow, and the friendless. Open Thy hand liberally, and so supply their wants that their hearts shall have cause to sing joyfully of the kindness of our common Father.

Follow in mercy the footsteps, Lord, of those who have turned their backs upon Thee, and are now pursuing after vain and sinful pleasures. Oh that they may be persuaded of their folly and guilt before it is too late, and that they

may be saved from the long and weary burden of sorrow and shame which justice cannot fail to lay upon the shoulders of transgressors. Soothe the pillow of those in sickness. May they be taught that no suffering is ever permitted by Thee, but what if borne in submission and patience, will prove for the good of them or theirs: and may this forbid the restless or repining spirit which grieves Thee.

Grant, O God, Thy blessing to all our neighbours. May we dwell together in peace and unity. Prosper the citizens in whose midst we sojourn. As a nation, seeing Thou hast given us great riches and power, may the influence we wield be ever on the side of righteousness and truth. May our rulers be so guided by Thy wisdom, that their policy shall always redound to Thy glory and the highest welfare of men.

Guide, teach, and sustain in Thy sympathy and truth all our ministers and teachers. Let the writings of our editors and authors be pure in their tone, and such as are fitted to exalt the morality and worth of each of their readers. Give success to all societies and institutions whose aim is to spread the knowledge of Thy holy word, or to ameliorate the sufferings of humanity. May every honest and loving labourer, striving to do good in his day and generation, not only have Thy smile of approval, but may he see the fruit of his toil, and in the happiness of his fellows enjoy his most valued reward.

Bless Thy church universal, and may the time rapidly approach when all the kingdoms of the world shall, through her teaching and toil, become the kingdom of Christ our Lord. Hear and answer us for His sake.  
AMEN.

## De. 67.

**A**LMIGHTY and everlasting Father, who hast called us again to life and activity, we thank Thee for our renewed strength, and for all which we expect Thou wilt this day charge us to fulfil. Before going out to our different spheres of work in the world, we wait upon Thee that we may carry away with us Thy counsel and favour. Like the plant enriched with refreshing dew, may we be so blessed in Thy presence, that we shall depart with courage and wisdom which will enable us to perform all our tasks in such a manner as will secure the respect of men and the approval of God.

Lord, we feel our weakness, and we know our ignorance. We pray that as Thou didst walk with Thy friends upon earth so wouldst Thou go before us; and that wherever we see Thy footsteps there may we firmly plant our feet. Thou knowest all which we have to pass through. If, Lord, it is success and happiness, may our hearts remain humble and grateful to Thee. If it is grief and annoyance, may we still be possessed of a meek and enduring spirit, which, because of adversity, clings all the more closely to Christ. If it is temptation, then, Lord, before the evil hour has come, and ere yet the battle has begun to rage, we commend our souls to Thee, and pray that Thou wouldst send us forth so strengthened in Thy might that we shall win for Thy gospel still greater praise.

O Lord, our Saviour, we ask from Thee a continuous sense of Thy nearness. In the quiet or trying moment may there be given to us one word from Thy voice, or one glance from Thine eye, to vivify all that is good within us, and to nerve us to more earnest endeavour in all we have to do or bear. May no murmur or complaint, no weak yielding, no presumptuous evil tarnish or stain

the offering we would seek to lay at Thy feet when the labours of the day are brought to a close.

Gracious and holy God, may our whole business be made to bring honour unto Thee. May all its rules, customs, and transactions be permeated by the spirit of Thy teaching. Keep us from running into error, committing any kind of mistake, or engaging in that which is foolish or worthless. Save us from loss, danger, or accident. In the midst of many ways lying before us, may we ever choose that wherein we shall rightly and readily reach the end which Thou dost wish us to attain. When our wisdom is too limited, and our strength is insufficient, then grant unto us, O Lord, of Thine to guide and help us. Make all things work together for our good, and for the good of those Thou hast committed to our keeping. Open up for us, our loving Master, opportunities for doing acts of kindness and love. Wherever we go may we be clothed in the likeness of Jesus Christ, that men may learn His character as they take notice of ours. May Thy name be glorified through our speech, and thought, and silence—in what we do and in what we refrain from doing. Grant unto us, itself one of Thy most goodly gifts, to share with Thee in relieving the wants of those around us, that there may be ministered unto us a more abundant entrance into the fellowship of Thy glory.

We pray, O Lord, that whatever is planned to-day for the spread of righteousness and peace amongst men may be made successful. May the great purpose for which Thou hast created us become perfected, that Thy heart may be glad in all Thy children, when throughout the world Thy praises, echoed out of even its darkest corners, shall ascend as sweet incense unto Thee. Hear us, O Lord, for Christ's sake. AMEN.



## No. 68.

OUR good Father, we again gather around Thee, that we may speak of all Thy kindness unto us through the day which is gone. In our varied walks and works, Thou hast been our counsellor, our protector, and our friend. We thank Thee for our labour, and we thank Thee for the mind and strength given us to fulfil it. Wherein, Lord, we have been negligent, disobedient, or sinful, we pray Thee to pardon us; and wherein we have been successful, may Thy good blessing follow so as to enlarge the success.

Grant, O God, that through the silent watches of the night we may sleep in peace. Do Thou raise us up, fully refreshed, to the light and toil of a new day, through which we shall seek after a more noble and Christlike manhood in a service devoted to Thee. May every advancing period of our life see less and less of our sins and imperfections, and an ever-enlarging growth in goodness and grace.

Heavenly Father, we commend all in this family to Thy tender care. May they feel how dear they are unto Thee, and may each of them hold Thee dear unto him. Be with those who are young. May they increase in stature and in strength, in wisdom, and in favour with God and man. Hedge them securely in from all the evils that are in the world. Let no unholy habit or companion obtain any dominion over them. Now, while their affections are yet pure and keen, may they be firmly set upon all that pertains to God, so that their pleasure may be always found in what makes for truth and righteousness, and their hatred enkindled against what is false or evil. Prepare the path of each of them through the world. Let Thy loving care precede them in all their goings, to provide whatever they shall need in each new

circle and place. May they preserve to Thee the dew of their youth, and prove so faithful and diligent in these their golden hours of opportunity that they shall be raised up to become honoured and useful members of the church and society whicrever Thou shalt yet lead them to dwell.

Lord, let Thy presence abide in this household, as it did in the home of Bethany. Striving to please and be united to Thee, may we more and more please and become united to one another. Every day seeking to be a joy unto Thee, may our mutual joy in the family be intensified. May it be our eager aim at all times to comfort and help each other in pursuing after the holy and perfect life. Lord, let the scenes through which we are now passing be so full of kindly intercourse that they shall be sweet memories to us wherever we go, and as long as we may live.

Sustain those who are in authority. In Thy wisdom may they utter their precepts; and in Thy holiness may they manifest an example such as will perfect the end which Thou dost desire in those who are under them. May they be cheered in their labour and anxiety by an affectionate and obedient return from all their children. Father, we pray that every one of us may now be so endeared to another that throughout eternity we shall have cause to thank Thee that on earth Thou didst join us together. After we have all lived and laboured here as Thou wouldst have us, may Thy voice call us out of every distant place to renew again this circle, without one absent member, in brighter, sweeter, and more enduring love in the midst of Thy universal family in heaven.

Fulfil our petition, we plead, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

## No. 69.

HEAVENLY Father, we bless Thee that Thou hast raised us from our couch in renewed strength and vigour. Thou art wise, and Thou doest nothing without a purpose. We know therefore that Thou hast need for our life, and that there is set aside this morning some part of Thy vineyard for each of us to cultivate for Thee. Go forth with us, then, we pray Thee, to our labour ; and may Thy presence preserve us pure if we are tempted ; may it implant in us patience if we are tried ; and give courage unto us if we are called to do battle for the truth.

Our business, Lord, is Thine. The success we seek in it we seek but to lay as our offering on Thine altar. As we would ask Thee to bless the end, so also do we ask Thee to bless the means by which we strive to secure it. May all our gain ever be such as we can honourably give, and Thou canst gladly receive.

Whatever influence or authority, in Thy providence, we hold over our fellow-men may we use, knowing that we also have a Master in heaven. And when in Thy providence Thou dost call upon us to be obedient unto men, may we serve them as trying in such service to please Thee. Lord, may love to Thee make all our duties light and pleasant. May we experience the same delight in all our daily labour, whether in the household or abroad, which Thou didst enjoy upon earth in the fulfilment of Thy Father's will ; and may we work with such diligence and zeal in whatever Thou dost give us to do that Thy smile shall continually rest upon us. Grant, O Saviour, that through all our duties, and especially those which will tempt or try us most, we may hear Thy word of encouragement and sym-

pathy. We earnestly plead that in all our transactions with others nothing shall be said or done by any of us unbecoming a true follower of Thee. May our ardent aim in these communications be not only to sustain but to enlarge the honour of our family, our church, and our Redeemer.

O God, who holdest the hearts of men in Thy keeping, so order it, we beseech Thee, that we shall meet with nothing, in word or deed, this day, from any of our companions or connections, which will grieve or injure us, or seduce us from the truth; but may we prove mutual blessings, seeking, in the spirit of Thy gospel, to cheer, gladden, and prosper one another. Above all, our Father, let us ever remember that here we are but pilgrims, and that amidst all the various duties which engage our attention, our chief aim ought ever to be to fit ourselves for the inheritance of heaven at last; that when welcomed into Thy kingdom we may enter not as strangers and foreigners, but as fellow-citizens of the saints, and of the household of God.

According to what Thou seest we now are, and according to all Thou knowest we shall be called upon to-day to pass through or accomplish, so, Father, let Thy good favour be granted unto us. We are poor, weak, and unworthy, but we know that the love which dwells in Thy bosom is boundless, and that Thou delightest to bestow Thy blessings. May we so live that all Thy gifts to us shall reflect Thy glory, and add to the happiness of those around us.

We pray for all our dear friends and relatives. May the same tokens of a Father's love which we have been asking for ourselves be, even in a larger measure, sent to them. Hear our requests for Christ's sake. AMEN.



## No. 70.

LORD, like Thy disciples of old, we return to tell Thee of all we have done to-day in the charge which Thou didst commit unto our care. We praise Thee for the great kindness Thou hast shown unto us. Thou hast kept us safely from accident, danger, and disease. Thy spirit was ever present to warn, counsel, and cheer us in all our progress. From many evils, too, Thy providence has doubtless securely sheltered us, which we knew not of. We thank Thee for the food we have eaten, for the raiment in which we are clothed, for the home in which we dwell, and for those whose society makes our life dear and joyous.

Father, may it not be that the abundance of all Thy many mercies may render us unmindful of our indebtedness to Thee, but may it ever tend to bind Thee and us in a closer and sweeter intimacy. We have to acknowledge, O Lord, that notwithstanding all the aid Thou didst continually impart, we have not been, nor have we done, all that Thou hadst a right to expect. Pardon us, we entreat Thee; and may the errors and failures of the present urge us to greater faithfulness throughout the future.

What good we have tried to do we pray Thee to confirm and increase. What growth in grace we have reached quicken and augment. And wherein, Lord, we have done wrong, we plead that Thy strong arm would stay the advance of its evil, and so overrule it that it shall yet show forth Thy mercy and Thy power.

Enable us now, O Father, to retire to rest in communion with Thee. May our last meditations ere we sleep be full of pleasure, and such as will leave behind them stronger faith and holier love. If we have enemies, in

Thy kindness forgive them, and assist us so to live towards them that we shall change them into our firmest friends. Whatever Thou hast been pointing out to us as a duty may our vow here be accepted, that it shall be fulfilled for Thy sake. May Thy will in all things be our will, and may we ever so act that Thou shalt be satisfied and pleased with our service. Grant then, O Lord, that without a cloud intervening between Thee and us we shall close our eyes with Thy smile beaming upon us in Thine own reconciled love.

What we ask for ourselves, O God, we ask for all our kindred and connections. Wherever they are tonight let Thy rich blessing descend upon them. May all their best desires be gratified. Bestow upon them all that will be helpful to them in this world, and hopeful for the world to come. Grant, however, Thine especial favour to those of them who may be lying in sickness, or bowed down under a weight of sorrow, or struggling with the ills and hardships of life, or striving to overcome the assaults of temptation. O sustain them with Thy promised help and presence. Prosper every means used by them or others to bring to them health, happiness, relief, and victory. May all of us travel onward upon Thy path till every one appeareth before Thee in Zion.

Lord, in Thy kindness bless all whom we ought to remember at Thy throne. May each of us share in the joy of Christ our King, by constantly seeking to sacrifice our pleasures, that we may promote the wellbeing of others. Give us grace, O Lord, and love upon every occasion to exhibit the spirit of tenderness and love towards those Thou hast caused to dwell near us, and those who are dependent upon us. What we ask is for Christ our Saviour's sake. AMEN.

## No. 71.

O GOD, our graeious Father, Thou hast called us aside in the path of our pilgrimage to find in this day, as upon a quiet, green spot, rest from our cares and weariness, and refreshing strength in fellowship with Thee. We thank Thee for all that Thou hast given us to enjoy through the week which is elosed: may the same full favours follow us through that which is to come.

We plead, O Lord, that in Thine abundant mercy our past sins and offences may be freely forgiven, that our hearts may now be made pure and good, and that from henceforth our whole life and energy may be consecrated unto Thee. From day to day throughout this week may Thy Spirit in His wisdom and love order and arrange the course of our affairs and circumstances. May He open up our path and ever go before us, preparing for us whatever He sees we shall require from time to time as we pass onwards in our course; so that while each new period comes to an end we shall have new cause to praise and bless the hand which has so lovingly provided for us.

Grant that we may fall into no sin; and may we neither utter a word, nor stretch forth our hand to do anything, which would in the least degree bring sorrow or regret behind it. May it be a week spent in such holy, earnest, and faithful work as will leave our minds filled with sweet memories of what is behind, and bright hopes for all that lies beyond. Our good Father, may the services in which we shall be engaged in Thy house to-day prove pleasant and profitable. Let us visit Thee there, fully expecteing the kind gifts which Thou hast awaiting us. May we show ourselves unto Thee willing and joyous worshippers, and servants seeking to do good to every one with whom we meet.



Bless, O Lord, him who is to bring Thy message unto us and our brethren. In fulness of sympathy with Thee in Thy love for men, may he so speak that those who are cast down may be comforted, that those who are forsaken may find in Thee a present friend, that they whose minds are filled with doubts and fears may see Thee in Thine own light and gain Thy everlasting peace, and that those who are wayward and sinful may be arrested in their ruinous career and turned unto the Lord their God.

Gladden our hearts as we sing unto Thee of Thy goodness. Open our minds and give us to understand Thy sacred Word. Teach us to pray for things which it will be wise for Thee to bestow, and well for us to receive. And may the bonds which bind us all in Christian brotherhood become still firmer and sweeter by assembling ourselves together in Thy name. O our Father, let it not be that any one of Thy true worshippers, however humble or unworthy, shall leave Thine altar this day without bearing away with him some token of Thy mindfulness and of Thy tender interest in him. This is much for us to ask, but it is not more than what we know Thou art rich enough and anxious to bestow.

Grant, O God, we beseech Thee, that by means of the efforts of Thy Christian children much may be done before the record of the day is sealed for the furtherance of Thy truth through the whole world. Hasten that glorious time when neither sin nor selfishness shall reign amongst men, when wars shall cease, and when oppression, cruelty, and deceit shall come to an end—that time when every man shall find in Thee his own Father, and in his neighbour his own brother; when the peace, love, and joy of Jesus Christ shall fill, guide, and sway the affections of all mankind. All we ask is for our Saviour's sake. AMEN.



## No. 72.

O GOD, our loving Father, we bend our knees around the footstool of Thy throne, that we may return unto Thee our heartfelt thanks for all Thou hast given us to be glad in throughout the day. For the rest of body and mind, for the sweet intercourse we have enjoyed with one another, for what Thou didst provide for us in Thy holy house, and for what Thou hast enabled us to do, we feel how largely Thou hast augmented our debt of gratitude unto Thee. May all these, Thy blessings, O Lord, be still further blessed unto us in leading us for the future to rely more trustfully upon Thy friendship, to stir us up to more conscientious service, and to prove ourselves unto Thee children in whom Thou shalt find an increasing and everlasting delight.

Wherein, through these hours gone by, we have fallen short of our duty, or have done what we ought to have abstained from, we entreat Thee, for the sake of Him who died for us, that we may be fully pardoned, and that by His help we may be enabled to walk more worthy of Thy manifold tender mercies in the time which lies before us.

May Thy Word, O God, spoken to us where we have been be as seed fallen not upon hardened soil, but in honest and willing hearts, where it shall swell, bud, blossom, and bring forth fragrant and bounteous fruit for Thee to all eternity. May it render us more self-denying and kindly to one another in our family, more determined to attain to a closer image of Him we worship, more holy and useful in our lives, and more eager and hopeful for the heavenly treasures Thou hast in store for those who love and serve Thee.

Bestow upon us, we now pray Thee, a sweet and refreshing sleep; watch over us through the silent night

that nothing of an evil nature may befall us; and may we be raised again in health and vigour, fit for all Thou hast prepared for us in the coming day. Let Thy fatherly blessing abide also upon all our friends, our kinsfolk, and those whom Thou hast taught us to love. May these lie down to-night in peace under the shadow of Thy wing, and when they awake may it be in the fulness of the affection of an ever-present Saviour.

We plead, Lord, for those who are now passing through sickness, sorrow, or trial. May they be sustained and cheered with the promises of Thy Holy Spirit, and may they find His grace sufficient for all they require. May the wants of the poor be supplied by Him who has hitherto shown that He careth for them. Comfort the souls of those who are about to enter the gates of death. And, O Lord, strengthen for good this night every one who has vowed to Thee to pursue with more fervent effort the pathway of virtue and holiness. Let Thy kingdom be enlarged and established continually, until all tribes and peoples of the earth are joined in righteousness and love within its borders.

Our gracious Father, may all of us in this house, and all associated with us in Thy service, by this day's means be confirmed in a dearer and fuller intimacy. May the good we have carried away from Thy presence form between us a still sweeter fellowship. Purify our bosoms from everything which would mar our harmony or disturb our mutual joy. Enable us to pillow our head under Thy watchful eye at peace with Thee, at peace with our own heart, and at peace with all the world.

To Thee, the Giver of all good, shall we constantly seek henceforth to offer the praise and service of a warmer love through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

## Do. 73.

WE bless Thee, O Lord, that Thou hast refreshed us with sleep during the hours of the past night. Thou never slumberest and never sleepest. Thine infinite being admits of and needs no such exhilarating influence. But frail and finite as we are, and shut up, too, within these walls of flesh—our spirits being mysteriously allied to our perishable frames—we require the restoration of sleep. We thank Thee for it; and also bless Thee because Thou hast opened our eyes upon circumstances of comparative comfort and happiness. How many of our fellow-creatures and fellow-countrymen are enduring the hardships of penury and want, while we have plenty and peace. How many are in pain through disease and growing infirmities, while we enjoy health and strength. From some even the light of reason has been taken away, which we, through Thy mercy, possess. We thank Thee also that Thou hast placed us in families, and that we begin this day in the midst of relatives and friends—finding life's troublous path cheered by their society and companionship.

And on the very threshold of our supplications, grateful to Thee for these blessings received, we would remember at the throne of grace those who are not so highly favoured as we have been. Graciously regard the poor and penniless; and if any of them have brought privation and want on themselves by their own intemperance and vice, show them their folly and their sin. Have mercy upon the sons and daughters of affliction—upon those who are not able to leave this morning the beds upon which they have tossed in weariness and pain throughout the night. Help them to lift up their hearts to Thee, O Emmanuel! and utter the prayer which Thou didst pre-

sent in Gethsemane, "Not our will but Thine be done," with a meekness and resignation somewhat resembling Thine own. Bless to the insane and imbecile the remedial treatment to which they are subjected ; and we rejoice to know that in a better world the clouds and darkness that encompass them here shall be for ever removed.

Bless those of this household, O Lord, whom duty calls to go forth this day to labour. Thou, blessed Emmanuel, didst sanctify all toil in Nazareth's workshop. Thy Father had ever been working, and Thou, too, didst work. Save us from the unworthy idea that any useful calling can be other than honourable. Enable us, then, whether we work more directly with the hand or the head, to labour so conscientiously and diligently that we may gain Thine approbation and smile. Keep us from mere eye-service as men-pleasers. We know that many wait for our halting, and eagerly scan and scrutinise our conduct to see whether or not our walk and conversation shall be consistent with our Christian profession. Oh help us to be so blameless in our lives that men, seeing our good works, shall glorify our Father who is in heaven.

We pray for those commercial establishments with which we may be connected, whether as masters or servants. May we be enabled to discharge the duties that devolve upon us in our respective relations of life, as ever seeing Thee who art invisible—masters with uniform kindness of manner, and servants with uniform fidelity. In times of prosperity make us humble, and in times of adversity patient, not only strengthened by the love of one another, but chiefly by Thy love shed abroad in our hearts.

We cannot go forth, O our Father, to the duties of this day without once more beseeching Thy gracious aid. Also bless those who abide at home, for Christ's sake. AMEN.



## No. 74.

WE bless Thee, O Lord, because Thou hast brought us safely throughout the hours of another day. We thank Thee for the opportunity of labour and the strength which Thou hast granted us for life's duties. Although oppressive toil be the curse that lies upon the world for the sin of man, we nevertheless bless Thee for labour itself and the pleasure which accompanies it. If we have this day been enabled to discharge our various duties with some satisfaction to ourselves, to our neighbours, and, above all, to Thee, we thank Thee for that privilege. Whether our sphere of industry has lain within doors or without, oh grant that men, having seen our good works, may be led, as we prayed this morning, to glorify Thee.

But, alas, in many things we all offend; and we beseech Thee graciously to forgive us wherein we have erred and come short. Although we have frequently resolved to rise up to a higher platform of sanctification, we must needs confess with shame and confusion of face, like one of old, "That which we do we allow not; for that we would that do we not; but that we hate that do we." If we have this day failed to manifest toward others the love and charity which Thou hast manifested towards us; if we have allowed irregularity of temper to take the place of that holy calm which should ever characterise the Christian; if we have been slothful and not diligent in business; if we have been selfish when we should have been benevolent, niggardly when we should have been liberal, intemperate when we should have been sober, and especially if we have nourished and cherished impure thoughts within the domain of our hearts, O Lord, we beseech Thee graciously forgive us for the sake of Him who died for us, and who still pleads for us, at Thy

right hand. We rejoice to recollect that not only has the sun been shining this day and our world been circling round it, bearing the millions of mankind on its bosom, but that away in the spirit world the Divine Lamb has been interceding for us before the heavenly mercy-seat. Oh for the sake of His ever-availing sacrifice and advocacy, wash away all our sins, and so dwell in our hearts by Thy Holy Spirit, that we may obtain victory over sin in the time that is coming and be more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

Bless the younger members of this household, if, indeed, Thou hast conferred upon us the happy yet onerous heritage of children. Help those of them who are engaged at school in the daily preparation and recital of the tasks allotted to them. We thank Thee for the blessing of secular education; but we ask Thee that our homes may also be nurseries for Thee, and that all who dwell in them may dwell in God and live hourly in His fear.

We cannot forget that the sun which has this day declined in the west has set upon millions of our fellow-creatures who bear like us their daily share of life's toils and trials. Knowing by our own experience what a serious thing life is, we sympathise with them in all their burdens and adversities, and pray for them at the throne of heavenly grace.

Especially would we remember the masses who are living under heathen darkness, who form, indeed, the great majority of this world's inhabitants. Pity the dark places of the world which are full of the habitations of cruelty. We bless Thee for the liberty which we enjoy in our favoured land, and pray that our sleep to-night may be unbroken and refreshing in this our quiet home, for Jesus' sake. AMEN.

## No. 75.

AGAIN, O Lord, Thou hast opened our eyes to the light of a new day, and we desire to thank Thee for Thy kind care over us throughout the watches of the past night, and to commend ourselves to Thee and ask Thy gracious assistance during the wakeful hours upon which we have entered. While we are asleep it is chiefly the body that needs to be guarded, but while we are awake, the soul.

We desire then, first of all, O our Father, to remember and realise afresh the claims which Thou hast upon us as our Creator and Redeemer. Thou hast said in Thy holy word that we are saved "if we keep in memory what has been preached unto us." Our minds have been for some hours a comparative blank while wrapped in the oblivion of sleep; and on waking we would recall to our recollection not only the claims which our country, our families, and our commercial relationships have upon us, but above all Thy paramount claims, O Thou Most High, who hast placed us in this beautiful world; in whom we live, move, and have our being; and who hast redeemed us by the most precious blood of Thine own dear Son. Whether we eat, or drink, or whatsoever we do this day, may we do all to His glory.

Even as He in His Nazareth home went forth to the duties of each day, recollecting that the eye of His Father ever was upon Him, so would we remember that there rests eagerly upon us not the eye of a harsh inspector, but the eye of Love. Doubtless this day the tempter will come to us, as he came in the wilderness to our great Head and Exemplar. Bless Thy word now read by us, and grant that, as Emmanuel foiled the enemy of souls by scriptural weapons, we may in like manner triumph.

We have sins, alas! which do most easily beset us—sins to which we are specially prone from former habits, constitutional tendencies, or evil surroundings. Whether these may lie in the direction of pride, covetousness, indolence, intemperance, or unchastity, do Thou, O Lord, this day defend us. May we set the Lord ever before us. May the very mind that was in Christ be found in us. May we take unto us the whole armour of God, and having done all may we stand. Leave us not to wrestle with the tempter in our own strength, but do Thou, O Divine Spirit, so possess our hearts that it shall be no longer we that fight, but Thyself in us and through us. Oh sanctify us wholly, and may our whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful art Thou who hast called us who also wilt do it.

Alas! O Lord, we are frequently tempted not only to the commission of sin, but to doubt and unbelief. He who seduced our first parents is continually striving to undermine our faith in Thy loving care, and even in Thy very existence. We bless Thee because the Holy Spirit is mightier than that evil spirit. May He graciously maintain our faith this day. May He witness unto our spirits not only that God is, and that God loves us, but that we are the children of God. May His blessed indwelling sustain our faith as well as our holiness.

We thank Thee, O Lord, for what Thou hast told us in Thy word of a heavenly world. May we all be heirs and heiresses of its peaceful mansions. Having this hope in us may we purify ourselves, as heaven and the God of heaven are pure. May our entire demeanour to-day be worthy of that heavenly home, for Jesus Christ's sake. AMEN.



## No. 76.

WE thank Thee, O Lord, because Thou hast encouraged us to come with boldness to the throne of grace to obtain mercy and grace to help in time of need. We have no reason for boldness in ourselves. Shame and confusion of face belong unto us on account of our sinfulness and unworthiness; but the ground of our confidence lies in the all-availing mediation and intercession of the Lord Jesus Christ, who has passed into the heavens—our High Priest, who can be touched with the feeling of our infirmities. We come to Thee, not in the boldness of arrogance, but in the boldness of faith in Jesus.

We feel, O Lord, that we need mercy; for we have all like sheep gone astray, and have turned every one to his own way. Our consciences condemn us, and Thou art greater than our hearts and knowest all things. We come with the prayer of the publican of Thine own parable upon our lips, "God be merciful to us sinners," and the cry of the penitent thief who hung at Thy side, "Lord, remember us when Thou comest into Thy kingdom." We say also, in words which Thou hast taught, "Father, we have sinned against heaven and in Thy sight, and we are no more worthy to be called Thy children."

We rejoice that we have as an advocate, Jesus Christ the righteous, who is also the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. It was not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sin; but we rejoice to know that the blood of Christ, which these typified, cleanseth from all sin, and that an earnest and believing cry for mercy, uttered in His name, is never disregarded at the throne of grace.

But we come to the merey-seat, O our Father, seeking also grace to help in time of need. Every morning and every evening, yea every hour, is a time of need. O make Thy grace sufficient for us in all our necessities. In the time of affliction, from whatever cause, make us patient, seeking the sanctified improvement of our distresses. Thou didst say, O Emmanuel, in the days of thy flesh, "Blessed are they that mourn; for they shall be comforted." Fulfil that beatitude in our happy experience. Although we may be called upon to lose children, parents, partners, brothers, sisters, or other dear friends, by death or estrangement, oh make Thy comforting and strengthening grace sufficient for us. When called upon to mourn the loss of temporal things, oh make the unsearchable riches of Christ more than ever real in our estimation. When health of body fails, may the inward man be renewed day by day. Oh make Thy grace ever sufficient for us. In time of prosperity, keep us humble; for the fashion of this world passeth away. Give us also dying grace; for the time of dying is a time of need. Help us to shout, "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?"

· O Lord, Thou hast instructed us in Thy word, not only to pray for ourselves but "for all men; for kings and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. We beseech Thee, O Lord, to bless our Sovereign, Queen Victoria. Establish her reign in righteousness. Take her children, and make them truly noble princes and princesses. May all her senators, Solomon-like, seek to obtain heavenly wisdom. And now graciously bless also all the inmates of this house this night, for Jesus Christ's sake." AMEN.

## No. 77.

O LORD, who wast pleased in the days of Thy flesh to leave a model of prayer for the instruction of Thy followers, we desire this morning to make its successive petitions the basis of our own.

Gladly do we address Thee, O Father of Light, as our Father which art in heaven. We have had fathers of our flesh, and we gave them reverence; but in Thee all that was imperfect in them is wanting, and all that was good is infinitely magnified. Of a truth we have been ungrateful and unmindful children, wandering each in his own way, but Thou art nevertheless our Father, yearning over us throughout all our wanderings, and clasping us to Thy beating bosom of love on our return. Thou art in heaven, but Thou art also on earth. The whole universe is full of Thee, but the earth is specially filled with Thy glory, because it has been the scene of the incarnation and of the redemption work of Thy Son.

Hallowed be Thy name. The blessed angels, as they veil their faces with their wings, cry to one another, Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Hosts. At first man thus glorified Thee also; but, alas, he ceased to adore and magnify Thy name. May his allegiance be brought back to Thee. May he be led to pay unto Thee the homage that is Thy due. Have mercy upon blasphemers who take Thy name in vain. May they learn to worship Thee in spirit and in truth. Hallowed everywhere be Thy name.

Thy kingdom come. Thy physical sceptre is swayed everywhere. Nature universally obeys Thee. The rivers flow, the winds blow, the planets roll as Thou desirest; but, alas, the laws of Thy moral government have not been everywhere obeyed. Man has transgressed them.



Man has lifted up against Thee the arm of puny rebellion. Oh may Thy kingdom come again. May paradise be restored. We bless Thee for setting up Thy kingdom so marvellously in the Christian dispensation—the kingdom of the Lamb—the kingdom of the Stone hewn out of the mountain without hands. We rejoice in the rapid advancement of that blessed kingdom which is righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Ghost. May it prevail more and more. May it come in each heart in this house, in this neighbourhood, in this country, in this world. May all monarchies and republics be leavened and purified by its elevating and sanctifying influences. Thy kingdom come.

Thy will be done on earth as it is done in heaven. Thy will is the best will. It brings everywhere happiness and peace. Man's great error consists in this, that he has divorced his will from Thine and sought happiness in his own—a broken cistern that can hold no water. But, oh, by Thy gracious Spirit bring us back to the love of Thy precepts—to do Thy will as it is done in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and make us ever contented with such things as we have.

Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and oh may we ever forgive those who trespass against us, as generously and abundantly as Thou dost remit all our trespasses.

And lead us not into temptation that would be too powerful for us, or into trial which we could not endure; but deliver us eternally from evil and the Evil one.  
AMEN.



## No. 78.

OUR Father in heaven, once more have the shades of evening gathered around us, and we find ourselves again invoking Thy blessing before retiring to rest. "Man goeth forth unto his work and to his labour until the evening." We thank Thee that we have this day been permitted to labour usefully and honourably, and that we now have the prospect of enjoying needful repose.

We feel deeply for many of our fellow-countrymen who forget their own mercies and who turn their hours of evening leisure into seasons of drunken revelry. We thank Thee for having inclined us differently; but we deplore the extent of surrounding intemperance, and that on account of this national vice Thy name is blasphemed among the heathen, and the finger of scorn pointed towards our professedly religious and Christian land. Oh lead the ministers of the gospel and all men of influence in church and state to see that the injurious beverages which are manufactured by man's subtle device do not deserve to be called the good creatures of God or to be sold and used as such. Oh save any member of this household from the blighted career of the drunkard who may be in danger of treading so sad a path, as well as any of our dear friends in similar peril; for, Lord, there is hardly a house in this land but has its dead or its disgraced on account of this prolific source of evil.

We thank Thee above all, O our heavenly Father, that Thou hast inclined our hearts to love and serve Thee. We look back upon all the way by which Thou hast led us, and bless Thee for the varied agencies by which the Spirit convinced us of sin and brought us to Christ, so that now we live not to ourselves, but to Him who died for us and rose again. We pray for an abundant outpouring of

the Holy Spirit on this neighbourhood and the consequent revival of pure and undefiled religion. We hear of showers of blessing descending elsewhere, and we earnestly pray that our fleece may not remain dry. May we be gladdened soon to hear of sinners all around us flocking to the Saviour like doves to their windows.

To this end we beseech Thee to bless the Church of Christ to which we belong. We thank Thee for such a privilege; for many who have left their native land and gone to far distant colonies bitterly feel the want of those ordinances which they have now learned to appreciate, when deprived of them. We thank Thee for the many precious friendships which we have formed in connection with Thy house. We bless Thee for the Christian minister whom Thou hast placed over us, and for the many seasons of refreshing which we have enjoyed while sitting at his feet. We thank Thee for the words of grace and wisdom which fell last Lord's day from his lips, and for the unction from on high with which they seemed to be accompanied. Bless him in his quiet study when he looks forward prayerfully to the approaching Sabbath. Guide him in the selection of his topics of address, and aid him in his thoughtful preparations. Support him under all the trials and difficulties of his sacred calling, and grant that we may ever hold up his hands by earnest prayer, zealous co-operation, and consistent life. May all the office-bearers of our church be true men of God and valuable helpers of our pastor.

We desire, O Lord, to remember earnestly at this time all wanderers from home influence and home comforts. Have mercy upon prodigal children who are in a double sense in a far country. And bless us in our peaceful home to-night with needed rest, for Jesus' sake. AMEN.

## No. 79.

O GOD, who art the Life and Light of the children of men, we praise Thee that Thou hast spared us to begin another day. We are monuments of Thy mercy, and would seek to live unto Thy praise. It is not in man that walketh to direct his steps. Hear us, therefore, O God, as we humble ourselves before Thee, and plead that Thou wouldst guide us. Keep us this day without sin. May the thought of Thy nearness to us restrain us from evil, and constrain us to all good. And may the assurance of Thy love make us trustful towards Thee. Whilst we are engaged in the duties that lie before us, suffer us not to forget Thee; but whatsoever things we do, may we do all to Thy glory. May we hold sweet fellowship with Thy blessed Spirit this day. May He take of the things of Jesus, and show them unto us, that the life we live may be a life of faith in the Son of God, Who loved us and gave Himself for us. And may the grace of God, that passeth all understanding, keep our hearts and minds, through Christ Jesus.

We remember before Thee our weakness, and pray Thee to deliver us from it. Thou knowest the incompleteness of our life. We have stumbled as on a rough and broken path. We have blundered till dismay covered us as a garment. Our friends could not understand us, and we were a mystery unto ourselves. Help us, O God, that the failures of the past may but drive us nearer to Thyself and to the grace Thou givest to them that wait with patience on Thee. Undertake for us, O God, we beseech Thee, undertake for us. O blessed Christ of God, we remember that the troubled were brought to Thee, and that Thou didst heal them, that Thou didst wipe away the tears of sorrow, and didst give relief to those whom

no other could help. And Thou art not less mighty, or less loving, or less ready to bless than Thou wert in the days of Thy mortal flesh. Look therefore on us, we beseech Thee. Be our Counsellor, our Comforter, our Companion, and keep us close to Thee.

Give unto us opportunities of doing good this day, and help us that we may be ready to avail ourselves of them. Lord, make us useful. Own us to cheer the sorrowing, and enlighten the ignorant, and relieve the needy. And graciously bless all who shall seek to promote Thy glory this day. Help Thy people of every name, and may all Thy servants be cheered in seeing that their labours, however humble, are not in vain. Revive Thy work in all the churches and throughout the land, that in the winning of many to His cross Thy Son may see of the travail of His soul, and be satisfied. Against the enemy that cometh in like a flood lift Thou up a standard. Give peace in our time, O Lord, and bring to nought the evil desires of men.

Unto Thy Fatherly sympathy we commend all that are afflicted. Be near to aid them. Relieve such as are oppressed, and show Thyself strong on behalf of them that are upright. And now we commend ourselves again unto Thee, O Thou that hast redeemed us. Remember us as we go hence to our several engagements. In our pleasures may we see Thee, and in our troubles may we be helped by Thy might. Guard us in every time of trouble that no evil may befall us. We are weak, but Thou art strong. We put our trembling hands as into Thine. We would be followers of Thee. Draw us and we shall run after Thee. Our hope is in Thee. Keep our feet from falling, our eyes from tears, and our souls from death, and unto Thy name be the praise, world without end. AMEN.



## No. 80.

**B**LESSED Lord, we rejoice that Thou hast revealed Thyself as the hearer and answerer of prayer, and hast declared Thy readiness to accept the praises of Thy children. Give us the continual desire of fellowship with Thee. May Thy multiplied blessings be followed by our multiplied thanksgivings, and manifold temptations be prepared for by frequent approaches to Thy throne of grace, whence Thou dispensest that aid through which sin is overcome and good is done. Help us to lean on Thee, seeing there is none other that fighteth for us but only Thou, O God. In the storm be Thou our Covert, and in the hour of danger our Defence; then though an host encamp against us we shall not be afraid. Be pleased, O Lord, to companion with us throughout the journey of our life. Like Thy servant of old, we would endure, as seeing Thee who art invisible. And knowing that Thou art near, may nothing move us from righteousness, or induce us lingeringly to look on vanity. Bestow on us the spirit of submission, that not with the lips only, as we are too prone to do, but with the heart, we may say, "Thy will be done." If we must sorrow, forbid, O Lord, that we should murmur. If pain come upon us, may the thoughts of Thy wisdom and love prevent us repining against Thee. If dark and sore trials be appointed unto us, may we meekly endure such, knowing that through them Thou seekest our highest good in this life and in the better life that is to come. And that we may be fitted for all that lies before us, and helped to spend our life unto Thy praise, grant unto us Thy Holy Spirit. Whatsoever Thou mayest deny, withhold not Thy Spirit. Whatsoever Thou recallest of that which is Thine, take not, we beseech Thee, Thy Holy Spirit from

us. May He come upon us in larger measure, and dwell in us in richer fulness. Alas! that so often we have grieved Thy gentle Spirit, and even quenched His gracious work. Forgive us, O God, and leave us not to ourselves. Work in our hearts the good work that is unto righteousness and everlasting life, and through Thy Spirit make us like unto Thy Son. We would grow in knowledge and gentleness, and zeal and love. Destroy in us the readiness to forget Thee, and to wander into evil. Destroy in us all self-confidence, and teach us our abiding need of Thy Spirit to enlighten our darkness and enrich our poverty, and to guide us in the ways of righteousness.

Be pleased, O God, to follow with Thy blessing all efforts that have been put forth this day to advance the kingdom of Thy Son. Thou takest the weak things of the world to confound the things that are mighty. Bless therefore the humble efforts of Thy servants, and let the fruit of their labours appear unto the glory of Thy name. Help, Lord, against the ungodly, and bring to nought the devices of them that plot evil. Destroy the intemperance and other sins that abound, and flood our land with peace. Let Thy kingdom come, and Thy will be done.

We pray for our loved ones, that Thou mayest supply all their needs out of Thine abundance in Christ. Make them glad with the joy of Thy salvation, and lead them in the paths of pleasantness and peace. Be with all that are in peril on land and sea. Hear the cry of the distressed, and succour them that are ready to perish. We leave ourselves and all that concerns us in Thy care. Bless us, even as a father blesseth his children, and help us to give unto Thee all praise and glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Redeemer. AMEN.

## No. 81.

**O** LORD our God and heavenly Father, Thou hast said unto us, Seek ye my face, and Thy face, Lord, would we seek. Thou art our light and our salvation, the help of our countenance, our only refuge and strength, and we bless Thee that we are once more permitted to approach the throne of Thy heavenly grace, where we may find mercy to pardon and grace to help in this our time of need. We thank Thee for the life Thou hast preserved to us during another night, and for the health of body and soundness of mind in which we appear before Thee. It is in Thee we live and move and have our being.

And now, Lord, that Thou hast given us to see the dawn of a new day, we desire to begin the day and go through its duties with Thee and for Thee. We desire to feel that all that we are and all we have is Thine. We would feel that it is not life to live if life is not devoted to Thy glory. We would, therefore, commit our ways unto Thee, beseeching Thee to direct our steps. Protect us, we pray Thee, from the dangers to which we may be exposed both of the body and the soul. And that we may not fall into those temptations to which we are naturally prone, help us to keep our hearts with all diligence, and to walk humbly with Thee, our God, for in Thee only is our safety. And should we in the course of the day find ourselves amid unexpected trials and difficulties, may we not be dismayed as if some strange thing had happened unto us, but rather rejoice in the assurance that no temptation can befall us but such as is common to man, and that in every temptation Thou art present with us to open up a way of escape that we may be able to bear it. We thank Thee that Thy grace is sufficient for

us. May we more and more make full proof of it in our times of need.

Our Father, help us this day to walk worthy of the high calling of Thy children. While we are in the world may we not be of it, but evermore striving to know what Thy will towards us is, may we be ever about our Father's business, doing with willing and glad hearts the work Thou hast assigned us, serving our generation according to the will of God. While we are diligent in business may we at the same time be fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. Towards all our fellow-men may we be upright and forbearing, just and merciful. To the weak, the suffering, and oppressed, may we show the spirit of sympathy and extend the hand of help as far as we have opportunity. May we bear one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. Grant us wisdom and grace to do good to all men as we have opportunity, and especially unto those who are of the household of faith. Forbid that we should be stumbling-blocks in the path of any, but enable us so to walk towards all that we shall be helpers to them in their struggles, and so win them to Thyself.

Graciously remember and bless our dear friends according to their several needs. Bless them in all their lawful avocations, and prosper the work of their hands. But, above all, we pray that they may prosper in spirit, and that their several paths through life may be those of the just, which, like the shining light, shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

And now, Lord, we would go forth to the labour of the day in Thy name and in Thy strength. Lift upon us the light of Thy countenance, and open up our way before us. Forgive our sins and hear our prayers, for Jesus's sake. AMEN.



## No. 82.

**A**LMIGHTY and most merciful Father, we thank Thee that at the close of another day Thou hast gathered us around our family altar that we might worship Thy name and have communication with Thee as Thy children. We feel that we are utterly unworthy to approach Thy presence, and to address Thee as our Father. We have sinned against Thee grievously, and are no more worthy to be called Thy children. Following the devices and desires of our own hearts, we have left undone those things that we ought to have done, and we have done those things that we ought not to have done, and there is no health in us. But Thou, O Lord, art good and ready to forgive, and plenteous in mercy to all that call upon Thee.

And O our heavenly Father, we bless Thee for Jesus in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. Truly, herein is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Enable us, O God, to dwell more and more in this love of Thine, that it may possess our hearts, transform our natures, leading us to hate and turn from the sins on account of which the Son of God died, and constraining us to live not unto ourselves but unto Him who hath bought us with His precious blood, that He might redeem us and present us unto God as His reconciled children.

We thank Thee, O God, for Thy protection and care over us during the day. In the midst of life we are often, unknown to ourselves, on the brink of death. Our life is but a vapour, and is easily dissolved by the breath of any passing change; but Thou hast defended us against all danger; thou hast redeemed our lives from destruction, and we are still in the land of the living the living

to praise Thee. And we acknowledge, heavenly Father, Thy mercy in guarding us against the still more subtle dangers to which we are exposed through the temptations of the evil one; for if, notwithstanding Thy restraining grace, we have so often stumbled and fallen, hadst Thou not been about our path and kept Thy hand upon us, we would have followed the seductions of the tempter to our shame and ruin.

Bless, we pray Thee, the labours in which we have severally been engaged, and overrule the various events and experiences of daily life that we may profit by them and learn to serve Thee more wisely and faithfully in the time to come. Enable us to see the sacredness of every part of life and to acknowledge Thy hand in all its affairs, believing that all things work together for good to those that love Thee. In all our getting, grant, O Lord, that we may get the wisdom which is from above, and which is more to be desired than gold which perisheth.

And while we pray for ourselves, we would not be unmindful of others, for Thou who art the Father of all hast taught us to pray for all. Be very merciful to the afflicted. May they find in Thee a refuge and present help in the time of their trouble. Be specially near to those who are drawing near to death. May they be able to say, We fear no evil, for Thou art with us. Have mercy on the careless and those who know Thee not, and bless every effort put forth, whether by word or deed, to make known to them the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to reconcile their hearts to Thyself.

And now, Father, to Thy gracious care and protection we commend us and ours for the night. Defend us from all evil, and in Thine infinite mercy receive us to Thyself at last, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

## No. 83.

**O** LORD, be merciful unto us and bless us ; make Thy face to shine upon us, and be gracious unto us ; lift the light of Thy countenance upon us and give us peace. While we draw near unto Thee mercifully draw near unto us, and as Thou hast refreshed our bodies with the rest of the night, so do Thou refresh our souls from Thy presence that we may go forth strengthened by Thy Spirit to do Thy will in the work appointed us.

We thank Thee, heavenly Father, for the gift of life and all life's endowments. We thank Thee for the earth on which we live. It is the work of Thy hands and is full of the riches of Thy wisdom and goodness. We thank Thee for the infinite varieties of scene and incident and experience which Thou hast given to redeem our existence from monotony and weariness, and we thank Thee also for that rest amid ceaseless change which we have in Thyself, who rulest in all and through all and over all. We bless Thee for our homes, and for the love and sympathy and mutual help and care which they call forth, and which bear witness of the love and help of our Father in heaven. We thank Thee for the disappointments, the trials and sorrows of the past, as well as for the days of sunshine and gladness, for in the one as in the other Thy thoughts towards us have been proved to be thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give us an expected end. And thanks be unto Thee, O God, for Thy holy word, and for Jesus, Thy dear Son, whom Thou didst not spare, but freely gave Him up to the death for us all, that we, through faith in His name, might be saved. Oh what shall we render unto the Lord for all His gracious benefits unto us ?

Heavenly Father, go with us to our appointed labour.

Grant unto us that strength and wisdom and patience which Thou knowest we may need. May we labour cheerfully that we may provide things honest in the sight of all men, being burdensome to none, but able rather to help those who are in want. May we follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord. May we be ever willing to be among our fellows what our Divine Master was among His disciples, as one that serveth rather than as one who is served; and may we covet always the higher blessedness of giving more than that of receiving; and whatsoever we do, whether in word or deed, may we do it as unto the Lord and not unto men.

And, our heavenly Father, while we are in the world, enable us to keep ourselves unspotted from its evils. Help us to look more and more on the things that are unseen and eternal, to walk by faith and not by sight. Enable us to guard against the first springs of evil thoughts and desires that would lead us astray from Thee. That we may bear fruit to Thy glory, may we abide in Christ, and may He abide in us, for without Him we can do nothing.

We pray, O Lord, for all who love the Lord Jesus in sincerity and truth. We pray for them, that more and more they may be one with Christ even as He is one with Thee, and that the world may believe in Thy name. Oh that all men knew Thee and Thy love to them in Jesus! Then would They trust in Thy name and find a refuge from their miseries and their sins in Thy infinite mercy. Hasten, O Lord, the coming of that promised time when all shall know Thee, from the least even unto the greatest, and when none shall need to say to his neighbour, Know the Lord. And what we ask is in the name of Jesus. AMEN.



## No. 84.

O GOD, our heavenly Father, we thank Thee for the ordinance of prayer. Thou art not only the hearer and answerer of prayer, but the inspirer of it as well. It is Thy gracious Spirit that draws us to the throne of grace, and that teaches us to pray. Thou hast made us to seek after Thee, and by every want of our hearts and lives Thou art saying unto us, Seek ye my face. Lord, to whom can we go but unto Thee? And we bless Thee that through Jesus we have received the spirit of adoption that enables us to come unto Thee in the confidence of children unto a father. We have indeed sinned grievously against Thee, and were we only to consult our own hearts we would not dare to approach Thy throne. But as far as the heavens are above the earth, so far are Thy thoughts above our thoughts, and Thy ways above our ways. Thou art ready to forgive. Yea, Thou hast, by the sacrifice of Thy dear Son, put away our sin, and we behold Thee in Him reconciling the world unto Thyself by not imputing unto men their trespasses. Therefore it is that we are emboldened to come to Thee, though self-condemned, for we come in the name of Jesus, and it is for His sake that we beseech Thee to hear our cry.

Increase our faith, O heavenly Father, in the value and in the power of prayer. Thou hast said, Ask and ye shall receive, seek and ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you. And hast Thou promised and wilt Thou not perform? If Thou hast already bestowed on us the greatest gift in the surrender of Thy dear Son. wilt Thou not give unto us all other and lesser things that we may need? Oh wherefore should we doubt? We are never straightened in Thee. Thou art waiting to be inquired of to do for us the things Thou hast promised.

Enable us, O Lord, to grow in every Christian grace and virtue, to adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things, to work with Thee as well as to wait for Thee, to run in the way of Thy commandments as well as to rest patiently in Thy will, to be ever adding to our faith virtue and knowledge and temperance and patience and godliness and brotherly kindness and charity, that these things being in us and abounding we may neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Forbid that it should ever be true of us that having escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of Christ, we should be again entangled therein, and overcome, our latter end being worse than the first; but may we work out our own salvation with fear and trembling, knowing that it is God who is working in us.

Let Thy blessing, heavenly Father, abide upon our dwelling. Give unto us that help which we need for all the duties and trials of life. Forgive our unfaithfulness, and sanctify to our correction and growth in grace the various experiences of the week now closed. If it be Thy will, spare us to behold the light of another Sabbath, and to join once more in the public worship of Thy great name. Bless all who are to be specially engaged in Thy work to-morrow. Give them the preparation of the heart. Fill them with Thy Spirit; and may the word preached bring light and life to all who hear it; and may the work of Thy Church universal to-morrow bring nearer the coming of that happy time when Thy will shall be done on earth even as it is done in heaven. And what we ask is in the name of Jesus. AMEN.

## No. 85.

O LORD, our God and heavenly Father, we desire to approach Thy sacred presence in deepest reverence and humility. We confess our entire dependence upon Thee for every blessing, both for the body and the soul. All our springs are in Thee—the Father of lights from whom cometh down every good and perfect gift; and we would anew offer unto Thee our morning sacrifice in earnest prayer and thankful praise.

We bless Thee for the return of Thy sacred day of rest. While we would not forget that all days are Thine, and that we owe to Thee the supreme homage of our hearts and the undivided service of our lives at all times and in all places, we would remember that Thou hast set apart the Sabbath as a day of rest from all secular toil, and of special communion with Thyself and with Thy children in the public worship of Thy great name. Let, then, we beseech Thee, the rest of the Sabbath be ours. May there not only be peace in our dwellings, but may the peace of Jesus reign in our hearts, and may we have a gracious foretaste of that rest and perfect fellowship and service which remain to the people of God in the sanctuary above.

Go with us, we pray Thee, to the house of prayer. There we would wait upon Thee. As the eyes of a servant look unto the hand of his master, and as the eyes of a maiden unto her mistress, so our eyes would wait upon the Lord our God. Fulfil Thy promise to be with us, and so manifest Thyself amongst us that like Jacob at Bethel, we shall be constrained to exclaim, “Surely the Lord is in this place!” Grant, O Lord, that Thy richest blessing may abide on Thy servant who is to minister to us in holy things. May freedom of utterance be given to

him, that he may open his mouth boldly to make known unto us the mystery of the gospel. And may our one desire in listening to Thy truth be to hear what God the Lord hath to say to us, that we may be able, more and more perfectly, to do His holy will. And, O Lord, let there be a word in season for all. Let none be sent empty away. May those who know and love Thy name have their knowledge enlarged, their faith strengthened, and their love and zeal in thy service increased. May those who do not know Thee have the eyes of their understanding opened to behold Thee as Thou art in Jesus—a just God and a Saviour, ready to forgive, and plenteous in mercy to all that call upon Thee. Draw the hearts of the young to Thyself, and while they are in the world, keep them from its abounding evils. Strengthen the weak, lift up the fallen, resolve the doubts of the perplexed by the light of Thy gracious countenance. May Thy grace be seen and felt to be sufficient for all. Be very merciful to the afflicted and distressed, and to those of them who are restrained from the privileges of Thy house, be Thyself a sanctuary—their refuge and present help.

And these blessings, O Lord, that we ask for ourselves we ask for all. We pray for Thy church universal. We pray that the world may know Thee, and that the mind and spirit of Christ may be so manifest in Thy followers of every name that the world shall more and more see and feel the glorious power of the Son of God.

And now, Lord, we beseech Thee to be with us. Sanctify and fit us for Thy worship this day. Forgive all our sins, and receive our offerings in the name of Christ. AMEN.



## No. 86.

OUR heavenly Father, at the close of another day of the Son of Man, we lift our hearts to Thee. We approach Thee in the name of Him whom Thou hearest always, for like the publican we feel that we are unworthy so much as to lift our eyes to Thy throne. Our own hearts condemn us, but we bless Thee that in Christ Jesus there is no condemnation, and that He is able to save to the uttermost all that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them.

We thank Thee for all the manifestations of Thyself Thou hast given us, whereby we may know something of Thy nature and perfections, and the relations in which we stand to Thee. The heavens declare Thy glory, and among the children of men Thou hast not left Thyself without a witness, in that Thou doest good unto all, giving us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with joy and gladness. But we specially thank Thee for the clearer and fuller revelation of Thy holy word, and for Jesus the living Word, who became flesh and dwelt among us, that we might behold his glory, as the glory of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift. May we ever count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus our Lord, by whom the world is crucified unto us, and we unto the world; and may we ever judge that if one died for all, it was that they who live should henceforth live not unto themselves, but unto Him who died for them and rose again.

We thank Thee for the privilege that has once more been granted us of joining in the services of Thy house.

May they leave an abiding impression for good on our hearts. Give Thy blessing to the word preached, and may Thy Spirit still preach it in our hearts, taking of the things that are Christ's and showing them unto us. Forbid that we should be barren and unfruitful in the knowledge of Christ, but ever striving to walk by the truth whereto we have attained, may we become more and more conformed to the image of Jesus, and more and more fitted for doing Thy perfect will. Forgive, we beseech Thee, the sins that may have mingled with our holy things, and accept the sacrifices that have been presented unto Thee through the one perfect offering of Him whose blood alone cleanses from all sin. Let the word that has gone forth from Thy mouth in the truth preached to-day throughout the world not return unto Thee void, but may it accomplish that which Thou pleasest and prosper in the thing whereto Thou didst send it.

We pray Thee for a special blessing upon our home. May Thine honour ever dwell in it. Unite our hearts more and more closely in the love of Jesus, and in the fear of Thy name. We commend to Thy tender regard our dear children. Lord, they are Thine more than they are ours ; and may we realise that Thou hast only given them to us for a season that we might give them to Thee for ever. And we pray not only for ourselves, but for all our fellow-creatures, and especially for those who are in any ways afflicted in mind, body, or estate. Be a Father to the fatherless, and a husband to the widow ; and may all the experiences of life be so overruled and sanctified to the suffering and distressed, that they shall feel that their light afflictions which are but for a moment are working out for them an enduring good. And what we ask is in the name of Jesus. AMEN.

## No. 87.

FATHER of mercies, and God of all grace, we bow the knee before Thee in the name of Jesus. We would lift our eyes to Thee from whence cometh our aid. Our safety cometh from Thee who made heaven and earth. Bow down Thine ear and listen to our prayer, for we are full of wants which Thou only canst supply. To whom can we go but unto Thee? There is none can understand us as Thou dost, for Thou hast made us; all our members are written in Thy book, and our inmost thoughts are known unto Thee afar off. And, O God, we bless Thee that we are invited to come to Thee as children, and that Thou hast sent forth Thy Spirit into our hearts, whereby we are enabled to cry unto Thee, Abba Father. We bless Thee that Thou hast taught us to reason, that if we who are evil have known to give good gifts unto our children, much more does our Father in heaven know to give good things to them that ask Him. Thy thoughts towards us, O God, are never thoughts of evil, but thoughts of peace, to give us an expected end.

We bless Thee, O Lord, that Thou hast given us to see the light of another day. For the refreshing rest of the night; for our renewed strength; for the light of reason rekindled in our souls; for the comforts and blessings of our homes; for the bounties of Thy providence which Thou hast renewed, we give Thee thanks. And now that we are about to enter upon the duties of another day and week, O grant us grace whereby we may in all things serve Thee acceptably. Whatsoever we do, whether we eat or drink, may we do all to Thy glory. Help us to see the heavenly Master behind the earthly; the divine work beneath the human; and the prize of the mark of our

high calling beyond the lower calling to which we are appointed. While we are diligent in business, and fervent in spirit, in all things may we serve the Lord. Grant that whatever difficulties and trials we may have to encounter in the execution of our work, or in our intercourse with our fellow-men, we may be able to deal with them in the spirit of our heavenly Master, taking up our cross and following Him. May we endure hardness as good soldiers of Jesus Christ, not repining at trouble, or yielding to evil, but in every circumstance overcoming evil with good.

And, O Lord, we beseech Thee to guide and direct our steps. Keep our feet from stumbling. We are prone to err and stray from Thee like lost sheep, and we need continually Thy directing and restraining grace. May we take heed lest sudden and unexpected temptation get advantage over us, and we should bring dishonour on the name of Jesus. May we keep our hearts with all diligence, trusting only in the Lord with all our hearts, and leaning not to our own understanding.

May we not only daily, but hourly, if need be, lay aside every weight and the sin that doth so easily beset us, that we may run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the example and end of our faith.

Forgive, we beseech Thee, our manifold transgressions, and fill our hearts with Thy Spirit, as a Spirit of holiness and wisdom and strength. We look to Him and to Him alone, whom Thou hast made sin for us that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him. See, God, our Shield, and look on us in the face of Thine Anointed, for all we ask is in the name of Jesus. AMEN.



## No. 88.

O Thou that hearest prayer, and to whom all flesh shall come, we lift our hearts to Thee. Hear us, we beseech Thee, while we call upon Thee, and grant us the aid of Thy Holy Spirit that we may present our desires unto Thee in spirit and truth.

We thank Thee, heavenly Father, for the throne of grace and the privilege of prayer. We thank Thee for the exceeding great and precious promises Thou hast given us to encourage our hearts and to strengthen our faith in coming to Thee. Thou hast anticipated all our wants in the provisions of Thy word, and in the grace of Thy dear Son, whom Thou hast not spared but freely given up to the death for us all, and in whom Thou hast given us the pledge of Thy willingness to bestow upon us all other things we may need. We thank Thee for the Spirit who helpeth our infirmities, for we know not often how to pray or what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself maketh intercession for us, and He that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit. And truly, O Lord, we need all the aid Thou hast provided for us in coming to Thy throne, for we feel deeply our own sin and unworthiness. If Thou wert strict to mark iniquity in us we could not stand before Thee. Our own hearts condemn us, and Thou art greater and holier than our hearts. But we bless Thee that it is on a throne of grace Thou art seated and not of judgment, and that coming unto Thee in the name of Jesus we shall find mercy to pardon and grace to help us in times of need.

Forgive, O Lord, the many sins that are chargeable against us. Cleanse us from secret faults, for we have sinned against Thee not in word and deed only, but in thought, in imagination, in desire as well. And though

our faults have never seen the light of the world, they have been all naked and open to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do. Oh search us and try us, and show unto us the evil ways that are in us, and lead us in the way everlasting. Create in us clean hearts, and renew right spirits within us. May the time past of our lives have sufficed for us to have wrought the will of the flesh, and may we walk no more after the flesh but after the spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of the Lord. And we bless Thee for the gift of the spirit of holiness and life through Jesus, and that, though the flesh still lusteth against the spirit in the hearts of Thy children, the spirit also lusteth against the flesh; and greater is He that is working in us and for us than he that is striving against us. Help us then more and more to walk in the Spirit, and we shall not fulfil the lusts of the flesh.

We thank Thee, heavenly Father, for all Thy mercy unto us during the day. Sanctify unto us the day's discipline and experience. As we grow in years may we also grow in wisdom and grace. Bless the labours of our hands. Help us to be faithful in that which is least as well as in that which is much, and while labouring for the bread which perisheth, may it be found at last that we have at the same time been labouring for that which endureth unto everlasting life. Bless all who are related to us by the ties of flesh, and grant that they, with us, may be fellow-heirs of the same promises, even heirs with God, and joint-heirs with Christ. Bless all those with whom we have intercourse in our daily avocations and in social life, and may we be enabled to cherish and manifest towards all the spirit of love. Hear these our humble petitions we pray Thee, and answer as according to Thine own infinite wisdom, through Christ. AMEN.

## No. 89.

WE praise Thee, O God, that Thou hast, in Thy merciful kindness, spared us during another night, refreshed us with the rest our frail bodies need, and thereby strengthened us for the duties lying before us this day. New mornings bring new mercies and ought to call forth from us new expressions of thanksgiving and praise. Well might we individually exclaim in the language of Thy servant David, I will extol Thee, my God, O King; and I will bless Thy name for ever and ever. Every day will I bless Thee, and I will praise Thy name for ever and ever. May gratitude continually well up within us for all Thou hast been to us, done for us, and for all the exceeding great and precious promises contained in Thy holy word. Thou hast been our Protector, our Deliverer, our Benefactor, our Father—God.

We acknowledge with thankfulness that Thou hast done us good all our lives long. Thou hast fed us as a shepherd feeds his flock, Thou hast led us as by a father's gentle hand, in the midst of dangers Thou hast covered us as with a shield, in times of trouble and sorrow Thou hast been our comfort and support. We cannot remember all Thy benefits towards us; forbid that we should forget them all. For even the least of Thy temporal mercies would we desire to feel profoundly thankful. But words fail us when we seek to express our gratitude for Thy mercy toward us in Christ Jesus. Thou hast pitied us in our lost and undone condition. Thou didst not spare Thine own Son, but didst deliver him up for us all. May our hearts be deeply impressed with a sense of the greatness of the sacrifice Thou didst make in giving up Thine only-begotten Son to such agonising experiences as those of Gethsemane's garden and Calvary's cross; and of the

equally great sacrifice which Christ made when he undertook to endure such sufferings and die such a death for us.

In the light of the gift and sacrifice of Jesus we see that our eternal weal has a warm place in Thy heart. Oh may the honour of our blessed Saviour and the glory of our heavenly Father have a warm place in ours. May Christ's death on the cross be the death of sin in our hearts and lives. May we all now kneeling before Thee learn more and more to hate sin and love holiness. Thou knowest, O God, our individual peculiarities, our respective dispositions. In Thy mercy fortify our inherent weaknesses, subdue our evil temper, curb every wayward passion, cast down every vain imagination, and bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ. May we never consciously set ourselves to do any wicked thing. May the love of Christ ever constrain us to choose the good and refuse the evil, so that we may be found adorning the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things. May Thy Spirit take of the things that are Christ's and show them unto us. May we grow in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ, and may our growth in grace keep pace with our growth in knowledge. Open, O Lord, we beseech Thee, the eyes of our understanding that we may behold wondrous things in Thy law. May we ever and again see new beauties reflected in the sacred page, and may old familiar truths come home with fresh power to our hearts. Teach us to prize as we ought the precious treasure of the sacred Scriptures.

Keep us, we pray Thee, this day in Thy fear, and all that we ask with the pardon of our sins and shortcomings is in the name and for the sake of Jesus. AMEN.



## No. 90.

WE desire, O God, to approach Thee this evening with that reverence which is due to Thy glorious majesty, and that godly fear which is becoming in view of Thine immaculate holiness. Who shall not fear Thee, O Lord, and glorify Thy name? for Thou only art holy. Thou art not a God that hath pleasure in wickedness, neither shall evil dwell with Thee. Conscious that we have sinned against Thee, we feel, O God, that we would not have dared to come before Thee were it not that Thou art good as well as great, merciful as well as just, tender and compassionate as well as holy. In Thy kind providence, and by Thy blessed Spirit working in our hearts, we have been led to trust in Christ as our Saviour, in whom Thou art ever well pleased. Relying on His merits, and trusting to His atoning blood, we know we are welcome to come unto Thee, and ask blessings for His sake.

We thank and praise Thee, most gracious God, for the many encouragements Thy word gives us to draw near to Thee in prayer. Thou never saidst to the seed of Jacob, Seek ye me in vain. All down through the ages Thou hast been proving Thyself to be a prayer-hearing and a prayer-answering God. We mourn before Thee that so many of the human race should have turned away from Thee, and should have perpetrated the folly and wickedness of praying to a god that cannot save. We lament that there are so many even in this highly-favoured land who seem to have no desire to hold fellowship with Thee. We would pray for those who pray not for themselves. May their eyes be opened to see how spiritually destitute they are, and how rich and precious are the blessings they are allowing to flow past them. Oh may the condition of the prayerless be ever far removed from each of us.

When Thou sayest, Seek ye my face, may our response ever be, Thy face, Lord, will we seek. May it always be a source of purest joy to us to surround, as we now do, Thy throne of grace, and to have lifted upon us the light of Thy countenance.

We thank Thee, O God, for Thy goodness to us during the day that is now drawing to a close. We trust we have not been ungrateful recipients of the favours Thou hast bestowed upon us this day. If in anything we have sinned against Thee, oh may we not lay our heads upon the pillow with unforgiven sin upon our consciences. It rejoices us to know that if we confess our sins Thou art faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Cleanse Thou us then, O God, and we shall be clean; wash us, and we shall be whiter than snow.

May Thy protection be vouchsafed to us during another night. May no evil befall us or plague come nigh our dwelling. We will trust in the covert of Thy wings. May it please Thee to refresh our bodies with the sleep which Thou givest to Thy beloved. And when the morning dawns may it find us all alive and well, and may our first thoughts be of Thee. Bless all our friends and relations, from the youngest to the oldest of them. May the young be early led to the Saviour, and may the old remember that Thou hast said, I will never leave thee nor forsake thee. It is our heart's desire that all our friends may be Thy friends, and if we have any enemies, oh may they not be the enemies of the cross of Christ. Hear us in these, our humble supplications, and grant us an answer in peace, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever. AMEN.

## L. c. 91.

**A**LMIGHTY and ever blessed God, we desire to approach the footstool of Thy throne of grace in humble dependence on the merits of Thy Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We confess that in ourselves we are utterly unworthy to appear in Thy holy presence. Our own righteousnesses are as filthy rags in Thy sight, and Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity. We come in the name and pleading the merits of Him who, by His sinless life and sacrificial death, has become the Lord our Righteousness. We thank Thee for the assurance that Thou dost make us accepted in the Beloved. Believing in Him we are justified from all things, from which we could not be justified by the law of Moses. Trusting in Him we are delivered from our slavish fears, and are filled with a joyful confidence in Thee as our Father in heaven.

Oh may we all be in possession of that spirit of adoption in virtue of which we can, without presumption, look up and say, Abba, Father. May we seek to cultivate the loving, confiding, filial disposition. May we have an increasing desire to know what the will of the Lord is, and, knowing it, may we ever be forward to obey it. Help us to bear in mind that Christ's true disciples are not those who merely say, Lord, Lord, but those who do the will of our Father in heaven. May we ever be Thine obedient children; but if at any time a wayward, selfish, disobedient spirit should creep over us, Lord, chasten us, but let it be in Thy fatherly mercy and not in Thy hot displeasure. We remember that Thy word tells us that whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth. Should such loving chastisement be, in Thy providence, inflicted upon us, may we be found



kissing the rod, exercising the most perfect trust in the hand that wields it and in the wisdom that has seen it to be needful.

We thank and praise Thee, O Lord, for Thy manifold kindnesses toward us in the past. As we look back we see that all the way along which we have come is strewn with Thy favours. Day by day hast Thou been loading us with Thy benefits, covering us with Thy loving kindnesses and tender mercies. And now that in Thy good providence another morning has dawned upon us, we would see in this a fresh token of Thine interest in us, a fresh proof of Thy willingness to bless us. Bless us then, O Lord, we beseech Thee, not according to our asking, nor according to our deserving, but according to the riches of Thy grace in Christ Jesus. In Him all fulness dwells, and out of His fulness may we all receive, and grace for grace. May every temporal want be supplied, may every spiritual necessity be met. Grant that we may be found walking uprightly, and then no good thing shall be withheld from us. Go with each one of us to all the duties of this day. May we think, and speak, and act as under Thine all-seeing eye. Keep us from evil, that it may not grieve us. Let no calamity befall us. Let not sudden death overtake us. Our outgoings and our incomings may it please Thee to keep. And let Thy mercy and truth preserve all whom we ought to remember in Thy presence. The blessings we ask for ourselves graciously vouchsafe to them. May we all come to and abide in Christ and be faithful until death. And when our life's work is done, and our life's battle is fought, may we all receive that crown of righteousness which the Lord hath promised to them that love Him. All that we ask is in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. AMEN.



## No. 92.

O GOD, Thou art our God, and we will love and serve Thee. Our fathers trusted in Thee, and were not put to shame. Thou didst bless them in the days of their pilgrimage, leading them by a way that they knew not, making darkness light before them, and crooked things straight. Be the God of us, their succeeding race. Take us, and mould us according to Thy holy will. Put Thy laws into our mind, and write them in our hearts; and may the terms of Thy gracious covenant—"I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people"—be verified in our happy experience. With our whole heart may we seek Thee; oh let us not wander from Thy commandments. May our earnest prayer and cry ever be, "Nearer, my God, to Thee, nearer to Thee." May we have such a longing after Thee that the world would seem empty and vain without Thee. Its pleasures cannot please those who have been made to drink of the rivers of Thy pleasures. Its honours are but as the small dust of the balance compared with the honour that cometh from above. Its riches, whatever be the temporal comforts and advantages they procure, are as nothing, and less than nothing and vanity, if substituted for the riches of Thy grace in Christ Jesus.

O Lord, grant that we may never be disposed to forsake Thee, the fountain of living waters, and to hew out to ourselves cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water. May the goodwill of Him that dwelt in the bush, the approbation and commendation of our Father in heaven, be dearer to us than all the plaudits and honours which the world could heap upon us. And may the love of money, which is the root of all evil, never once find a lodgement in our hearts. Oh that we may live in the

world as not of it. Help us, we beseech Thee, to realize that we are but strangers and pilgrims as all our fathers were. May we never forget that here we have no continuing city. The place that now knows us shall soon know us no more for ever. Each day as it passes brings us nearer the day of our death. May the approach of that day have no dread for us. Teach us, O God, to fear the grave as little as we fear the bed on which we lay us down to sleep. Thanks and praise be unto Thee for that Saviour through whose atoning death and triumphant resurrection the sting is taken from death and the gloom from the grave.

Let Thy benediction, we humbly entreat Thee, rest upon us now that we are about to retire for the night. We rejoice to know that Thou dost not slumber nor sleep, and that Thou ever watchest where Thy people are. May we sleep under Thy protection, and may we awake in the morning of a new day in Thy favour.

Draw near to those who are in trouble and sorrow. May the afflicted, whose couch may this night be wet with tears, remember that Thou dost not afflict willingly, nor grieve the children of men. Grant them patience while in the furnace, and in due time bring them out of it as gold seven times purified. May the bereaved, in their sorrow of heart, be weaned from the world, and drawn to Thee who art the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort. Be the Friend of the friendless, the Father of the fatherless, the Shield of the stranger, and the Stay of the widow.

Thus commending ourselves and others to Thee, we offer up our evening prayer, which may it please Thee to hear and answer for Jesus Christ's sake. AMEN.

## No. 93.

WE adore Thee, O Lord, as the Almighty Maker of heaven and earth. Thou alone art Creator, and it becometh all Thine intelligent creatures to pay to Thee the homage that is Thy due. We bless Thee for our existence. We thank Thee for our preservation. We magnify Thy name for the salvation which Thou hast provided for us in Christ Jesus. Praise be to Thee that ever we have heard the story of Thy matchless love and redeeming grace. Oh may every member of this family circle partake of the blessedness of the people that know the joyful sound. May we all be found walking, O Lord, in the light of Thy countenance. Grant that we may be, one and all, members of the family of the saved. May we be endearingly united to each other, not only by the ties of natural relationship, but also by the sacred and more enduring ties of divine grace.

We thank Thee, O God, for the way by which Thou hast led us in the past. Our hearts are filled to overflowing when we think of the temporal mercies with which Thou hast favoured us; of the dangers from which Thou hast delivered us; of the trials out of which Thou hast mercifully brought us. Because Thou hast been our help, therefore in the shadow of Thy wings will we rejoice.

In this new morning we receive a fresh token of Thy loving kindness and tender mercy toward us. We laid ourselves down, we slept, and we have awaked, for Thou sustainest us. We do thank Thee for Thy preserving care over us during the unconscious hours of sleep; and we do now unite in praising Thee for the comfortable circumstances in which this morning finds us. Be with us, we pray Thee, all through this day. Keep our eyes from tears and our feet from falling. Suffer not one of us

to wander from the path of Thy commandments. Oh may we have a growing aversion to that which is evil, and an increasing attachment to that which is good. May we shrink from sin, as from a deadly foe. Teach us ever to bear in mind that it is an evil and a bitter thing ; hateful to Thee and hurtful to our own souls. Forbid that we should be guilty of any wilful transgression ; and if we should be overtaken in a fault, Lord, in Thy mercy correct us, and graciously pardon our offence.

May it please Thee to prosper us in things temporal, but let not such prosperity seduce us into forgetfulness of Thee. May wisdom and grace be given us to use without abusing whatever good things Thou seest meet, in Thy providence, to confer upon us. Grant to us the virtue of liberality, that we may be willing and ready to give to him that needeth.

Bless, O Lord, the poor and needy. May the wants of the poor be supplied ; may the sufferings of the distressed be relieved ; may the wrongs of the oppressed be righted ; and may the dying have the consolations of the gospel ministered unto them.

Shouldest Thou, O Lord, see meet to deprive us to any extent of the blessings and comforts we have hitherto been enjoying, suffer us not on this account to think hard thoughts of Thee, or to utter stout words against Thee. May we never forget that we are entirely dependent on Thee, and that all we have is Thine. But whatever it may seem good to Thee to deny us, oh take not Thy Holy Spirit away. May the Comforter abide with us for ever, sustaining, cheering, guiding us in our journey through life, and finally save us, for the sake of Thy dear Son, to whom, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, be honour now and ever. AMEN.



## No. 94.

WE desire, O God, to draw near to Thee as children to a father. Doubtless Thou art our Father though Abraham be ignorant of us, and Israel acknowledge us not. We rejoice that we can call Thee by that endearing name. Thou alone art Jehovah, the self-existent, self-sufficient, eternal God, but Thou art also our Father in heaven. We remember with thankfulness that our blessed Saviour has taught us, when we pray, to say, Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. We rejoice in the revelation given us of Thy fatherly character in the teaching of Him who spake as never man spake. Thou who didst in time past speak unto the fathers by the prophets hast in these last days spoken unto us by Thy Son. In Thine infinite mercy and condescension Thou hast veiled Thy majesty and hast drawn near to us in the person of the Word who was made flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth. In the face of Jesus Christ we behold the glory of Thy matchless love and boundless grace.

Trusting in Him who is our Redeemer, we once more approach Thy mercy-seat. Through Him whose blood atones for all our sins, and for the sins of all mankind, we offer up our evening prayer. We beseech Thee to grant to us mercy for the past and grace to help in time of need. In looking back over the past we see in our conduct much to humble us. We have done that which Thou hast forbidden us to do, and we have failed to do that which Thou hast required at our hands. In presence of the adversary we have been weak when we ought to have been strong. We have allowed words to escape our lips that should never have been spoken. We have not been sufficiently careful not to wound needlessly the feelings of others. We have not, to the extent that

we ought, been possessed of that charity which covereth a multitude of sins. In many things we offend all. If thou, Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee that Thou mayest be feared.

We desire, most merciful Father, to lay ourselves down to rest with our sins pardoned and our souls safe in Thy keeping. O Thou who art the Keeper of Israel, keep us, we pray Thee, both body and soul. May it please Thee to ward off disease and death from this our home. We thank Thee for the ills we have escaped in the past, and we shall trust in Thee for the future. We know not what the future may have in store for us; enough that Thou knowest, O Thou whose mercy endureth for ever. No real evil can befall us if we sincerely and truly put our trust in Thee. In the time of trouble Thou shalt hide us in Thy pavilion, Thy faithfulness shall be our shield and buckler.

Bless, O Lord, all those who in every land call upon Thy name. O Thou who art the confidence of all the ends of the earth, and of them that are afar off upon the sea, stand by all those who, by their life and labours, are seeking to lift up a testimony for Thee. Soon may all the kindreds of the nations worship before Thee. Soon may all the crowns and sceptres of earthly kingdoms be laid at the feet of Jesus our holy Lord and King. Hasten the day when there shall be nothing to hurt or destroy in all Thy holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

God be merciful unto us and bless us. Make us holy and happy and useful, and finally bring us to Thine own eternal home. Hear and accept of us for the sake of Jesus, to whom be honour and power everlasting. AMEN.

## No. 95.

O GOD, our heavenly Father, we would esteem it a blessed privilege as well as a sacred duty to bow the knee before Thee around our family altar. We feel assured that, whilst Thou art good to all men, and Thy tender mercies are over all Thy works, Thy favour rests in an especial manner upon all them who put their trust in Thee. We are thankful that we can testify from sweet experience that it has been good for us to draw near to Thee. Our approaches to Thy throne of grace must, we fear, have been characterised by many imperfections. We have been lacking in the spirit of true adoration. We have not sufficiently humbled ourselves on account of our manifold transgressions. We have failed adequately to express our gratitude for the many blessings Thou hast been continuously showering down upon us. We cast ourselves upon Thy mercy and Thy forbearance.

We thank and praise Thee, O Lord, that we are permitted once more to seek Thy face and invoke Thy blessing. Thou hast been graciously pleased to raise us this morning in health of body and in soundness of mind. We acknowledge Thee as the great preserver of man and beast. We feel grateful for the refreshing rest of the night, and for the good things already enjoyed by us this morning. Truly, O Lord, Thy mercies are new unto us every morning, great is Thy faithfulness.

We desire to go forward to all the duties of this day under an abiding sense of Thy nearness to us and deep interest in us. We cannot be every moment consciously thinking of Thee, but oh may it be natural and easy for us, even in the midst of toils and cares, ever and again to remember that the sympathetic eye of our heavenly Father is upon us. It rejoices our hearts to know that in follow-

ing out our lawful avocations we may be as truly serving Thee as when engaged in acts of devotion. Sanctify us, then, we beseech Thee, for Thy service; may we, in all we do, be animated by high and holy motives. Save us from being contaminated by the evils which abound all around us. By Thy good hand upon us may we be able to discharge every duty to which we are called, to resist every temptation that may assail us, to bear with meekness any cross that may be laid upon us, and to keep our garments unspotted from the world.

Bless those of our fellow-men with whom we may come into contact this day. May we receive no moral damage through intercourse with them, and may they not suffer but rather be benefited through contact with us. May our influence be always on the side of that which is just and pure, good and true. May our example be such as the young may follow with perfect safety, and may our conduct be a silent rebuke to those who are inclined to walk in evil ways. Lay Thine arresting hand, we entreat Thee, upon evil-doers, May they be convinced of sin and led to repentance. May the drunkard be reclaimed, may the blasphemer be put in fear of Thy great name, may lying lips learn to speak truth, may selfish hearts become generous and loving, may the fountains of our social life be purified, and iniquity as ashamed hide its head. Bless, O Lord, all who are seeking to live the Christian life. Strengthen their faith in virtuous principles, deepen their trust in the precious promises of Thy holy word, and may they have an assured confidence that Thou wilt withhold no good thing from them that walk uprightly. These and all other needful blessings for ourselves and others we ask in the name and for the sake of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. AMEN.



## No. 96.

**L**ORD, Thou hast been our dwelling-place in all generations. We acknowledge with deep thankfulness that Thou hast been our help in the past; oh may we have an assured confidence that Thou wilt be our hope and strength for the time to come. We thank Thee for the comforts of this our earthly home. We praise Thee for all the endearing relationships, and all the sweet felicities of our earthly lot. We adore Thee as the author of the family institution, as the source of pure domestic joys. Thou art the God of all the families of the earth. May the dove of peace never cease to hover over the place of our abode. May the blessing which Thou dost cause to rest upon the habitation of the just descend upon us.

Bless, O our God and Father, each member of this home-circle. May the name of each be written in the Lamb's book of life, never to be blotted out. If duty calls us away, wherever we may go, may we never forsake Thee. Let integrity and uprightness preserve us at home or abroad. May the day never dawn upon us that shall find us saying, "Depart from us, for we desire not the knowledge of Thy ways." Whatever may be the circumstances in which we are placed, may we never forget what is due to Thee; and may we ever know what is safe for our own consciences. Teach us ever to walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. From every one of the snares and pitfalls in which so many have been entrapped, and into which so many have stumbled, O Lord, in Thy mercy deliver us. In all our intercourse with our fellow-men, and in all the business transactions of this earthly life, may we ever remember that a good name is rather to be chosen

than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold.

We adore and praise Thee for the sweet and precious name of Jesus. May our hearts be all aglow as we think of it. May they burn with a holy ardour to proclaim it. When wearied with toils, or oppressed with cares, or encompassed with difficulties, or burdened with sorrows, may the name of Jesus be fragrant as ointment poured forth; and may the sympathy and friendship of Jesus more than compensate for all the more painful experiences through which we are called to pass. Save us from ever forgetting what He, willingly and lovingly, endured for us. No cup of suffering can be half so bitter as that which He drank to the dregs for us. O God, increase our faith in, and strengthen our attachment to, this blessed Saviour, who tasted death, the death of the cross, for us, and for the whole human race. May the love manifested in that death ever constrain us not to live unto ourselves, but unto Him who died for us, and who rose again. May His will be the rule of our life. May His saving truth, may the honour of His precious name, be dearer to us than life. Oh may the numbers of the saved be greatly increased.

Happy in the knowledge of His love; peaceful in the thought of His tender shepherd-care, would we this evening lay us down to rest and sleep. May all who love us, and who are loved by us, enjoy the rest of soul, and peace of mind and heart, which He alone can impart. And may we all enjoy the blessed hope of seeing Him as He is, and of dwelling with Him in the many mansions whither He has gone to prepare a place for us.

Be pleased, O God, to accept of us, and to hear these supplications, for His name's sake. AMEN.

## No. 97.

**L**ORD, Thou hast been our dwelling-place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever Thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God. Throughout the night watches Thou wert beside us, and when we woke this morning we were still with Thee. And in the light of this new day we see the signs of Thy abiding faithfulness and unchanging love. Truly, Thou anointest us as with oil, and makest our cup of daily blessing to overflow. We deserve not the least of Thy favours, and yet Thou crownest us with loving kindness. Thou hast not even withheld from us Thine only begotten and well-beloved Son, but for our salvation hast given Him to suffering and death. How shall we praise Thee, O God, for the unspeakable Gift of Thy love? Christ's blood has brought relief to our troubled hearts, and His cross has solved for us great problems that once perplexed and worsted us. He is our deepest joy, our highest hope, our surest, sweetest peace. His name makes music of what were otherwise the discords of life, and His presence is an armour through which no hurtful weapon can penetrate. We were weary, and He refreshed us. We were weak, and He strengthened us. We were wanderers, and He reclaimed us. We had no wounds He could not heal, no sorrows He could not turn to joys, no guilt His precious blood could not cleanse away. It is a gladness to speak of His name. It is a relief to cry out, Praise be to Jesus. Oh help us, Thou strong Immortal Love, to know more of Thee as the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Evermore give us of Thy grace that we may count all things but loss that we may win Thee, and be found in Thee. Let Thy mind be in us, and give us more

and more to experience the power of Thy cross and resurrection. We would be one with Thee—crucified with Thee, buried with Thee, risen with Thee, ascended with Thee.

Help us, O Lord, that in us Thy conquests may be repeated. In the hour of peril, be our Shield; in darkness, our Light; in solitude, our Companion. And when we are ready to forget Thee, and to be lured aside unto evil, rise Thou before us with Thy pleading love, Thy thorn-crowned brow, Thy marred countenance, and our souls shall escape as from the snare of the fowler, and return to their allegiance to Thee.

Help us, O God, to show our gratitude by living this day unto the praise of Christ. May His love constrain us to live not unto ourselves, but unto Him. May we speak for Him when opportunity presents itself, and may our deeds be witnesses of the power of His grace. Keep us from evil. Give unto us such blessings as Thou seest shall minister to our good and to Thy most excellent praise. Thou hast been our help, and therefore in the shadow of Thy wings we put our trust. Keep us in our goings out and comings in. Watch over us whilst we may separate for a little from one another. Let Thy blessing be upon us as a family. Make our home a Bethel, and help us to grow in love for one another and for Thee. And grant, O most merciful Father, for Christ's sake, that we who have sought to praise Thee in our earthly home may meet at last to praise Thee in the home of Thy glory.

Remember all that are dear to us. Succour the distressed; and bless all who shall seek this day to do good. Hear us and accept us, and do for us above all that we can ask or think; and the praise shall be unto Thee, through Christ, for ever and ever. AMEN.



## No. 98.

OUR Father who art in heaven, we desire to worship Thee. Thou art the Father of lights from Whom cometh down every good and perfect gift. Upon us Thou hast sent manifold gifts this day. What shall we render unto Thee for all Thy goodness unto us? Oh help us, that we may be truly grateful, and that our gratitude may be declared in the ways that shall be well-pleasing to Thee.

We bless Thee that Thou hast revealed Thy gracious purpose concerning us in Christ. Not in vain didst Thou send Thy Son to be the Saviour of the world. At so great a cost as His life didst Thou buy us that Thou mightst find joy in ever blessing us. We are Thy sons and daughters whom, by ways we know not, Thou art bringing home. Teach us to understand and remember this, that we may rest in Thee. The rough roads of life sometimes stumble us, and the thorns pierce us. Darkness comes upon our path, and then, O Lord, we deem ourselves to be forgotten. We feel as if we were children only of the night and not of the day, and the land that has in it the home we long for and the parted friends we wish again to meet seems to be very far off. We get weary too, and turn to bypaths in our waywardness, and then when we discover that we have forgotten Thee, we think that Thou must needs have forsaken us. And yet the love that redeemed us was love that knew all. Thy love is for us as we are. Help us, that we may not doubt it, or fail to take advantage of the help it affords. When we are perplexed, may it give us peace; when we are unloving, may it win us to a nobler spirit; when we are selfish, may it cleanse us in its purifying fires; when we are baffled and distressed, may we lie back on the

assurance that Thou art Love, and that all Thy ways are right and tender and wise.

We rest in the cross of Jesus; oh help us also to imitate His life. Make us patient as He was, and gentle and self-sacrificing. May we thirst as He did to communicate Thy thoughts unto those that sit as in darkness. Thou hast saved us, and Thou hast called us to be co-workers with Thee in the salvation of others. We bless Thee that such honour have all Thy saints. And yet we readily become selfish and forgetful of Thy praise and the welfare of those around us. Forgive the past, O God, and help us to be more diligent in the future. Fill us with the spirit of Christ, that we may go about continually doing good. May we delight to guide the perplexed, to comfort the sorrowing, and to give as stewards of Thy mercies unto those that are needy. And grant unto us, O God, the joy of seeing Thy work to prosper in our hands. For the strengthening of our faith and the increasing of our love, let us see our feeble efforts owned of Thy grace. Follow with a blessing the duties we have sought to discharge this day.

And, O most merciful Father, who despisest not the sighing of a contrite heart, hear us as we confess our sins and cast ourselves anew on Thy mercy. At best we are but unprofitable servants. For the sake of Thy Son who is our Advocate, fulfil Thy promise; and whilst we confess our sins forgive us the same that we may lay us down this night at peace with Thee, and with our own hearts. Guard us while we slumber. Let no hurt come to us or to the place of our abode. Bless all dear to us, and keep them and us this night and all nights until the everlasting morning breaks. And unto Thy name shall be the praise, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

## No. 99.

**A**LMIGHTY and Everlasting God, our Father, and the Father of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, we come into Thy presence with the voice of thanksgiving. We have much for which to bless Thee, for like as a father pitieth his children, so Thou pitiest us, and in Thy pity, sendest upon us all unutterable favours. Greatly hast Thou favoured us in that Thou hast spared us to see the light of another Sabbath. The day is Thine, with all its sweet memories and stirring associations. We bless Thee for its rest and for the opportunity that it affords us of engaging in the services of Thy sanctuary. Be pleased to hear us as we beseech Thee to help us this day. Put Thy Holy Spirit within us, and enable us to glorify Thy name. And when we go up to Thy house, accompany us thither. Help us to give the offering that is due unto Thy Name, and to compass Thine altar with songs of deliverance. O Lord, open Thou our lips, and our mouths shall show forth Thy praise. Give us good hearts that we may receive with meekness the word of salvation that shall be declared unto us, and through that word send upon us light and joy and strength, that we may be refreshed, and fitted for daily duty throughout the week.

Very great are our spiritual privileges. Help us to take due advantage of them that we may attain to a greater qualification for Thy service on earth and for Thy presence in the land that knows no shadow and where sin cannot enter. Deliver us from using our privileges as mere spiritual luxuries that afford passing pleasure, but yield no abiding fruit. We would, by Thy help, rise through them into closer fellowship with Thyself, and unto greater likeness to Thy Son.

Nor only bless us, but also all that shall meet with us in the courts of Thy house. Reveal Thyself in graciousness unto all that wait upon Thee. Bless Thine inheritance, and make Thy chosen people joyful. May all that are weary be refreshed, and all that are heavy of heart be made glad. Bless Thy servants who shall proclaim Thy will. Clothe them with Thy might, and fill them with Thy Spirit. Help them that they may direct the perishing to Thy Son as the Lamb that beareth away the sin of the world. Revive Thy work in the hearts of Thy people, and spread abroad the honour of Thy name.

And, O God, hear us as we entreat Thee on behalf of those who shall be engaged in home and other duties. May they enjoy much of Thy presence. May they have rest within, and find amid their duties that the Sabbath is a delight. Be very specially near to those in affliction. Relieve the distressed, and hear them that in their straits cry unto Thee. May they have fellowship with the Brother born for the day of adversity, and be helped to triumph in all their infirmities. Sanctify trial unto them, and be pleased to spare useful lives. And unto those that are called to die, let all needed help be given. Be Thou near when human help faileth, and endue them with might that the last enemy may be overcome. May they look to Jesus, and, through Him, be made more than conquerors, and pass from the changes and disappointments of this life to the land that is full of light, and where there is no evil to hurt or destroy.

And now we commend us and all our interests unto Thee. Bless our home, and shield our loved ones. Guide us throughout this day, and bring us to its close in peace. And unto the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost, shall be the praise, world without end. AMEN.



## No. 100.

**O** THOU, beside whom there is no true God, and who art the Maker of our bodies and the Father of our spirits, we desire to bend low in Thy presence. Make our approach at this time to be acceptable unto Thee. We bless Thee that Thou hast created, preserved, and redeemed us for Thyself. We are Thine, and Thou hast given Thyself unto us. Thou hast made us kings and priests, and hast lifted us up to be favoured children of Thine. Thou hast forgiven sin; by Thy gentleness Thou hast made us great; and in the mightiness of Thy love Thou hast clothed us with victory. It is as Thy children thus blessed that we come to Thee, to praise Thee for Thy wonderful goodness, and to express our hope in Thee for all the time to come. Because Thou hast been our help, therefore in the shadow of Thy wings we put our trust. Continue, we beseech Thee, to look upon us in Thy mercy, that we may be blessed for the life that now is and for the life that is to come.

We praise Thee for Thy goodness unto us this day. Great has been the privilege of this Sabbath. Sanctify it unto us, we beseech Thee. We bless Thee for our joy in the services of Thy sanctuary, for all that we heard from Thy holy Word, and for all the incitements to holiness of living that were pressed upon us. Hear us, O God, as we pray that, through the grace of Thy Spirit, abiding spiritual results may be manifest in us. May we be the better of what we have heard and done. Deliver us from ourselves, and overshadow us with Thyself. Strengthen faith in us, and enliven hope. Give to us clearness of vision and fulness of love. Help us to understand Thee better, and to love Thee more, and to find joy in showing forth Thy praise.

And bless the services of Thy house unto all who joined with us in them. May the fruit of to-day's work be manifest in the lives of many. Revive Thy work in our midst, and establish, we beseech Thee, the work of Thy hands. And let a blessing rest on the Word of Thy grace spoken and read throughout this and other lands. Let the good seed that has been sown be found springing up to Thy praise in some thirty, in some sixty, and in some an hundred-fold. Own all agencies that are in operation for the extension of Thy glory. Destroy the ignorance, and intemperance, and prejudice that prevail. Overturn, overturn, overturn, until He come whose right it is to reign.

We commend unto Thee, O most merciful Father, all those who are in distress. Be very gracious unto such as are in pain and know not how to obtain relief. Give rest to the perplexed, and comfort to those that are mourning. Let light from the better land fall on those whose earthly lot is dark, and through their trials bring them nearer to Thyself. Give us increase of sympathy with all that are distressed, and, as we have opportunity, help us lovingly to communicate unto them of what Thou hast given us. Be near to all who are dear to us, and smile upon them. Give unto them of the things of this life, and yet more abundantly of the things that are spiritual. Make them glad in Thyself. And now we leave ourselves with Thee. Undertake Thou for us in all that concerns us, and crown the blessings of this day with an evening benediction. Watch over us throughout the night, and give us the sleep of Thy beloved. Prosper us as a family, and magnify Thy Name in our midst. And all that we ask, with the pardon of our sins, is for Jesus' sake. AMEN.

## No. 101.

**A**LMIGHTY God, our heavenly Father, we prostrate ourselves before Thee in reverence and gratitude and gladness. There is no God like unto Thee, neither are there any works like unto Thy works. Thy works praise Thee, O God, and Thy saints shall bless Thee. Accept us, O God, as we come with our little offering of praise and present it before Thee, in the name of Thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

We give thanks unto Thee because Thou hast created us, and hast surrounded us with so many things that minister to the joy of life. Thou hast given us great capabilities of pleasure, and Thou hast set in abundance round about us the objects that can gratify these. The whole earth is full of the glory of Thy majesty. We bless Thee for a world so fair. Thou makest everything beautiful in its season, covering the sky with splendour, and land and sea with beauty. Help us in all Thy works to see the revelation of Thyself—to find the hints of a majesty that can be but guessed at, a glory that surpasseth human thought, and a tender considerateness for Thy children that leaves nothing unnoted or unprovided for.

We praise Thee, too, O God, for all the ministering agencies that press upon us in daily life. We owe much to Thee for the quiet bliss that lies in our social sympathies,—for our home that Thou makest bright with Thy presence, and the friendships in which we are surrounded with a joy that speaketh to us of heaven. Thou loadest us plenteously with Thy benefits, and fillest our mouths with laughter. We prosper even in our weakness, and life is turned into a song. And, oh, we bless Thee that in all Thy dealings with us Thou workest for our highest

good, and givest us foretastes of the happiness that shall never end. Even when Thou sendest trial upon us, it is for our profit. Thou dost not afflict us willingly, but chastenest us that we may be made partakers of Thy nature. Through unrest Thou fittest us for the rest that remaineth. Over the rough road Thou ledest us to the pastures that are ever green, and to the garden whose flowers bloom for ever. Through the bitterness of earthly loss Thou preparest us for the all-unimagined gains of heaven. Blessed be Thy name that Thou thus ledest us in trial as in pleasure, in hunger as in plenty, in adversity as in prosperity, as the blind in a way they know not, and in paths they have not understood. Oh, grant unto us the spirit of readiness to follow Thee whithersoever Thou ledest, and to obey Thy will as it is revealed unto us. Make us quick to interpret Thy voice—quick to see Thy presence. We would rest only in Thee, grow up in Thee, live only for Thee. Help us so to do, good Lord.

And hear us, O Lord, as we beseech Thee to be with us this day. Help us to see and follow Thee, and keep us near Thyself. Open up our way, and help us to discharge whatever duties Thou layest upon us. Should trial overtake us, help us to bear it without repining, knowing that all things work together for good to them that love Thee. If temptation assail us, be Thou our refuge, and, through faith in Thy Son, may we overcome. Forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Like blessings send upon all that are dear to us. Remember the afflicted, and all for whom at this time we should cry unto Thee. Hear us, O our Father, and of Thy mercy do with us above our askings, for the sake of Thy Son, unto whom, with Thee the Father and the Holy Ghost, we ascribe all praise and glory, world without end. AMEN.



## No. 102.

**A**LMIGHTY GOD, we come not to Thee in our own name, for there is nothing about us to commend us to Thy favour. Our hearts have devised evil, and our hands have wrought wickedness. We have spurned the way of Thy commandments, and from Thy hands, outstretched to receive us, we have only fled further away. But that Thy mercy passeth comprehension, we had ere this been destroyed. Blessed be Thy Name that while we were without strength Christ died for us. In His Name we come to Thee. For His sake receive us, and lift upon us the light of Thy countenance. Let our praises at this time be acceptable unto Thee, and let Thy gracious Word be sanctified unto us. We bless Thee for that Word that is able to make us wise unto salvation. Help us to know more of its preciousness. May it be sweet unto us as the honey that droppeth from the comb. May we lay it up in our hearts that we may observe it in our lives. We would make it the man of our counsel, a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path, And let Thy Spirit be given to interpret Thy Word unto us. May He lead us into the truth that the Word of Christ may dwell in us richly, and that out of the fulness of its treasure we may be able to communicate unto others.

We praise Thee, O God, for all the blessings of this day. Thou hast not dealt with us after our sins, or rewarded us according to our iniquity, but hast been very gracious to us. All that is good in our daily life cometh from Thee, and cometh not of our merit but of Thy mercy. By Thy goodness Thou puttest us under unutterable obligations. We are not our own, but Thine. Oh help us that we may not live as if Thou hadst created us only for our selfish gratification, or as if Thou hadst no

claims on our love and loyalty. May we remember the privilege Thou hast conferred on us in calling us to show forth Thy praise, and to walk worthy of our high vocation. May we remember, too, the prizes which Thou hast promised unto them that are not weary in well-doing. Even as Thy Son, for the joy that was set before Him, endured the cross, so may we, forgetting the things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, press toward the mark of the high calling of God. So keep us by Thy power, and help us to maintain the faith that worketh by love that at the last it may be said unto us, "Well done, good and faithful servants; enter ye into the joy of your Lord."

Bless all dear to us, and hear us, O our Father, as we specially beseech Thee to deal in mercy with any of them that yet know Thee not, that they may be led to the feet of Thy Son. Wake in them the sense of need, and show unto them the all-sufficiency of Thy Son as their Saviour. Surround them with the constraining influences of Thy love, that their thoughts may be brought into the captivity of Christ, and that the joy of their hearts and homes may be widened and intensified through His sweet fellowship. Make all our friends Thy friends, we beseech Thee. Nor only them. We pray for all people. Let all the people praise Thee, O God, let all the people praise Thee.

Forgive, for Thy Son's sake, whatever has been amiss in us this day, and do Thou sanctify to us all Thy goodness that henceforth our trust in Thee may be more child-like because of this day's experience. Breathe an evening blessing of peace on our hearts. Throughout the watches of the night stay Thou beside us, and raise us in the morning in renewed vigour to new duty and joy. For the sake of Thy Son our Redeemer. AMEN.

## No. 103.

**B**LESSED and Everlasting God, we bow adoringly in Thy presence. We are weak, and our praises are a very little thing. But Thou givest us a more than royal welcome to Thy throne, and with all a Father's joy and tenderness dost listen to our thanksgivings. And when we remember that Thou art better than we deem Thee, that Thou art Light and Love, that there are in Thee infinite depths of tenderness and pity and readiness to forgive, we long for the fuller knowledge of heaven, and its songs that are worthier Thee than those of earth.

We bless Thee for having spared us to see the light of a new day. We laid us down and slept, and we have awaked, for Thou sustainedst us. And this morning, as in mornings past, Thou hast crowned us with loving kindness and tender mercy. Help us, O God, that, constrained by Thy mercies, we may present ourselves living sacrifices, holy and acceptable, which is our reasonable service.

We desire to commend ourselves unto Thee for guidance throughout the day. It is not in man that walketh to direct our steps. Vouchsafe, O God, to undertake for us. Make any rough place plain, and any crooked place straight before us. We bless Thee for light that has fallen upon our earthly life. Thou hast shown us that it is but preparatory and disciplinary ; and that its roughnesses and crookednesses are not without significance. For the unity that runs throughout its brokenness and changefulness we praise Thee. Thou hast given us to know the emptiness of life without Christ, its vanity and vexation when severed from fellowship with Thyself. And Thou hast taught us how in Christ our littleness is linked on to infinite greatness ; how our loneliness and

bafflement win to us a prized communion with what is divine, and our tears and fears are but the prelude to laughter and gladness. We want our life intensified, ennobled, and sublimed. Deliver us, O God, from mistaken purposes and pettiness of aim. Lift us up to spiritual altitudes whence we shall see the vastness of life, and the oneness of true life here with life in heaven. Help us to sing songs that shall be but as parts of the universal anthem that is sung unto Thee, and to offer prayers that shall be as odours in heaven, and to do deeds of purity and nobleness in which Thy once-crucified but now glorified Son shall see of the travail of His soul.

Pity us, O Christ, we beseech Thee, in times of weakness and conflict. Thou knowest what trial is. In the fulness of Thy sorrow Thou didst weep, and from the soreness of Thy great trial, with strong crying and tears Thou didst seek deliverance. Oh let Thy sympathy be felt by us, and Thy presence let it cheer us. Keep us in and through all experiences that may come to us this day. Deliver us from forgetfulness of our high vocation. Help us to live by dying, to conquer by stooping, to ascend by walking in lowliness with Thee.

Our loved ones we commend to Thee. Our hearts go out toward such, and for their welfare Thou art our only hope. Let all help be given to them now, and make them and us helpers of each other's faith and joy, and at last bring us all to Thine everlasting rest.

And now we go forward to meet what is unseen by us, but what is known to Thee. Be pleased to help us. Set a watch upon the door of our lips, and put Thy Holy Spirit within us. Throughout all the day, help us to live as those who have been redeemed by the blood of the cross. For Thy Son's sake. AMEN.



## No. 104.

**A**LMIGHTY and Everlasting Father, receive us graciously, we beseech Thee, as we come now to praise Thee. Our sacrifices of praise are very unworthy, yet be pleased to accept them as the lisplings of our gratitude and the broken utterances of our dependence on Thee. We are as a wonder unto many and unto ourselves. Our souls have escaped as from the snare of the fowler. Our weakness has oft been exchanged for strength, and the cry of our mourning for the song of gladness. Our fear has given place to hope, and the dark night of our experience to bright and glorious morning. Unto Thee be all the praise, for it is Thou that hast done those great things for us whereof we have been made glad. Because Thou hast not forsaken us therefore have we not been consumed ; because Thou hast been our Defence therefore have our enemies fallen ; and because Thy mercy has been around us like the air therefore have we been sustained and enriched.

Thou hast been gracious to us this day, and so we have been brought to its close in safety. We look back on the way by which Thou hast led us, and call upon our soul and all that is within us to magnify Thy name. Thou hast been before us, breaking up our way, and at our right hand and at our left, delivering us from evil. Thou hast been pitying our weakness, and endowing us with might and girding us with joy. Thy love to us is wonderful—it passeth knowledge. When we contemplate it, we cannot look up. We are constrained to bow before Thee as we murmur Thy name in thanksgiving ; whilst earthly light grows dim by reason of the greater spiritual vision we have of Thee, and our hearts cry aloud for joy.

Hear us as we plead for pardon. Forgive, O Lord, for

Thy Son's sake, whatever may have been amiss in all that we have thought and said and done this day. Heal Thou our backslidings, and help us by Thy grace to learn wisdom from the failures of the past, that we may walk more worthily of the Name of Christ. To this end, teach us of Thyself, of Thy nearness to us and of our dearness to Thee, notwithstanding our unworthiness. We are prone to think of Thee as far away, and to misinterpret Thy ways, and regard Thee as unconcerned in the things of our life. We take shame unto ourselves. The sparrows reprove our folly, and the flowers of the field chide us for our lack of trust. Oh how we have shivered in a sense of loneliness, and bowed under burdens that we thought not there was any one to share. And yet the hairs of our heads were being numbered by Thee, and Thou wert putting our tears into Thy bottle, in a love all whose tenderness we cannot know. Forgive us, O our Father, and help us hence on to remember Thee. Thou art our Hope and Strength. When we think of Thee, the clouds pass away and the rains cease. When we trust in Thee, our weakness is vanquished and our whole nature thrills with new strength. When our hands rest in the hands that were pierced for us, a great calm comes where storms raged, and our hearts make music unto Thee. Pity Thou our weakness, and lighten Thou our darkness, and glorify Thyself in us.

Breathe upon us an evening blessing. Give us the sleep of Thy beloved. Fit us by repose against the duties of the new day. Watch over us and over all that are dear to us. Keep them and us this night, and all days and nights of our earthly journey, and finally bring us to Thine everlasting rest, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
AMEN.

## No. 105.

OUR Father who art in heaven, we, as one section of Thy great family, come with reverence to bow ourselves before Thy footstool. Lay Thy loving hand upon each of our heads, and bless us, even us, O our Father.

We praise Thee for the comfort and rest of the past night. We laid ourselves down in peace and slept, for Thou, Lord, madest us to dwell in safety. We thank Thee for all the providential mercies by which we are surrounded this morning, and, now that we are going forth to the duties and trials of another day, let Thy presence go with us ; and if Thy presence go not with us, carry us not up hence. In our business transactions let integrity and uprightness preserve us. May we remember that divers weights and divers measures are abomination to the Lord, but a just weight is his delight. May we not be satisfied with simply having clean hands, but whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are of good report, if there be any virtue and if there be any praise, may we earnestly and practically think on these things.

Bless our children. May Thy Spirit, the great Teacher, assist them in their studies. Help them to restrain and regulate their tempers. May they learn of Him who was meek and lowly in heart, and who became their Elder Brother that He might help and save the weakest. We thank Thee for the Holy Bible. The entrance of Thy Word giveth light ; it giveth understanding to the simple. Such we feel ourselves to be. Open Thou our eyes that we may behold wondrous things out of Thy law. May it be a light to our feet and a lamp to our path. May our young men especially, who have to face the stern and

more subtle temptations of life, listen to the words of wisdom, and regard the words of understanding. Some who are very near and dear to us are wandering away from their father's house, some into the far country of prodigality.

We would remember before Thee the aged, the sick, the destitute. May those who are passing through the valley of death fear no evil, Thy rod and staff comforting them. May those who are in great trouble be able to say, "I will trust and not be afraid, for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength, and what time I am afraid I will trust in Thee."

We would pray very earnestly for our country. How abundantly Thou hast lavished upon us all things richly to enjoy, but we, daringly and impiously, take Thy precious gifts, and turn them into demons of destruction. "Shall not I visit for these things? saith the Lord; shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this?" Oh may every Christian family and every religious institution cry aloud and spare not till every foul blot is wiped off our land. Teach our senators wisdom. Give them to see that righteousness only exalteth a nation, and that sin is a reproach to any people; that better is a little with righteousness than great revenues without right. May they feel their responsibility to God for all measures they carry or maintain; and those who will not recognise this, mercifully remove them from their obstructive positions.

We would now commend each other to Thy care and guidance through the day. Be with us in our going out and coming in, and help us in all our ways. Forgive us our trespasses, and enable us so to forgive any who may trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory for ever and ever. AMEN.



## No. 106.

O THOU that hearest prayer, unto Thee shall all flesh come—come as subjects to their sovereign to do him homage and receive his commands—come as stewards to their Lord, to give an account of their stewardship—come as members of one family gather around their father's board. Thus would we approach Thee to-night. We praise Thee, O God; we acknowledge Thee to be the Lord. All the earth shall worship Thee, the Father everlasting. We love to think of Thee as being seated on the throne of the universe. The heavens are the work of Thy hands. All worlds are upheld and blessed and beautified by Thee. All forces, however deadly, are under Thy control, so that all things work together for good.

We confess before Thee with deep humility our unfaithfulness to our stewardship this day. Our self-will and rebellious feelings Thou knowest better than we know ourselves, for all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do; and yet with the burden of our sins upon us, we can come boldly to the throne of grace, for there is forgiveness with Thee that Thou mayest be feared, and plenteous redemption. Seated at Thy right hand is Thine only Son, our Saviour, who ever liveth to make intercession for us—whom Thou hearest always. For His sake pardon our iniquity, for it is great, and may we each hear the loving voice of Jesus say, "Thy sins are forgiven thee, go in peace."

We pray that we may ever enjoy a large measure of Thy restraining grace. Uphold us with Thy free Spirit. Enlarge and purify our minds that we may be able to receive in all their fulness the truths contained in Thy word. May we meditate on Thy precepts, and have respect unto Thy ways. We confess that we often read

Thy precious book with so little interest and so small a desire to be benefited thereby that it is an utter blank to us. Let it be so no longer, but may we so read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest what we read that we may exclaim with the Psalmist, "Oh how I love Thy law, it is my meditation day and night. I have rejoiced in the way of Thy testimonies as much as in all riches. Thy word is very pure, therefore my soul loveth it. How sweet are Thy words unto my taste; yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth."

As a family, we have especial cause for gratitude as we gather unbroken around our evening altar. How many who went forth to their work and to their labour until the evening have not returned to their expectant families. Two have been working in the factory or the field; one has been taken and the other left. But we are still among the living to praise Thee. Our health has been preserved, our table has been spread, shelter and clothing to preserve us from the inclemencies of the season have been vouchsafed, and our reason has been allowed to keep its seat. Bless the Lord, O our souls, and all that is within us bless His holy name.

The day is Thine; the night also is Thine. Thou never slumberest nor sleepest; but how soon weariness and fatigue overcome us, frail creatures of a day, and then, like a loving mother, Thou drawest the curtains of night over the tired earth, and so Thou givest Thy beloved sleep. And so with undoubting trustfulness we commit ourselves and all our belongings to Thy watchful care. Give Thine angels charge concerning us to keep us in all our ways. Accept our thanksgivings, and forgive all our shortcomings, through the merits of Thy beloved Son. AMEN.

## No. 107.

IT is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises to Thy name, O Thou Most High ; to show forth Thy loving kindness in the morning, and Thy faithfulness every night. May our expressions of adoration and gratitude rise from the heart. Thou searchest the heart and triest the reins, and hast pronounced Thy displeasure upon those who draw nigh to Thee with the lips, whilst their heart is far from Thee. Thou desirest truth in the inward parts. We pray that if there be any of the leaven of insincerity in any of our hearts at this time, that it may be purged out—that we may worship God, who is a spirit, in spirit and in truth, for He seeketh such to worship Him.

May our lives throughout the day carry on the worship in an active form. May we live lives of transparent truth, consecrated to the right, wherever it may lead. Never, to save our own credit or to advance our worldly interest, allow us to utter or act a lie. We tremble lest we should be led to indorse the shams and sophistries of this wealth-worshipping age. Keep us from making haste to be rich, from grinding the face of the poor, from making a sly bargain, taking advantage of the ignorance or confidence of those with whom we deal,—confidently believing Thy word, that better is a little with the fear of the Lord, than great treasure and trouble therewith ; never for a moment listening to the enemy's suggestion, "How doth God know, and doth the Almighty regard?" We know that he tempted our Saviour to turn stones into bread, in order to induce Him to distrust Thy providential care.

Blessed Jesus, we thank Thee that Thou didst submit to be tempted in all points, as we are, yet without sin, that Thou mightest succour those that are tempted. May

we realize Thy presence all through the day. Help us to wield the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of truth, that we may quench all the fiery darts of the enemy, and come off more than conquerors, through Him who hath loved us. May our religion make us happy, that our influence may be good on all around us. May we be living examples that godliness with contentment is great gain—that when trouble and darkness cover us, it is better to walk in the dark with Thee, than to walk alone in the light—if darkness can be possible where Thou art, who coverest Thyself with light as with a garment. Oh, help us to walk in the light, our fellowship being with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

Bless the dear young ones belonging to our family. If any of them are not wholly Thine, bring them speedily to see that wisdom's ways are pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. When Thou sayest, Seek ye my face, may they promptly reply, Thy face will we seek, my Father, Thou art the guide of my youth. We commend the aged and suffering to Thy tender sympathy and care.

We pray for our queen and government—that great wisdom may be given them to conduct the affairs of this great nation. Remove all obstacles to the social and moral elevation of the people. May all impure influences, whether of societies or literature, be chased away by the clear life-giving atmosphere of Christian teaching and living. And may the great Moloch of intemperance, for whom professedly Christian people are willing to let their sons and daughters pass through the fires of temptation, be cast down. "Then shall the earth yield her increase, and God, even our own God, shall bless us. God shall bless us, and all the ends of the earth shall fear Him." We ask all in the name of Christ. AMEN.



## No. 108.

**H**EAR our prayer, O Lord, give ear to our supplications ; in Thy loving kindness answer us and bless us abundantly. And enter not into judgment with Thy servants, for in Thy sight shall no flesh living be justified. We feel so utterly ignorant and helpless that we know not what to pray for,—that it is presumption on our part to venture to approach Thee, but the Spirit helpeth our infirmities, and maketh intercession for us and worketh in us, according to the will of God. What condescension in the High and Holy One who inhabiteth eternity, to listen to the cry of such weak, sinful creatures as we are.

We can only tell Thee of follies and failures, of battles feebly fought, and victories won by the foe. We resolved in the morning to achieve the greatness of ruling our own spirits—to attain the perfection of the man who offends not in word, and is able to bridle the whole body ; but, alas ! how soon we discover that our strength is perfect weakness, and that without Thee we can do nothing. But we bless Thee that this discovery is no cause for despair ; there is no help in ourselves, but Thy resources are infinite, and we have the promise that God will supply all our need out of the fulness which is in Christ Jesus.

What rich rewards has the Captain of our Salvation promised to him that overeometh—the crown of life—the hidden manna—the white stone—the new name—the seat upon the throne. What encouragement to pray, and faint not, in the words, “If ye abide in me, and my word abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.” What energising power is imparted by the words, “Be of good cheer. I have overcome the world. Lo ! I am with you always, even unto the end.”

Blessed be God, who always causeth us to triumph in Christ. May our faith wax stronger and stronger, that we cast not away our confidence, which hath great recompense of reward. We adore Thee for the rich and varied gifts of providence which Thou hast showered upon us through another day.

We are prone to forget that we live, and move, and have our being in Thee; that the barest necessities of life, as well as its highest and best blessings, are received from Thy undeserved grace and favour—nay, that we have forfeited all claim on Thy goodness by our rebellion against Thee. What shall we render to the Lord for all His benefits? We will take the cup of salvation, and call upon Thy name. We would commit to Thy keeping those who are dear to us, but separated by distance. We rejoice to know that wherever they are, they are equally near to Thee; and He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. Thou wilt cover us all with thy feathers, and under Thy wings will we trust. Thy truth shall be our shield and buckler.

We would pray for the more rapid extension of Thy kingdom, which is righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. How long, O Lord! how long, before we see that Thy Son has the heathen for His inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for His possession; when all shall know Thee, from least to the greatest, and Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven?

And now, Lord, what wait we for? Our hope is in Thee. We fall into Thy hands. Forgive all our sins, and accept our sincere, though feeble, expressions of praise and gratitude, through Jesus Christ our Lord, and to Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be everlasting glory. AMEN.

## No. 109.

WE thank Thee, our Father, for the light which has come to us with a new day. Thy fatherly care and sheltering hand have been over us during the darkness of the night, and now, with bodies and souls restored by sleep, we are privileged again to behold the light of the sun. We pray Thee, our God and Father, that whilst all nature is blessed by the light of day, that our spirits may be gladdened by Him who is the true light which has arisen upon all men, with healing in his wings; and as the light groweth unto the perfect day, so may the light of Thy word be matured in our hearts; so that, without any cloud or darkness, we at last shall see the perfect light. Remove every error and dispel every prejudice that may lurk in our minds obstructing the sanctifying effect of Thy truth; and do Thou work so within us that we shall both will and do Thy good pleasure.

Help us to keep our hearts with all diligence, that we may become free from every taint of guilt—perfect, even as our Father in heaven is perfect. Beget within us a holy distaste of sin, that it may become to us, what it is to Thee, that abominable thing which Thou hatest. Lead us into the perfect beauty and holiness of Thy law, that it may be our constant meditation and delight by day and night. May we carry the teaching of Thy law into the daily concerns of life. Grant that justice may regulate all our work and dealings, that we may each have a conscience void of offence both towards God and towards men.

May we act as feeling that we are ever under Thy divine inspection; giving Thee thanks always both for what we are permitted to accomplish in the way of usefulness, or to endure in the way of trial, and in patience

let us possess our souls. While we are called upon to labour for the bread that perisheth, suffer us not to be forgetful of the true bread that endureth unto everlasting life. May the animating principle of our every action be Thy glory. Forbid that anything mean or sordid should enter into our minds, so as to become the ruling motive of our lives. If Thou art pleased to smile upon us and prosper our efforts, so as to give us a measure of this world's wealth, may our hearts not be carried away into forgetfulness of Thee; if the dispensations of Thy providence should in any degree frustrate our plans or endeavours, and should produce disappointment instead of hopes realized, may neither impatience nor repining find place within our hearts. Let us ever find our sure and all-sufficient consolation and source of happiness in God alone.

We would implore Thy special blessing to rest on those who, in any way, are seeking to instruct and elevate the human race. May all who teach be taught of the Lord, and so be made able to instruct others in the true principles of Christian manhood and morality. May our young ones be early brought to understand that all education fails that does not promote goodness. Clothe Thy priests with salvation. May all who are engaged in the sacred work of preaching the Gospel be men of God, thoroughly furnished for their great and solemn responsibilities, and may they be cheered by great success in their work, turning many from darkness to light, and building up Thy church in the faith. Bless the aged and all who are afflicted in mind, body, or estate. Be their help in every trouble, and deliver them from all their fears.

Now take us beneath Thy care throughout the day. Whilst in the world, keep us from evil and pollution. Guide, forgive, and bless us, for Christ's sake. AMEN.



## No. 110.

GREAT and merciful God, in whose hand is every living thing, and who hast made all creatures for Thine own glory, and who keepest them all, by Thy kindly power, we believe in Thy goodness and in Thy forgiving love. Our sins against Thee are many, but Thy grace hath much more abounded. Such pity as a father hath towards his children, such pity hath Thou towards us; for Thou hast assured us that as earthly parents, though evil, know how to give good gifts to their children, much more wilt Thou grant Thy holy Spirit to those who ask Him. We are emboldened to come to a throne of grace to beg Thy sheltering hand to be over us this night, as it has been over us during the day.

Lead us to meditate on this day's work, to reflect wherein we have in some degree pleased Thee in word or deed, or wherein we may have turned aside from the good way. Enable us in the future to excel what good we may have done, and to amend what may have been wrong, that we may become daily more perfect epistles of Jesus Christ, our light so shining before men that they, seeing our good works, may glorify our Father who is in heaven. Leaving the things that are behind, may we reach onward to those things which are before, ever pressing towards the mark for the prize of our high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

We bless Thee, O God, for the quiet of the night, and for the rest and peace which it brings. We thank Thee for the few hours won from the labour and distracting cares of the day, which we can devote to reverent and profitable thought. May our meditations be of Thee, of the excellence of Thy laws, of thy great plan of redemption, by which our souls are saved from going down to

the pit. And while we think of all Thy rich provisions of mercy towards us, of Thy constant superintendence of all our concerns and interests, of Thy presence around our bed during the night, as it has encompassed our path during the day, may our souls be filled with the blessing of an abiding peace.

As another night has fallen upon the earth and all its inhabitants, may it remind us of the night of death which awaits us when we shall be gathered to our fathers, when we shall disappear from among men, and the place which knoweth us shall know us no more. May we remember our latter end, and be wise. Teach us so to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. And as we expect to see the light of a new day, if such be Thy good pleasure, when we shall arise refreshed, so may we cherish more deeply and devoutly our hope in that resurrection to eternal life which shall succeed the night of the grave.

Grant us to feel that, in falling asleep, we are in the hollow of Thy hand, and that none can take us out of our Father's hand. Drive away all fear and darkness from our minds, and give us faith in all Thy divine attributes as the ground to us of life and preservation, and may we have abiding within us the good hope of salvation, as an anchor of the soul sure and steadfast, entering within the veil where Christ hath entered for us. May we fall asleep to-night with this sweet hope of heaven in our hearts. Help us to consign ourselves this night to Thy fatherly care, with the hope that we shall awake to the employments and enjoyments of another day, as we expect one day to awake in Thy likeness, and be abundantly satisfied AMEN.

## No. 111.

WE come unto Thee, O Lord, in the way which Thou hast commanded, for Thou hast instructed us to pray unto Thee and to call Thee our Father. As a Father we have need of Thy help and the assurance of Thy love and benign care from day to day. We cannot be fully satisfied with any of the creatural comforts which surround us on every side, and which Thou hast enabled us so abundantly to enjoy. Our bread and water are given us, but we thirst for more than these. Friends and kindred are given to our affections—many who are bone of our bone and endeared to us by a thousand tender ties—yet with the possession of these, with all the happiness to which they give rise, we feel our need of a holier and dearer bond of union. We need Thy fellowship and the consciousness of Thy abiding presence to fill up our cup of blessing. Our hearts cry out for God, for the living God. While many say, Who will show us any good? Lord lift Thou upon us the light of Thy countenance. We need Thee, O God, that we may enjoy the common mercies of life. Without the witness of Thy favour in our souls Thy gifts would cease to bless, and without the light of Thy countenance our way would be covered with darkness and despair.

Be with us this day wherever duty calls us. Whatever our hands find us to do may we do it with our might and remember that our diligence is due to our Lord and Master. Help us in our work, for unless Thou aid us we shall labour in vain. Give us the skilful hand and wisdom profitable to direct and establish the work of our hands upon us—yea, the work of our hands establish Thou it. May our hearts be zealous in all things to secure Thy glory—in the meanest as well as the most



important concerns of life. In our intercourse with our fellow-men may our conduct be ever characterised by the strictest integrity and truthfulness. We need, O Lord, Thy grace to enable us to be more loving in our hearts and more lovely in our lives than we have been. We desire that we may become more compassionate towards the unfortunate and miserable, more meek and forbearing in our intercourse with any who are wilful and provoking, more forgiving towards those who may hate and persecute us, and more charitable in our estimation of all men, that our whole conversation may be marked by that wisdom which cometh from above—which is first pure, then peaceable, easy to be entreated, without partiality and without hypocrisy. Grant us the grace of patience that in our work or trials we may endure to the end.

Forbid that we should be unduly elevated by success, or that afflictions or disappointments should cause us to murmur or repine; but may we learn to know that it is good to be afflicted, that though no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous, yet afterwards it yieldeth the peaceable fruits of righteousness to them who are exercised thereby. Thus help us to follow with all lowliness of spirit in the footsteps of our blessed Saviour. May we be satisfied to take the humblest position in Thy household and with willing hands perform its meanest offices, remembering that we are not our own, that all our talents, be they one or ten, are Thine, and that Thy service claims all that we have and are.

Equip us fully, good Lord, for all the duties and temptations of the day. Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of Thy name, and deliver us, and purge away our sins, for Thy name's sake, through the merits of our Advocate and Mediator, Jesus Christ. AMEN.



## No. 112.

**O** LORD, Thou art the Author of all being and all that exists in the universe is from Thee. Thou hast created the day and the night and filled them with Thy wonders. All things bear witness to Thy mercy and fatherly care. There is nothing too small for Thy observance, there is nothing too great for Thy power; for Thou hast made and Thou tenderest them all and for Thy glory they are and were created. Thou art infinitely exalted above us, and the greatness of Thy workings we cannot duly comprehend. When we consider Thy heavens, the work of Thy fingers, the moon and the stars which Thou hast ordained, what is man that Thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that Thou visitest him? Yet Thou dost remember us as Thy creatures and as Thy sinful children. Thou hast pitied us in our lost condition.

Our Father, do Thou reveal unto us in some measure Thy glory, that our hearts may bless and praise Thee. As Thou hast gifted us with reason and judgment to apprehend Thee in Thy doings, do Thou draw forth our faculties by the power and guidance of Thy Spirit that we may meditate upon the manifestations of goodness in nature and the unveiling of Thy mercy in the revelation of the word, that we may have fellowship with Thee as the Father of our spirits and with Thy Son Jesus Christ.

We bless Thee that we are not as the beasts that perish, that know not the difference between good and evil. Sinful and polluted as we are, yet Thou hast been pleased to make us in Thine own image, to grant us the power of thought and conscience. We feel that we are nearer allied to Thee than the other earthly works of Thy hand. We can realise our dependance upon Thee, and our minds can in some degree have companionship with

Thine. We rejoice that Thou hast destined us for immortality—that fellowship which is begun here, it is Thy wish, should continue throughout the unending ages of eternity. Do Thou make us meet for that glory which is the portion of all those who love the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ. And while we are not forgetful of the high estate to which we are called, may it teach us lowliness and humility, remembering that it is not by our own strength or merit, but by the free gift of abundant grace that we shall attain to this inheritance.

Teach us how feeble we are, and that our safety is that we abide in Thee—that without Thee we can do nothing. Teach us by the darkness of the night that we have only light in Thee. As gloom gathers over earth and sky may it remind us that to our short and uncertain vision there is obscurity in the moral as in the physical world, and unless Thou lift upon us the light of Thy countenance we should be left to lose our way and stumble on the dark mountains. Do Thou help us to trust Thee even in the darkness of mind and in the perplexities of soul that sometimes assail Thy people. May we feel that when we are called to walk in the darkness and have no light that we can still trust in the Lord and stay ourselves upon our God.

We commend ourselves to Thy care during the hours in which our eyes are sealed in sleep. May we lie down feeling that we slumber in our Father's kindly embrace—that no evil thing will be permitted to hurt us. Bless and take care of all our loved ones here and in other places. Protect them and us amidst all the changing vicissitudes and ever varying dangers of this life. And this night, as we lay ourselves down to rest, graciously guard us with Thy Fatherly care. Through Christ. AMEN.

## No. 113.

WITH grateful thanks we welcome the light of the Sabbath morning. On the first day of the week we cast off the cares which have lain on our hearts during the past six days. Thou, Lord, didst rest one day out of the seven, and we desire to rest like Thee this day. Thou art almighty and yet Thou didst rest. Thine arm never slackens and grows weary, yet Thou didst rest. We are weak and soon we wear out the little strength we possess. Thy law, O Lord, is our delight. In following Thee we have peace, and rest, and satisfaction. If Thou, to set us an example, didst stoop to rest one day out of seven, if Thou couldst even seem to be weak and outworn as man would be after work, may we count it our truest joy to learn of Thee what we ought to do and what we ought to leave undone on this Thy holy day.

The week is past. A new week is begun. We leave all toil and worry and ceaseless exaction behind us, and in the rest which Thou hast given us we enter on this week with a sense of freedom. Help us to live as free men should. Once we were enslaved, but Thou hast, by Thy word of truth, made us free. Even as on this day, first of all the week, Christ did burst the bars of death, and Thou didst call Him up victorious from the tomb, so hast Thou, all-powerful God, raised up us who put faith in Thee and in Thy power. Day of rest, and yet day of greatest might! While we rest, O Lord, work in us; quicken the springs of thought; flush the founts of feeling; replenish our wills with new power; give us holier and stronger aspirations; and then, body, soul, and spirit, we shall in some measure know Thee as we ought, love Thee as we ought, serve Thee as we ought, and follow

Thee as we ought. It is our weakness that makes us crave for rest. But rest we cannot, except Thou infuse into us of that almighty power which raised our Saviour from the dead. We are Thy children as He was. By this favour Thou didst show Him we plead for newness of life. If He is Thy first-begotten from the dead, may this day, the memorial day of that on which He rose, may this very morning, which renews our memories of the morn on which He rose, witness Thy children brought again out of the deadness into which we are so apt to fall during the week. May like mercy be granted unto all Thy children.

In the churches where Thy word is preached may there be souls born again. Clothe Thy ministers with righteousness, endow them with power. May their spirit be the Spirit of God; may their word startle the indifferent, cheer the down-hearted, put strength into the feeble, and redouble the vigour of those who are strong. For the pastor of our church, for ourselves who shall worship under his ministry, and for all who shall form the congregation this day, we humbly pray Thee, so that Thy power may promote unity, banish all the elements of death in our church-life, and bring us into that life of power which shall be as resurrection from the dead.

Lord Jesus, who didst toil and agonise and freely die for us, take us and make us Thine own this day. Do all Thy will in us. May we ever abide in the true and living vine. Purge us of all unclean and mortifying elements. Thou dost live, and it will be our joy and our deepest, heartiest satisfaction to live Thy life and do Thy will. Hear us, we humbly beseech Thee, for Thy name's sake.  
AMEN.



## No. 114.

**T**HOU never tirest, all-gracious Father, holy and wise although Thou art, Thou never tirest of those who draw near Thee. We have worshipped Thee in the sanctuary. It was our joy to go up with the congregation to the house of God. Light and love shone round us, and we felt it was good for us to be there. We still seek Thy presence, the place where Thy glory dwelleth.

Father of lights, illumine what is dark within us and dark around us. As Thy children loving not the gloom, we cry—"Light, light, more light." May we never love the works of darkness. If in spite of the sacred associations of this day we have given way to any evil, graciously pardon our sin and take not Thy holy Spirit away from us. We desire to walk in Thy light, and as our first step therein we open out before Thee the record of this day's thoughts and deeds. Do Thou blot out the evil and establish the good, so that our day's page may be fair and well-done in Thy sight.

It was on this day of all the seven that Thou didst give light to the world. And when that Light which now shineth, seemed quenched forever, Thou on this day didst vanquish the power of death and cause the Sun of Righteousness to arise. As the darkness of night creeps in, we lay ourselves down to sleep and forgetfulness, trusting to Thy preserving and renewing power that we may rise again to the light and life of another day. Bless unto us the words spoken by Thy servant this day. Thy book is unto us as a lamp. In perplexity, in mist, in gloom, in the shadow even of death, we have no light but that which shineth in a dark place. May we who have received Thy word not absorb it all in our own selves, but may we grow radiant thereby. As candles lit of the

Lord, may we try to let Thy light, which is now our light, shine in the world. May truth glow in our every word. Give us benignity of purpose. It may not be ours to rise into the glory of Stephen when his face shone as it had been that of an angel. It may not be ours to go up to the Mount and share in the brightness of the transfiguration. Surely Thou hast better yet in store.

Lord, let our outward man be as it pleaseth Thee, if only our whole life be light, gladdening, blissful, nourishing light. Thou hast put Thy word as a lamp within us. Thou hast stored us with truth. Nay, more, we our very selves are changed and born again of Thy word of truth. May Thy word within us not lie useless and latent, but even as the sunbeam plays upon the dull earth and raises it to activity, and seeds germinate and fruit is gathered, so may we, receiving from the Sun of Righteousness healing and power, spring forth into newness of word and deed. It is only of Thine own, O Lord, that we can give Thee. How wonderful are Thy ways of working! Thy course never fails, for if we get light from Thee it is only that we may give it out and give it back to Thee as light when all is done. May there be no darkness in us at all!

This week may be a week of toil and care, but never may our lower nature screen and darken that higher nature which is Thy new gift to us. For all who are dear to us we humbly beseech Thy bountiful blessing this night. Give them all the blessings of the night—rest, sleep, protection, and replenished strength. Grant us security. May no harm come nigh our dwellings. And when life is closing for us, may our trust be that our last look of earth will be followed by our first sight of heaven. Keep us, Lord, till that new dawn breaks upon us. Keep us safe in Jesus. AMEN.

## No. 115.

**I**T is good for us, O Lord, to draw near Thee early in the morning. We have laid ourselves down and slept, and Thou, Lord, hast preserved and awakened us. May it be to newness of life. May this day be spent in Thy fear. Guard us from all wrong-doing. If snares lie in our path, do Thou not let us be entrapped. May we be quick to discern the right from the wrong. Whatever temptations would entice us from the narrow path, may we keep straight on, turning to neither the right hand nor the left. Thou hast given us another day of grace. It is fresh and unstained yet, and we know that Thou art graciously giving us another opportunity to live blameless and pure. May no great sin mar this day. May we never, in years to come, have to look back and cry, Would that that day had never been! Would that its memory could be blotted out! Keep us from everything gross and vile and mean. May the love of God dwell so constantly in our hearts that we shall have our minds set on higher things. Give us nobility of spirit, manliness, generosity.

Loving these things, may we hate whatever is opposed to them. May malice, and lying, and hatred be abomination to our very souls. As sons of God, may we aim high and live nobly. May we prove our high birth by a god-like life. But, alas, Lord, we come far short of what we desire. In the morning when Thou biddest us set our hearts on better things, we stand erect and we purpose grandly and holily. And then the little details of life come in—little faults, little cares, little temptations. We have gone through it all before, but we hope in Thee yet again; and we trust that this day we plant our feet one step higher. May not the trifles of this day find us off

our guard, far from Thee and helpless. May thoughts of Thee be quick and ready to us. We dare not hope to find this world shorn of all its temptations. But be Thou our helper, smooth the rough places, break up our path. If we have to front temptation may it be in Thy name, and then we are sure to come off victorious.

We rise from our knees and go forth to the labour of the day. Though we leave Thine altar, may we find it easy wherever we are, when the thought of Thee returns to us, to erect an altar to Thee and make every place a Bethel. In the shop or in the street, during our toil or when we are resting, whether we are alone or whether we are in the company of others, may our thoughts stream up towards Thee, and awake us, as often as may be, to renewed praise and prayer. Thankful for mercies, joyous in prosperity, happy ever with Thy love—what a blessed day this would be were such to be our sweet experience. But we know not what may lie before us. In mercy Thou hast drawn a veil before the future. But Thou wilt be there as Thou art here. Thou wilt love us all through. If loss or accident befall us, we trust Thee, Lord, that it will be for our good. In the eternity of bliss Thou wilt teach us to forget the sorrows of an hour.

And now, Lord, we pray Thee to give Thy children this day their needful bread. May commerce flourish. May work be abundant in our neighbourhood. May the helpless be fed of Thy bounty. Fill the poor with good things, even when the rich who seek Thee not are sent empty away. May this day's journey, if possible, be such as we would gladly choose for ourselves. Direct Thou our steps, and may we in peace and security be able to retrace the wisely-chosen path along which the Lord has been our Guide. Hear us, for Thy Son's sake. AMEN.



## No. 116.

WE dare not, O Lord, betake ourselves to sleep without Thee. Be not far from us in the night. May the slumber of peace, the slumber of an infant or a tired child, be ours. Thou givest Thy beloved sleep. But we could not, Lord, retire with unforgiven sins between us and Thee. If during this day our steps have strayed, lead us back, Lord, to the right path. Wash out of our souls all stains of this day's journey. We may, like travellers, have been exultant in our strength, stepping along proudly and, perhaps too, heedlessly, but the day is ending, and all soiled and wayworn we come to Thee for rest and refreshment. Thy gifts are manifold, but the sweetest now is sleep. Lord, we bless Thee for its lesson of child-like trustfulness. May we, when life's day is ended, thus securely fall asleep in Jesus. And, whether waking or asleep, may we have perfect peace because we are the Lord's.

It may be that this very night, in that providence which is ever wise, even when we cannot fathom its purpose, Thou wilt not give this boon to some of Thy children. We intercede with Thee on behalf of the sick. Tossing fevered and anguished, or stricken low and prostrate with exhaustion, they may not feel Thy goodness. But, Lord, they need Thee most even then. Surely Thou wilt be nigh. Surely Thou wilt make all their bed in their sickness. And if it be possible that any relief or any rest can be given, may the sick now have it, but all as Thou wilt.

Hear, O Lord, the weary entreaty of those who, through the night, are watching by the bed of the sick or the dying. Give them, too, what rest Thou canst wisely give them. Perhaps while we are thus in our happy home there is some heart-broken wife waiting and watching

wearily for the sound of a staggering step. God give help to her misery; unhappy now when alone, perhaps more so when, after the hours are fled, he comes back who should be her head and protector. Do not pass, dear Lord, do not pass from her cry and prayer unto Thee. May something touch the drunkard's heart.

And there will be some who, as the evening screens out the whirl and turmoil of the day, find their thoughts fly off to dear ones far away. May their wishes rise and be purified into prayers. Protect the prodigal. May he return to those whose hearts go after him. And if, when the wind howls and the storm drives the rain rattling on our windows, the friends of the sailor tremble and look at one another what they dare not speak, hear, Lord, the unspoken prayer. May the sleepless night of the friends on shore be a token in Thy sight of interest which but feebly echoes Thine own. God of love and mercy, shield the sailor in the stormiest night at sea. May he reach his desired haven. We pray for all that are in peril. Hear us on behalf of soldiers and emigrants. Guard from every alluring vice the young men who have left their father's homes for our large cities. God of the orphan and the widow, befriend, we pray Thee, the homeless and the desolate. If it be good and possible, may every such case of distress come to the ears of those whose hearts will be touched to do what lies in them for the succour of the unfortunate.

This night we are Thine. We desire Thee to work the secret springs of our nature, so that when we waken it may be in a happy, hopeful, loving frame of mind. May we rise with renewed strength to enter upon the duties and pleasures of another day. Thus may we be Thine own children both now and for ever. AMEN.

## No. 117.

FROM sleep and the dark and from unconsciousness Thou, O Lord, in Thy perennial mercy, hast raised us to the light and life of another morning. It is Thou that rulest and controullest every change in our experience. At Thy word sleep closes our eyes and drowns our senses ; and at the touch of Thy finger we wake without wonder into our old but still ever new life. As clay in the hands of the potter, so are we in Thy hands, Almighty God. Thou rulest in heaven and earth. Thy power wheels the stars in their courses, and yet Thy power adapts itself to the most exquisitely delicate works of Thy creation. We do not rule ourselves. Sleep and waking, death and resurrection, waste and replenishment, sin and regeneration, all prove to us Thine unseen power ever working, ever loving, and never forgetful of us, Thine unworthy children.

May we not shrink back from Thy most bounteous inworking. Work in our very hearts, O Lord. Rule there as Thou rulest in Orion. May our hearts in the Lord's hands be as rivers of water which He may turn whithersoever He willeth. We cannot do without Thee. Thou art the Saviour of the lost. Thy power over us compensates for our impotence. This day would be but drudgery didst Thou not fill our hearts and send us buoyant and elastic forth to our several spheres of duty. Brace up our courage, Lord, that we may faint at nothing. Nerve us that we may discharge our every duty. Steady our feet that we may walk in the pathway of Thy commandments. Pleasure and work are one when Thou dost animate us. Give us the mind of Jesus. May our lives be useful. May not the lowest or tiniest or meanest of our duties be shirked by us when we feel that it is the

grandest and most glorious thing in the universe to be of service. And if, in the way of duty, some great sacrifice be called for, if to do, to dare, even to suffer be our lot this day, may we cheerfully accept it in the name of Him who died for us on Calvary. We bless Thee for the knowledge of Jesus. It is true life to our souls. Without Him we should be too weak for life and its duties. But in His cross we glory, for it is our strength, our reserve of power. Weakest of all contrivances, in outward aspect and in the estimation of the wise of the world, it is yet the means which Thou hast wisely chosen whereby to make Thy people strong. May we this day learn of Jesus on the cross.

We have faith that Thou dost pardon sin. We kneel at Calvary and learn there that Thou who art just and exacting to the uttermost art yet merciful, quick to pardon, and ready to deal with us in our faith as with those who had never sinned. We believe; Lord, help our unbelief. In our faith be Thou our friend. Give us the strength of companionship. May the Comforter go with us and dwell overflowing within us. Can man, mortal man, be blessed with such fellowship? We glory in the cross of Christ. The joy of the Lord is our strength. In peace, hope, gladness, we go forth from Thy near presence perhaps to forget Thee, perhaps to be whirled into business or worry or the commonplaces of life, but never to be alone. Thou art our refuge and our strength. Thou wilt be ever present in time of trouble.

As Thou workest thus most wondrously within us, so do Thou control and direct all the circumstances into which we shall be thrown this day. May love, truth, might abide with us and work through us this day and all the days of our earthly pilgrimage. Through Jesus. AMEN.



## No. 118.

IT is towards evening, Lord; abide with us. The day is far spent and the night is nigh; Lord, abide with us. As Thou hast been our guide and shield by day, leading us by ways that we knew not before and fencing us in the warfare of life, so do Thou who art ceaselessly at work protect us from all harm in the darkness of this night and refresh us with Thy gift of sleep. During the day, in its constant work and worry, we fancy that we can take care of ourselves, and sometimes we forget that it is not in man of himself to direct his steps aright. But the approach of evening and of sleep brings us back to Thee. It must be all faith in Thy care and watching now.

Lord, pardon and accept us. We are but wayward children. The little strength and wisdom which Thou hast conferred upon us tempt us to believe ourselves equal to the care of our own selves. But we are Thy children. We are the sheep of Thy pasturing. Tired and longing only for rest, we lay ourselves upon Thee, and silent and dark although the night may be we shall be safe with Thee as our Watch and Protector. May we learn to trust Thee in this simple fashion to the very uttermost. May love and patience know no bounds. It is our distrust alone that would fancy Thee weary of blessing. It may be that in Thy providence, which always knows what is best for us, Thou wilt send affliction into our home and lay some of us low with the stroke of disease. What Thou permittest, Lord, cannot but be good for us. May we learn then, even as now, to lay ourselves down in the arms of our dear Lord, fearing no evil; trustful as children, willing to rest as tired children. Thou art our Shepherd and we will fear no evil. It is easy, Lord, to lie down and sleep. We bless Thee that in Thy wise

ordering of nature Thou hast made it easy to die. Death is a hard, cruel disaster, a pain and pang to be shunned, when we are in health and vigour. But Thou dost smooth the way by the slow weakening of disease, by the snapping of earthly bonds, by the weariness of advancing years, until at last the heart is glad to be free of the fight and to fall asleep. Even in our strongest hours, Lord, so strengthen us in faith that we shall never fear to fall asleep in Jesus.

We remember before Thee, Lord, Thy many children in the wide world. As darkness gathers round our home and shuts us in to the light and brightness of our little room, we forget the narrow sphere around us which by day presses itself upon our senses, and our thoughts go out to the great broad world stretching far beyond our sight. Where we cannot ourselves reach, there we know that our prayers may still be as effectual. We pray for all the world that Thy kingdom may come to it, and that Thy will may be done here even as it is done in heaven. There are many weary ones needing rest; weary of sorrow, weary of anxiety, weary of watching for the face which never appears and the footfall that never sounds in the ear, weary, perhaps, some of them, of life itself. Good Lord, have mercy and help them. We cannot reach them with a kind word, but Thou canst raise up a helper in the hour of direst need. Comfort the sick. Give the dying calmness and peace. May all sorrow find relief in prayer. And if there be any wandering ones, sore burdened with their sins, do Thou, Lord Jesus, win them back, as of old, by Thine all-prevailing love. Constrain us all, O Lord, to take shelter with Thee and to abide under the covert of Thy wings, for the love of Jesus. AMEN.

## No. 119.

**B**EFORE Thee, the living God, it behoves us, Thy children, ere we go forth to the day's task, to kneel and ask Thy blessing upon us. Thou art with us every hour. As the flower is drawn to the sun all day, and again with the first beams of the morning finds itself with face sunwards, so we early in the morning lift our faces to Thee, the God of light and love.

May we walk in the light this day. It is not life, Lord, to live without Thee. Go with us, Lord, for except we are happy in Thee we cannot go through the work of all day long. Our first wish this morning, the heart-felt craving of our nature, is to be happy in Thee and happy with Thee. Our memories wander back to sins, which Thou, we know, hast forgiven, but which we cannot forget. Do Thou quicken us anew with a knowledge of Thy pardoning love. May we know that of a truth the old sins are washed away, and that we start this day on a fresh and clear footing.

If Thou dost make us happy in Thee we shall not take pleasure in evil doing. Prevent us, O Lord, from walking in the counsel of the ungodly, or standing in the way of sinners, or sitting in the seat of the scornful. May we delight to do Thy will, and not the will of ourselves or the will of our lower selfish and sensual nature. May our meditation be of Thee. May thoughts of Thy holy book occur to our minds even in the midst of business or household duties. May all our paths be peace. And, if it please Thee, may all the works of our hands prosper, so that, sinking down like the roots of a tree planted by the rivers of water, we may find life, joy, sustenance, in drinking in Thy will, and so ever flourish, with never a withering leaf, but bearing fruit in due season to Thy

praise and honour and glory. Is it possible for us thus, Lord, to be blessed in Thee? Is it possible even now? We know that there are many things to seek after and attain, but we feel that the prime essential is the blessedness which only our dear Lord and Saviour can bestow.

All things are glad in Thee. The forests rejoice in the strength Thou givest them. The glad birds sing in the morning to Thee. Thou blessest the little children with health and happiness. O Lord, who lovest them, bless them with more. Make them happy in their books, in their games, and in the hundred little pursuits that fill up their daily life. May even the children be blessed in Thee. Grant them, as they increase in stature and in intellect, that they may ripen in their knowledge of Thee and Thy love. May they awake to clear knowledge of the Source and Giver of the happiness which they now enjoy, but which does not yet reveal to them its origin. May the young men of our time, exulting in their strength, rejoicing as those that run a race, glorying in physical health and in the exercise of intellect, be kept noble and be taught to aim high. May they hate all meanness and sham. O God of Bethel, bless the lads! And may our young maidens be pure, virtuous, and adorned with the grace which is from within and not merely on the outer person. May they too be happy in Thee, and find in that happiness the secret of a lovely and winsome life. May theirs be the beauty of holiness. For the aged, Lord, we also pray. May their declining years be years of peace and holy joy. In their faces let some of the light of the near Jerusalem be reflected. Do Thou hear these our prayers which we present in the name and in the Spirit of our dear Saviour. AMEN.



## No. 120.

THOU, O Lord, art the Fount of life and of love. That we may be filled with Thy fulness we withdraw ourselves for a little from the engagements of this day, and approach Thee in prayer. It is good for us at any time and in any place thus to draw near Thee. Fellowship with Thee is our safeguard in temptation, our comfort in trouble, and our help always. May our hands forget their cunning, before we forget Thy throne of grace. But in the evening, ere we close our eyes in sleep, we feel that it is good to set apart a little while for prayer and meditation. Meet with us, Lord, often at eventide. From morn till eve abide with us ; yea, all the night long may we rest with the Almighty arm around us and shielding us from all harm. May Thine angels guard our dwelling.

The day's work is past. So much of it as is imperfect Thou wilt, we pray Thee, give us time and strength to finish on another day. Prosper Thou the work of our hands. May we set our hearts on no evil devices. Thou hast expelled the desire to do wrong. Our inmost, heartiest wish is to do what is right. Thy will, Lord, not ours, be the will of our lives. We therefore humbly lay before Thee all the plans and deeds of this day, and pray that whatever Thou seest amiss Thou wilt forgive. Not only forgive, Lord, but show us our errors, so that we may in future know the path of duty. Open Thou our eyes and we shall see clearly. We bless Thee for health and strength and for opportunities to use these gifts in honest, faithful work.

What has been done this day is done. It is now out of our hands. The past, we know, is unchangeable ; but we pray that if we have done aught well and wisely this

day it may be fitted by Thee into that imperishable building of good deeds to which those who are led by Christ, the master builder, are each contributing. May we not build up what shall not stand the test of the fire. Give us, dear and wise Lord, give us no slack conscience about our day's work. May we earn our night's repose by attempting something each day, and each day achieving something.

Salvation Thou hast freely given us. With the new song in our mouths we praise the Lamb who died for us and brought us salvation. May we work it out. Lord, we could not sleep this night did we not feel that we had been working along the lines marked out in our new nature. We may slide and slip and sometimes fall, but we must feel at one with Thee and in harmony with Thy law written in our hearts, ere we retire to rest. Animate our hearts day by day with love drawn from Calvary. We thank Thee for all our opportunities of doing good. Although we shamefully sometimes fail to take advantage of them, Thou art ever patient, ever gracious, and Thou dost lay them again and again right in our way.

Bless this night, O Lord, all the poor whom we met or encountered this day. In raggedness, in hunger, in cold, outcasts and despised of men, may they learn of Him who like them was acquainted with grief. We pray that in good time the causes of so much poverty may decrease and finally disappear. We pray for all the sick whose faces we saw, or of whom we heard or thought this day. May they have whatever relief is possible. If we have enemies, Lord, bless them. Teach us to be kind and look for no reward. We would be like Thyself, who art kind to the unthankful and to the evil. With Thy yoke upon us we find rest both now and evermore. AMEN.

## No. 121.

O GOD, our Father, we come to Thee at the opening of this day, for every day is Thine, and brings to us some token of Thy love. It is Thy very nature to care for others, as a mother cares for her little child. Thou hast borne the burden of the world from the first day, and Thou art not weary to lay it aside. Thou art as strong and as willing to bear it as ever. We cast ourselves freely and trustfully upon Thy love, for we are sure it is never a trouble, but always a joy for Thee to care for us. And the more we need Thee, the weaker and more inexperienced we are, Thine interest in us and Thy desire to help us are the deeper and more tender. How constantly we do need Thy presence and Thy love; every day, every hour we need Thee to be our Father, our guide, our salvation. We need Thee far more than the child needs the parent's love, the mother's hand—more than the earth needs the sun and the rain.

In the morning make us sure Thou art with us to begin the day, and that whatever step we need to take, in whatever way we need to walk, whatever experience we need to pass through, Thou wilt still be with us to care for us and give us strength. May this certainty make us brave in the face of every duty, and patient and joyful under every trial, so that we shall never fear to go forward, never shrink from any work because it looks hard, or refuse to learn any lesson that is difficult. We have trusted Thee in the past, and have never found Thee to fail us or be unfaithful. As Thou art so faithful to us, help us to be true and constant and faithful to Thee, counting it our joy to do our Father's will—like Jesus, to be about our Father's business.

And help us not to be selfish in our prayer, not to

think that we need Thee more than others, or that Thy love to us is greater than it is to others. Thou hast a great family of little children to care for and to provide for, but Thou art not poor or straitened; Thy wealth is very great; Thy heart is very tender; Thou hast more than enough and to spare for all. Let all have the same acquaintance with Thee which we have, and more, that they, too, may trust in Thy love and be Thy true children. And if we can help to bring any back to Thee as their Father, if we can so speak to them about Jesus that they will learn for the first time to trust Him and love Thee, give us wisdom and willingness to do this, for Thy sake and for their sake.

Let there be many to speak for Jesus and to work for Jesus, that men all round about us may be brought to Him. He is the light and salvation of the world, and we pray that His gospel may go forth and be clothed with power, the power of God unto salvation, that the sin which has so long filled the world with weeping and bitterness may be taken away, that the earth may grow sweet and pure and be the home of true grace and love, where all men shall dwell together as brothers in unity and good will. We know that this is our Father's purpose for the whole world: let it soon be accomplished. Let whatever hinders—all darkness and intemperance, all impenitence and selfishness, all spirit of war and cruelty—pass away. Sin has long been working for the desolation of the world which Thou hast made for Thyself and for all good. It is not Thy will that sin should reign, and reign so long. Let its dominion cease now. Let the darkness indeed pass away, and the true light shine. Let love be the supreme power, and let the whole earth be filled with Thy glory. AMEN.



## No. 122.

OUR Father, how many memories of Thy faithfulness and love rush upon our hearts as we return to Thee at the close of each day. Every hour of the day and of the night brings us tokens of Thy nearness and of Thy kind remembrance. How securely we are guarded when we dwell under the shadow of the Almighty, in the secret place of Him who is able to keep us from falling here, and at last to present us faultless in the presence of His own glory with exceeding joy! It makes even this life dear to us, when we see our Father's love round about us every day, ministering all things needful and beautiful. And it makes heaven unspeakably rich and glorious to our faith, when we think that there we shall know and enjoy that love in its fulness, and attain to the perfection and beauty of that life which Thou hast prepared for us. We are so glad and thankful that we are the children of God, that we can leave ourselves wholly in Thy hand, certain that neither things present nor things to come shall separate us from Thy love.

We thank Thee for dear friends who love us, and whom we can love in return. Thou dost make even these human relationships to be very sweet, and even when for the present they are broken and the seal of eternity is set upon them, they are not less precious, but more, for we know that dear ones translated, glorified, shall be given back to us in the perfect grace and gentleness and beauty which only heaven can give. And so, though their departure may have fallen on our hearts as a shadow, a dark eclipse, yet we would not bid them return. We would bid Christ and heaven welcome to our dearest and best, and seek only that we may cherish the sweet names and memories they leave behind, and be

ready to meet them in the perfect home, where there shall not be any more sundering for ever, but where, in true love, and stainless, unbroken life, we shall be for ever with the Lord.

Our hearts would reach beyond our kindred. It is so good to be Thine, we ask this supreme blessing for all, that they may have that knowledge of Thee, that acquaintance with Christ, that it will be easy for them to trust and love Thee better than all besides. And especially, when any home is under the shadow of sorrow or death, let Thy love stand at the heart of the darkness. When eyes are blind with tears, and mouths speechless and dumb from grief, let such mourners be sure they are not forsaken, and can never be friendless while God is. Save them from doubt and despair. Let them not chafe and fret as if an unkind and hurtful hand had been laid on them to make them poor. Let them see Thy way is one of enrichment and love. Let them see their friends transfigured and with Christ in His glory, and so may their hearts rise above the darkness. Oh, how we all need to understand life better, and death, to be sure that round about all is the thought of God and the purpose of Thy perfect wisdom, and that so, whether for life or death, all is well, for God is above and round about it all.

Let the world be full of light. It has long, very long, been very dark and sad, but salvation has come, and God will not rest till His own work is perfect, the darkness past and the true light shining, and His own Christ all in all. Help us to work with God for that day; and, if it tarry, may we be patient, knowing it is sure. Let Thy kingdom come, and Thy will be done by all for ever. AMEN.

## No. 123.

OUR heavenly Father, we thank Thee for the coming of the morning light ; we praise Thee that Thou hast guarded us in our hours of rest and slumber, that Thou hast reached down Thy hand to lift us all up, to take away the darkness and to bring back the sweet light of day. Thou art Light Thyself, and Thou dost mean us to be the children of the light, because the children of God. We need light because we need God, and when away from God we are walking in darkness, and our feet would soon stumble and go far astray. May we never turn away from the light because of our deeds being evil, but may we love the light and walk in it, and be clothed with light and beauty as the children of God. Let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us, and let Thy light and truth be sent forth upon all, that our world may be set free from the doubt and darkness which have so long been brooding over it, and that it may become a place of sweetness and rest and gladness as Thou dost mean it to be.

And now, as Thou art opening the gates of the day before us, and as we are about to go forth on our several ways, we take our Father's hand and make it our common prayer, that we may this day and every day do justly and love mercy and walk humbly and trustfully with Thee as our Father. We are often full of perplexities within, and often compassed about with peril and temptation without, and we need God to hold us by the hand. May we never be proud and never self-sufficient. Thou hast promised that Thy grace shall be sufficient for us and Thy power made perfect in our weakness. Resting on this word, we go bravely and cheerfully forth to work and well-doing, glad that, like Jesus, in our lowliest

relations and humblest duties, we can be doing our Father's will.

We would remember others before Thee in their trials and perplexities and wants. Many a heart this morning is full of concern, many a hand this day will be weary and ready to hang down, many a foot ready to stumble in the dark and rough way. O Thou God of the weak and weary and sinful, be pleased to undertake for such. Let the tempter have no advantage over them because of their faintness; let sin not have dominion over them to make them weaker and darker still. Let them remember Him who suffered and was tempted, and is able to succour all who are tempted. And among all Thy children let there be the sweet spirit of helpfulness and brotherly kindness that they may bear one another's burden, and so fulfil the law of Christ. Have mercy upon those who are hard and selfish, and who, in place of helping others, are laying heavy burdens upon them. Let the spirit of selfishness and wrong and oppression cease. Let the great curse of drunkenness cease, and let all snares and stumbling-blocks be taken out of the way of those who have already fallen and are stained and bruised by that or any other sin. Whatever law is false and wrong, whatever custom is perilous and evil, let these be changed, and in their place let our country be enriched and ennobled by laws of righteousness and love. Bless our rulers and lawgivers; make them men of God, men who have the spirit of power and love, and of a sound mind, who know the mind of God, and will be brave to do it in the face of all difficulty and opposition. Give us good kings and rulers for all the nations, that the kingdom of God may be established, and that the principles of this true kingdom may triumph in the salvation of the world. AMEN.



## No. 124.

OUR Father, as we love to begin the day with Thee, so we desire to close all its ways and duties in Thy presence, laying everything that this day has been and has brought to us at Thy feet, that what is good may be accepted, and what is amiss may be all forgiven for Jesus' sake. We are very thankful for that presence of love which has been about us all, and that Father's hand which has ministered so unweariedly and so bountifully to us all this day. Let the experience through which we have passed be interpreted to us all, that we may better understand life, and that we may know the mind of God about ourselves and others as that has been shown in this day's life. Let the lessons we have learned be laid to heart and long remembered, that the days to come may be the better for these. Let no day pass over us without something done for Jesus, without some lesson of love and nobleness and well-doing learned for ourselves and others. Let our home be every day the better for us, and the homes of our friends and neighbours and as many as our influence can reach.

We are slow to learn and backward in our well-doing. Sometimes we are prone to be selfish and ready to miss ways and opportunities of helping others. Let us be forgiven for our coldness and selfishness, and let such warmth and fulness of divine love be shed abroad in our hearts that we shall be more charitable, more forgiving, and more unwearied in our work of faith and labour of love.

There are many whom we desire to remember in our prayer. We have seen some to-day in trial. Let their faith not fail, let them not grieve Thee nor injure themselves by doubting Thy love when the day is dark about them. May they not think that Thou art dealing harshly

with them, or that it is possible for Thee to forsake them. Even in the presence of great sorrow may they bow down before Thee and say, Our Father's will is good, and let it ever be done! And even though the darkness should deepen, what they cannot escape may they meet in the strength and peace of simple trust, sure of this, that whatever the future may bring Thou wilt always be with them, and that neither things present nor things to come can separate them from Thy love.

We have seen some, too, whose homes are filled with brightness and peace. May they trace all that joy and gladness to God's bountiful love, and never be proud and never selfish in their prosperity and ease. Let the spirit of brotherly kindness abound, so that the rich shall pity and help the poor, the strong bear the burden of the weak, the good yearn with the sympathy of God for the salvation of the bad.

The world is full of unrest, its burden is often heavy and painful. We are glad there is a God of strength and patience to bear the world and its burden too. Oh let the knowledge of God and God's Christ spread everywhere, that every home may be as full of God's presence as our home this evening. It is sweet to work and then sweet to rest as the children of God—in our waking and our working, in our rest and slumber, to be sure there is One to care for us whose arm never tires, whose eyes are never heavy, never close in sleep and forgetfulness. Let our dear friends all have the rest and security and slumber of the children of God. If some have sorrow to-night, let the God who comforteth all that are cast down comfort them. Let every heart of weariness and trouble find rest in the heart of God, find liberty in Thy love, and gladness in the peace which passeth understanding. AMEN.

## No. 125.

OUR Father, we bow down together in reverence and thankfulness before Thee this morning. We love to acknowledge Thee as the God of our home. Thou hast been the God of our fathers, and though they have passed away from us Thou dost still abide, never growing old and never weary. We are glad not only that Thou hast made us, but also made us for Thyself, never to be far away from Thee, but every day to have fellowship with Thee, every day to find that our true life is in God, our true strength for the work of the day and our rest at its close.

We thank Thee for prayer, for its simplicity and yet for its greatness. It is the simplest and yet the greatest and best thing we can do, for it is taking our poverty, our emptiness and weakness, and laying all down at the feet of God to be clothed with Thy strength and to be enriched out of Thy fulness, made great with the very greatness and wealth of God Himself. Our hearts sing for joy all the day when we know that we are Thy children and that Thy presence is about us. In ourselves we are the children of weakness and blindness, but faith and prayer make us strong in the Lord and in the power of Thy might. Oh teach us the exceeding greatness of Thy power to us-ward who believe, that it is according to the working of Thy mighty power in raising Christ from the dead and setting Him at Thine own right hand. Thou didst lift Him out of the lowest place to set Him in the highest, out of the place of death to set Him in the place of life and power and glory. Teach us it is this Thou wouldst do for us all—to quicken us together with Christ and raise us up together and make us sit together in heavenly places. May we indeed know Christ in the

power of His resurrection, and walk with Him in newness of life. We would not be content with just coming to Him for pardon and peace; we would be like Him; as we have received Him so we would walk in Him, rooted, and grounded, and built up in Him, growing up unto Him in all things.

And as we ask this for ourselves so we seek it for all our kindred, all our friends, all in the church of our fellowship, yea, for all in every church who love Jesus. May Christian life not be so poor and halting in us and them as we have so often seen it. The world needs true life, strong and steadfast and beautiful, as a witness that the gospel is indeed the power of God unto salvation. We are sorry when any of the children of God are guilty of any sin, secret or open, when occasion is given to others who do not love Thy truth to doubt and mock and blaspheme. Help Thy children to be true in the life and work of every day, true and kind at home, faithful and honest in business, that others who look on may see in them true sons of God, good men, in whose life they can read the truth of God and find what will draw them to Christ for their own salvation.

We ask, with special interest and earnestness, for God's blessing to rest upon the church in which we enjoy communion and worship God and work for Christ. Make it a true church; make our pastor a true servant of God, speaking among us with love and without any fear the whole counsel of God, that his words may be as the strength of God to the weak and weary, and for salvation to others who do not know the sweetness of rest in Christ. Let there be ever among us the spirit of love and Christian willingness that our best may be done and given for the glory of Christ. AMEN.



## No. 126.

O GOD, our Father, it is good for us to feel as the day closes and the darkness gathers that this darkness hideth not from Thee, but that the darkness and the light are both alike unto Thee. We are often in the dark, but there is no darkness with Thee. Thou dost lead us forth in the morning to labour and duty, and Thou dost bring us back in the evening, that we may lay on our home-altar our evening sacrifice of thanksgiving. We are glad that Thou art thus our own God, for Thou art the very God we need. We are often weak and need strength, we are often faint and ready to falter, but strength belongeth unto Thee, and Thou art ever with us to say, Fear not, for I am with thee, and I will strengthen thee. We have been stained and broken by the sin that is ours, but Thou canst heal us and make us white and clean, yea, so perfect that we shall be without spot or wrinkle or any such thing. It is a great salvation which Thou hast provided; let us understand it well, and let the God of peace make us perfect in every good work, working in us that which is pleasing in His own sight.

We long and pray for the day when all flesh shall see the salvation of God, when the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and shall fill the whole earth. Hasten, O God, the bright day of prediction and glory. It is Thy work; let no unbelief or lukewarmness of ours hinder. We are often ashamed of our own idleness and coldness, and often sorry for the stumbling and faint-heartedness of others too like ourselves. O God, rebuke such things among Thy children and take them away. Baptise us all with the spirit of strength and faithfulness. Send us all out in Thy name into a needy world with loving, burning hearts, ready to work, ready to sacrifice, ready, if need be,

to die in the service of Him who endured the cross and despised the shame for us.

O God, we need quickening, the whole church needs it. We have been too self-seeking, too careful of our own repose and comfort, and too forgetful of the great multitude still without Christ, having no hope and without God in the world. Let us be endued with power from on high. Let the church of God everywhere put on her strength and her beautiful garments. Let us be ashamed of our bigotries and divisions, of our rancours and grudges. Let us be all united and humble and unselfish. Let the mind of Christ, who was so gentle and yet so heroic, so full of the spirit of self-sacrifice, be in us, that when God is calling for workers in His great field, the instant, fervent response of all shall be, Here are we, send us.

Our hearts are sorry often as we close the day and come to Thy feet that we have done so little for Thee. O God, how often we might hear Thy gentle rebuke, Why stand ye here all the day idle? We feel the rebuke; we shall not be idle; our Father is never idle; there is no place for idleness in our Father's kingdom; so help us to be steadfast and immovable, always abounding in Thy work, assured that we shall reap if we faint not. Let the spirit of true devotion and unselfish labour be shed forth upon all Christian churches, that all the children of God may go forth joyfully and earnestly from day to day to the work of faith, that they may win the world for God, and so for righteousness and grace. Hasten the day of the restitution of all things, when Christ shall be all in all, for the glory of Thy name. AMEN.

## No. 127.

**L**ORD, we bless Thee for the kindly light that has dawned on the world this day; it comes to tell us that Thou art light and that in Thee there is no darkness. Oh help us to live as the children of the light and of the day. We thank Thee with deeper gratitude and love for the better light that has risen on the world and on our souls in Jesus Christ—light for the darkness of our sorrow, and light and guidance out of the deeper darkness of our sin and woe. Shine by the light that is in Christ into our spirits till all the darkness of our ignorance be taken away, and grant that as the ignorance is dispelled from our mind the alienation of our heart and will may be removed also that we may be wholly Thine.

Ah, Lord, how can we enough thank Thee that Thou hast given the light of the knowledge of salvation unto Thy people by the remission of their sins; that through the tender mercy of our God the dayspring from on high hath visited us; that Thou hast given light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace. For while we dwell in darkness and ignorance of Thee there is fear, and fear has torment, but to know Thee and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent, is life eternal; to be acquainted with Thee is peace—peace with Thee, and peace with ourselves, and peace with all the world.

We thank Thee that the true light now shines, that God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. Shine on, and shine ever farther into our hearts, Thou kindly light, till all the clouds of ignorance be scattered and the mists of superstition be lifted from our mind, till

our souls feel not only the clear certainty of Thy being, but also the warm fervours of Thy love.

Thou, O Lord, art a Sun and Shield, a defence from fear, because a deliverer from the darkness of ignorance. In the darkness we fear, for we see Thee not; because the darkness is complete, and we fear because we are without a Friend. And by reason of the mixing of darkness with our best light we but too often see Thee amiss, and our fear is not lessened but increased, and we are robbed of joy, and we possess neither true faith nor true freedom. But as the shadows and nameless fears of the night flee away before the dawn, so do our terrors, bred of ignorance and half knowledge, flee away before the uprising of the Sun of Thy righteous love, and the downshining of its benignant beams. Our hearts live and revive as if the shining of a heavenly Sun visited them. Our faces are lightened as if the smilings of Thine own face were reflected from them.

Teach us, having once seen Thee in a true knowledge in the face of Jesus Christ, to fear no more. Help us, even when the vision fails, to fall no more under the power of darkness, but to believe in the hidden light, that will shine again as it has shone before.

Blessed Son of God, Thou art the true Light that lighteth every man that cometh into the world. Oh bless and illumine with Thine own beams the minds of all true Christian ministers who go forth to bear witness of the light this day that all men through them may believe.

The Lord bless us and keep us and make His face shine on us and be gracious unto us, the Lord lift on us the light of His countenance and give us peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.



## No. 128.

**B**LESS to us, O Lord, what we have this day heard and seen of Thy constant goodness and of Thy redeeming love in Christ Jesus. Seal on our hearts all good impressions, confirm all holy resolutions, and deepen and make yet more sweet and profitable all meditations on Thy love.

As Thou hast made a Sabbath around us to-day, let quietness and Sabbath rest fall this night into our very hearts, so that the passing away of the day of rest, and the near anticipation of the days of our ordinary toil may not distraet or move us.

Help us to seek our peace not in earthly circumstances but in Thyself, for the things around us are not at peace in themselves but are ever changing, and our hearts must be unquiet till they find rest in Thee. Alas, we have tried to make for ourselves a home in the changeful rather than in the changeless, in Thy gifts rather than in Thyself. We have sought peace and have not found it, because we sought it not in Thee. But bring us now to think of Thyself, O God, who art subject to no change, to think of the manifestations of Thy love and nature in Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, to-day, and forever, that abiding in Thee our minds may grow steadfast and peaceful, and that our souls may be kept from distraction and fear as by a guard of angels. May the girding arms of the Almighty be cast around us; stay us on the infinite strength and compassion of our changeless Saviour, and thus let us be filled with that peace which the world cannot give and cannot take away.

Lord, the path of our life leads us not always through safe and known places; Thou leadest us through many dangers that we see and through many more that are

hidden from our eyes. In the midst of peril and temptation, in the hours of trial and weakness, when we cannot for our very unbelief and confusion see Thee, oh look on us, and grant us the sense that Thy loving eye sees us, that Thine unseen hand is near us, and this shall be our peace. We do not ask to see our way, but we ask to feel Thy guiding hand, Thy present comfort; leave us not nor forsake us. In all the appointed way of our life, in loss of heart and hope, in the loss of cherished ambitions, of innocent delights and treasures, in the loss of dear friends, ordain that Thy peace dwell with us and garison our frail hearts. In all time of sickness and painful disappointment, in all the unspeakable need of our devious way across this world, vouchsafe to us the real peace of the presence of a Saviour who has been all the way Himself that He calls us to go, who is united to us in a never-ending union, and who has shown His everlasting love for us and for all men in that He was content to die that we might live.

And, finally, as Thou dost make us peaceful in life make us fearless in death. May we, with the peace of Christ in our heart, and the words of calm faith and victory on our tongue, be able to triumph over death itself and all its strange fearfulness. Life is Thine, death also is Thine. Life is sweet, but death also is good in its own hour. When that untrodden way comes to be travelled, when that unopened door comes to be opened for us, may we pass through in the meek courage Christ alone can inspire, hearing His sweet and mighty words, "Fear not, I am the First and the Last, I am He that liveth and was dead, I am alive for evermore, and have the keys of Hades and of death." And this we beg through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

## No. 129.

**O** GOD, our heavenly Father, we take Thy hand this morning, as a little child would cling to a mother's hand on a way of darkness or peril. We can walk securely and live to noble purposes only as we keep at Thy side. Thou art the strongest and most patient of all helpers, and when we lean hardest upon Thee in our weakness, it is best for us, and it is not a trouble to Thee. As a father loves to have the trust of his child, so Thou dost bid us confide in Thee, and cast on Thee our constant care. Thou hast made us for this, that Thou mightest share with us Thy strength and blessedness, Thine eternal rest and home.

We thank Thee every day for what Thou hast been to us in our weakness and need—that Thou hast been so patient and painstaking amid all our faltering and stumbling. May the memory of Thy gentleness and care win our hearts supremely unto Thyself. Thy tenderness and constancy are all past comparison. We have not found, and cannot find out, all the truth about Thy mercy; but we are glad that this shall be our employment and joy in eternity, to come closer to Thee, and to enter more perfectly into all the fulness and wealth of the sons of God.

This morning, as we bend before Thee, be pleased to fill our hearts with a great light and peace, so that we shall go down to the life-work of the day as from the mount of communion with God. Give to us the spirit of wisdom and revelation to perfect our knowledge of Thyself and of Jesus Christ, that the eyes of our hearts being enlightened, we may know what is the hope of our calling in Jesus, and what are the riches of the glory of Thine inheritance. Let us be filled with the knowledge of Thy will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding, that we

may walk worthy of the Lord, being filled with the fruits of righteousness; and that we may be strengthened with all might, unto all long-suffering with joyfulness.

May this day be to us, and to all whom we love, one shining upon us with the light of God and laden as with the wealth and benediction of the kingdom of heaven, that we may have not only for our own present need, but also have whereof we can minister in brotherly love to the sorrow and need of others. We often meet with the poor and broken-hearted: all round us are homes of sorrow and pain and bereavement: let us be so replenished ourselves with the peace and strength of God that we shall be able to minister to the need of such. We would not live vain and selfish lives; we would remember we are not our own, but Christ's, and so live for the salvation and encouragement of those for whom He has died. May we know how to overcome the evil in ourselves, how to restrain and bind our pride and self-love, how to cherish what is good and pure, and so how to put out the strength God is giving us to succour and strengthen others who are ready to faint.

O God, our hearts yearn to be more like Jesus: to do something for Him, to show that we love Him, that we are thankful for the great redemption we ourselves have received through His love and sacrifice. May we know Him indeed in the power of His resurrection, and be ready with Him to endure the cross and despise the shame, if with Him we can help to seek and save the lost. Let us attain to the true consecration, and so present ourselves to God as living sacrifices upon the altar of daily devotion, for Christ's sake. AMEN.



## No. 130.

OUR heavenly Father, the day is done, and in our weariness we come near to Thee to find rest. We soon come to the end of our own strength and wisdom, yea, to the end of all that is our own; but we are glad we shall never come to the end of anything that is Thine. Our days and years soon close, but Thou art the same, and Thy years shall not fail. There is no end to Thy strength or love, to Thy work or wisdom now; and when at last we stand perfect in Thy presence, we shall find there is no end to the rest which remaineth, and none to the glory with which Thou shalt crown Thy children in heaven. In Thy presence is fulness of joy, and at Thy right hand are pleasures for evermore.

As our day of life will be so soon done, help us, our Father, to make the most of it, to work while it is called day, that when we go home at eventide we may have our Father's Welcome, and our Saviour's Well done, good and faithful servants. Every day we feel more and more how good and worth while it is to live for God, how much is within our reach now, and what large possibilities for the future. Oh let us not be found unfaithful to these. Teach us every day more about Thyself; what Thou dost mean by every day, that each is to be one of humble service and well-doing, a day to lay up treasure in heaven, and to bring glory to our Father and our Saviour.

Be pleased to quicken in all round about us a spirit of constancy and faithfulness. Let our religion not be one of name and profession only, but of reality and love. Take away formality and all spirit of slumber from the Church. Wake up the hearts of all who call themselves by the name of the Son of God. If they are saved themselves and on the way to heaven, may they not be selfish

and close their eyes to the need of the great unsaved world. Show them that they are to be witnesses for Christ, His ambassadors to beseech men to be reconciled to God, and while iniquity abounds, while intemperance is so wasteful, while worldliness and selfishness are so rampant, let there be no child of God seeking selfish repose, but let all be clothed about with the armour of God, and go down to the battle-field where light and darkness are in conflict, and there, in Christ's name, wage a good warfare.

Give us rest to-night such as shall refresh us and make us strong for new and better life and work to-morrow. We cannot work long without feeling our need to come back to God for renovation and rest. Even Christ had to withdraw to the mountain for communion with His Father. He is our Brother, made like us in this, as in all other things. Oh may we, like Him, come in our weariness and weakness to God, that our strength may be replenished out of the fulness of God. When the morning comes, let it be our Father's voice to summon us forth to true life and the labour of love. Every day we live may the world be the better for us, some heart happier, some home brighter, some life nearer God, that so, at last, to close life and go home for rest will be good and welcome. Death then will be gain, our Father's homeward call. So, in the grace of God, may there be ministered to us at last, and to all our dear kindred, an abundant entrance into the everlasting kingdom and glory of Jesus. Then our life shall be truer, our work more divine, and eternity itself shall be full of strength and victory. We ask so great things for Jesus' sake. AMEN.

## No. 131.

O GOD, we thank Thee that Thou didst hear our evening prayer, that Thou hast spared our lives and brought us to the beginning of a new day. We thank Thee for the kindly darkness that curtains our sleep, but yet hides not from Thee. For Thou art Light, and Thou art everywhere, and the far and the near and the dark and the light are alike to Thee. We sleep and awake, and Thou sustainest us; and when we awake, we are still with Thee. Lord, Thou seest us, and we see not Thee. Thou art our nearest Friend, and we are altogether in Thy hands, yet no man has seen God at any time. It is because Thou art so near to us, hiding in our very being, yet manifesting Thyself in us, and through us to others, and through others to us again. We have not seen God at any time, but if we love one another, God dwelleth in us and His love is perfected in us.

We kneel, this new day, around Thy footstool, and consecrate ourselves and our renewed being to Thee. Thou art worthy of our praise and our most pure and deep devotion, and we desire, in heaven or in earth, none besides Thee. Leaving Thine altar, we thank Thee we need not leave Thyself, for though we go to mingle with our fellow-men, we may still, in serving them, serve Thee, and seeing their faces, it may be to us as if we saw Thine own.

Thou hast bound up the love of Thyself with the love of our fellow-man. This commandment have we from Thee, that he who loves God love his brother also. Thou hast so blent the religion of Thy love with the philanthropic love of them Thou hast made that we cannot divide them without destroying the common spirit and life by which both are animated. Thou hast so ordained that in keeping well the second commandment in the love of our

brother, we shall best keep the first commandment in the love of Thyself, whose glory stands in our common well-being ; and who lovest our neighbour so unselfishly and truly that the good we do our brother in Christ Thou dost accept as if it were rendered to Thyself. Save us from the pretended love of God between which and the true love of man there is no real bond ; for we cannot love Thee, the great Original, and hate the image we see of Thee in the face of our dear fellow-creature. If we love not the brother whom we have seen, how can we love the heavenly Father, whom we have not seen ?

Lord, what were earth and sea, what were firmament and sun and clouds, what were all the world without a kindred nature to rest in ? Grant us to see not only God as God, but in Christ and in the nature Christ has taken to see God as man. May it be strength and comfort to us to apprehend the eternal humanity in the depths of Deity. In the apprehended likeness of God to ourselves may we find the divine love, not only to be light, but warmth to our souls.

Help us, therefore, not to try to love heaven more by loving earth less. Help us not to seek to love the Creator more by less loving the creature. Help us to accept what God has made as the best sacrament of what God is, to receive the things that are seen as the passing shadows of the Invisible, and to love the earthly friends Thou hast made specially dear to us as the very channels through which Thy love flows to us and our love flows to Thee—the love of the Father sweetening and exalting the love of the brother, and the love of the brother leading back to the Father's love, from which it sprang.

And all this we ask for the sake and in the name of the Son of Thy love. AMEN.



## No. 132.

**O** LORD, Thou hast been our Dwelling-place to all generations. Thou art our fathers' God; Thou didst watch them with Thine eye and guide them across the earth in their pilgrimage, and Thou hast prepared a dwelling-place for them in Thine own house for evermore. And on us, their children, Thine eyes are open day by day. Thou art our Shepherd, and Thou leadest us, and Thou shalt suffer us to want for no good thing. Not great in ourselves, we still belong to Thee, who art great. Not great by ourselves, we still make part of that flock that belongs to the Heavenly Shepherd, who disdains no sheep in all His pastures, and forgets no lamb in his world-wide fold.

Lord, Thou hast made our life pleasant and good, while we keep close to Thee and seek Thy company. When we cherish Thy fellowship, and commune with Thee in the talkings of our heart, when in our busiest and happiest hours we can still feel we are with Thee, then life goes well with us, and our Shepherd leads us among green pastures and beside still waters. Oh, as sheep follow the shepherd and are gently led and safely folded, so may we, by Thy grace, be kept in the sacred paths of duty, placing our feet in the footsteps of Christ's most holy life, finding our pathway cheered by Thy company, and the very print for our feet made warm by Christ's example. Forbid that we should wander from under a sway so mild as Thine; but if we err, we dare not ask Thee to bind up Thy chastisements. It is good that the moor and the thicket should be made hard and bitter to us, that our very transgressions should correct us. Kind is the discipline that hedges in and bars our way, kind the violence that drives us back. Whatever

pain our restoration may cost us, our redemption cost Thee unspeakably more. May we forget our own pain and stripes, therefore, and think of Christ's, and seek to see our sin in the light of His sacrifice, and, naming the name of Christ, depart from all iniquity.

We thank Thee for all dear names in which we have learned of Thy grace—the names of Father, Shepherd, Friend. For by these names we know how dear we are in Thy sight. As the Father loves His own, so hast Thou loved us.

We have owed all to Thy faithful guidance hitherto, and all the way, known to Thee but hidden from us, we shall need the same shepherd-care and sympathy. We have seen others enter the valley of the shadow that we ourselves must one day or night pass through. Be with us in that solemn hour when the valley closes in behind us and shuts out all in this world that we hold dear. Where no mortal voice is any longer heard, may we still hear Thine own whisper, re-assure us by Thy touch, and make Thy rod and staff to comfort us. Thanks be to Thee that we know Thee before the dark day is here, that Thou art not to be sought as a stranger, but trusted and leaned on as a well-beloved and long-tried Friend. We have known Thee in the light, and can trust Thee in the gloom. We have seen Thee in the land of the living, and can follow the vanishings of Thy presence ever through the dark gates of death. Perfect, therefore, the love of God our Shepherd, in our hearts, till perfect love cast out fear. Teach us by Thy love that Thy love is all our portion, that Thou Thyself art greater than all else—greater than death, greater than immortality—that we are to love Thee, and for the rest leave all as Thou wilt, for Thy name's sake. AMEN.

## No. 133.

O GOD, we turn our faces to Thee as to the dawning light. Our souls wait for Thee as they that wait for the morning. Our souls thirst for Thee. When Thou saidst, Seek ye my face, our hearts said unto Thee, Thy face, Lord, will we seek. Our hearts can find no rest till they find rest in Thee.

But who, O Lord, by searching can find Thee out unto perfection? When we think to lay hold of all the blessedness and good that are in Thee, lo, they escape us, and shine on before us unattained. We have not attained, we count not ourselves to have apprehended, but this one thing we do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forth unto those things which are before, we press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Grant that Christ may dwell in our hearts by faith, that we being rooted and grounded in love may be able to comprehend what is the breadth and length and depth and height, and to know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge, that we might be filled with all the fulness of God.

We have not been able to comprehend Thee, but Thou hast comprehended us. For as the sun turns the flower to follow it, and as the moon in the sky draws the tides of the sea, so from afar Thou dost compass us with sweet influences and dost draw our hearts to Thyself.

We have wearied ourselves in the greatness of our way. We have arisen to go in quest of Thee, forgetful that Thou, in Thy greater love, hast come forth to seek Thine own; forgetful that the strange pining and trouble that come upon us are the drawings of Thy Holy Spirit, who knows us better than we know ourselves, and in the dim longing and stirrings of our hearts is teaching us to pray

as we ought, and is Himself making intercession for us in groanings that cannot be uttered. The very preparations of our hearts are from Thee. It is Thy Spirit that works in us to will and to do, it is His most sweet visitation that makes us aware of something we have not, and something we are not yet; it is Thy Spirit that breathes in our sighing and pleads in our prayer for the blessedness that stands in the knowledge of Thyself.

We thank Thee, O God, that Thou hast not placed this knowledge of Thyself in the heaven above or in the depth beneath beyond Thy children's reach, but that eternal life stands in knowing God and Jesus Christ whom He has sent. Trying to find Thee we have forgotten how near Thou art to us. We have not known the truth that Thou hast come to us, that we have been found of Thee, and that in Thy safe keeping our troubled souls have lighted upon their true home and rest. Thou didst love us even as we are, in Thy forgiving love Thou didst draw nearer and nearer to us in ever closer circles, and when we in our self-despair were minded to cast ourselves down as utterly undone and lost, we have only sunk in nothingness at Thy feet to find ourselves lifted up in Thine arms.

We know not all Thou art, but we know Thee in Christ. And knowing and feeling Thy grace in time we can trust the rest. We know in whom we have believed; we do not fear what the remaining cloud of ignorance hides. It hides but more light, more knowledge of Thyself; what we know not now we shall know hereafter. We walk by faith—where it is neither light nor dark—but we believe that the partial light of faith shall vanish in the perfect sight of love, that hope shall end in realised vision, if we look for and hope to the end for the grace that shall be brought to us at the revelation of Jesus Christ. AMEN.



## No. 134.

WE would end this day, O Lord, in Thy fear, as we have been preserved and led through all its hours by Thy favour. We are Thy servants and stewards, and at each day's close we would seek Thy face and render to Thee an account of what Thou hast committed to us in trust. Alas, that for Thy much giving we should requite Thee so ill, and that our best services should bring Thee such poor return and be so little worthy Thy receiving at our hand. We are unprofitable servants, but Thou hast not dealt with us after our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. If we confess our sins Thou art faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Thy love, O Lord, is great in itself, and this is our trust and strength. Thou hast showed us love not according to the small measure of our merit but according to the measures of Thy free grace, and grace for grace. Ere yet we loved Thee, or thought of Thee, Thou didst set Thy love upon us, and what works Thou dost ask from us for Thy pleasure and glory are not the purchase of Thy favour, but are the fruit of Thy constraining goodness, wrought from Thy love and not for Thy love. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins and that we might live through Him. Thou didst not wait till we were anxious to come to Thee, and minded to love Thee, and beginning to return to Thee, but Thou camest to us as we were, and with a high hand and a stretched out arm Thou didst work salvation for us, salvation that we are to accept and not to earn. We do not earn the rain or labour for the sunshine; neither by works of righteousness that we have done, but according to Thy

grace hast Thou saved us. For the greatness and freeness of Thy love, O Lord, we bless Thee. We cannot claim Thy sympathy in any right of our own: We have not deserved that Thou shouldst come to us. But when we had no desert to bring Thee, Thou hadst enough mercy to come freely to us for Thine own name's sake.

How poor has our repayment been, how shrunken and half-hearted our gratitude for Thine eternal love and Christ's unspeakable sacrifice. All this hast Thou given us; what have we given Thee? All this hast Thou done for us; what have we done for Thee? The more we magnify Thy goodness the more by contrition and repentance do we magnify our own shortcoming. Oh let us feel the burden and the travail Thy love has undergone for us till our hearts also be full of burden and pain, and we can return Thy love in another measure.

Let the love of Christ constrain us that we live henceforth not unto ourselves, but unto Him that died for us and rose again. Let Thy patient goodness waken and convince us and lead us to godly repentance, which, though painful and bitter, is not to be repented of. Grant us to feel the sweet release and joyful reconciliation that comes of sin confessed and sin covered by Thy forgiveness. Even to confess to Thee the long-concealed sin—to confide it to Thee in hearty reliance on Thy mercy heals us and restores us; after long estrangement we walk again in the light as Thou art in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ Thy Son cleanses us from all sin. Hear this our supplication, and even in our confession before Thee now grant us Thy strength to renounce the sins we acknowledge, that the rest of our life hereafter may be to Thy praise and glory through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

## No. 135.

WE desire to see Thy face, O God, our heavenly Father, before we see the face of our fellow-man. There is change in the world, but there is no change in Thee; and in the strength of Thine unchanging Fatherhood and love we desire to find the sustaining help we need in the presence or in the prospect of the trials of this uncertain world. For, day by day, as we turn a new page in the book of our own life and Thy providence, we know not what we may read therein. In our going out or our coming in we know not what may be permitted to betide us. But when we have given our hearts into Thy keeping, into that guardianship in which is all safety, we know that our lot shall be prepared for us and we for it. Suffer us not, therefore, this day to go forth with an unready heart, with an unprepared spirit. We would begin the day with Thee, and all the day long keep fast by Thy side, adventuring into no path where we cannot have Thy countenance, nor in wilfulness or heedlessness straying into ways in which we cannot feel that we are attended by Thy comradeship. In our duty may we feel that we are about our Father's business, that in all our work we have Thy blessing that enriches and adds no sorrow, and that whether we eat or drink or whatsoever we do, we do all to Thy glory.

Thou art our Father and our Guide, and Thy chosen name is Emmanuel, God with us. Thou sufferest Thy light to steal into our hearts, and Thy felt presence brightens our homes and the common ways of our earthly toil. Thou dost accept the humblest duty we perform, and dost glorify it by Thine acceptance; to do our duty is good, but to know that it pleases Thee is better.

We thank Thee that Thou dost dwell with us, that Thy tabernacle is with men. Thou dost hide and veil away the fearfulness of Thy working, the overwhelming splendour of Thy glory—too bright for mortal eye. Teach us to see Thee less and less in what is extraordinary, and more and more in what is common. Teach us to see Thee not in departing from the laws that govern all things, but in the laws that regulate the things Thou hast so gloriously made. Come to us in the breaking of the day; in the falling night; in the hearts and faces of our fellow-men, and in the ways of Providence.

Thou art not an hard taskmaster, Thou dost not gather where Thou hast not strawed, nor reap where Thou hast not first sowed the plentiful seed of Thine own kingdom. The thought of Thy reasonableness makes all our duty light. Thou dost in all things come before us with Thy favour; and in our best service we but serve Thee with Thine own. Our Father works hitherto, and we work. We are not the slaves of our work, but serve with Thee as sons. Thy service is perfect freedom, for Thy presence with us is our best inspiration, and sweet is labour when the Master is loved.

Part us from Thy footstool now with refreshed and collected hearts, and as we have begun the day in Thy fear, may we end it in Thy favour. May the words we speak and the actions of our life to-day be all spoken and done as mindful of the morning vows we have made and the benediction we have implored.

Hear our prayer, and of Thy great love attend us and answer our prayer upon us as shall best set forth Thy praise and set forward the good of all men and of Thy servants. We ask all in the name and for the merit of Thy dear Son, our Saviour. AMEN.



## No. 136.

WE bless Thee, O God, that we are gathered together at the close of another day. We have seen the light and enjoyed Thy favour, and now that Thou hast suffered the curtains of the kindly dark to fall around us, we entreat Thy protection both now and through unconscious hours, for we ever need the guardianship of Thy hand and the watchful oversight of Thine unsleeping eye.

O Lord, Thy goodness is ever around us. Thy mercies hide themselves in their own constancy, and we forget to be thankful. Oh let us sometimes pause in our asking and entreaty for more blessing till we have looked reverently and gratefully back on the past and have been glad in Thee for what we have already obtained. Let us this night think not of how much we have lost, nor of how much we may still think we want, but count over the blessings that have been ours, and remember the stream of goodness and mercy that constantly follows us. Living much by the sweet hope of what we still expect and believe is waiting for us, may we often, in devout gratitude to Thee, turn a lingering eye gratefully back on what of Thy love we have seen, on the liberality of Thy great goodness, for Thou hast never left Thyself or us without a witness, in that Thou hast done good and given us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.

Lord, we are ignorant, not only of Thy will, but sometimes even of our own greatest necessity. When we ask and ask amiss, when it is not Thy will to give us the things we ask, teach us Thy better will, and guide us to do without those things we have craved Thee to bestow. When we may not be delivered from evil and trial, make us strong to meet it. Incline us to commit our case to

Thee, and, secure in Thy sympathy, we shall importune no more, but believe that we have the petitions we desired of Thee. Grant us Thy Spirit that He may teach us, and that we may effectually learn that the stress of our prayer should be not that our wills but Thine should be done.

Forgive us our coldness of heart, for we have often brought Thee our requests, and when Thou hast heard our prayer, and given us beyond our merit, and exceeded even Thine own promise, we have forgotten to be thankful. When pardoned and healed Thou hast sent us away from Thy footstool, we have not returned to give glory to God, but have waited till we were driven to Thy footstool again by fresh sin, sorrow, and sore necessity. We open our mouths till Thou openest Thy hand, and then we have been selfish even in our holy things, for we have suffered ourselves to grow unthankful and heartless. Forgive us our unthankfulness, O Lord, and since we cannot enrich Thee or be profitable to Thee in what we give to Thee, seeing Thou givest to all life and breath and all things and needest not anything, may we never at least withhold our thanksgiving from Thee.

Thou art no hard taskmaster; Thou dost ask no impossible sacrifices, but only a smile of recognition, only a look of pleasure, only an assurance, in our thankful words and grateful lives, that Thy goodness has not missed of its end, but that it has made Thy children happy. At our thankfullest we but serve Thee with Thine own. Oh for the sake of Thy great and merciful goodness, forgive us our shortcomings in gratitude, take what we are and what we have as a thank-offering to Thy grace; and make this our living sacrifice, unworthy in itself, holy and acceptable to Thyself, through the merits of Thy dear Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. AMEN.

## No. 137.

WE thank Thee, heavenly Father, that Thou hast opened our eyes once more upon the world. Wearied we laid ourselves down to rest, but Thou didst wave over us Thy wonder-working hand, and soon our eyelids were closed in sleep; yea, every sense was sealed, and we knew not even that we lived. But Thou, the keeper of Israel, hast watched over us with a sleepless eye during the hours of our uneonseiousness: without any effort on our part, without either thought or care from us, Thou hast maintained us in being, and restored us to ourselves and the world, and also the world to us.

We thank Thee that the sleep from which we have emerged has not proved the sleep of death, but rather the means by which Thou hast granted us newness of life. And now, replenished, by Thy goodness, with vigour both of mind and body, we rejoice as a strong man to run a race. As Thou hast preserved us during our sleeping, protect us also during our waking hours, which are fraught with even greater dangers, not only to our bodies, but also to our souls. Once more the stream of thought is flowing through our minds; once more the world spreads itself out bewitchingly before our view; once more desires are stirred within our hearts; once more we hear the trumpet-call of duty; once more, therefore, we seek Thy face, invoking Thy guidance, that we may be enabled to do Thy will, and keep ourselves "unspotted from the evil that is in the world."

O God, as Thou hast caused the light of the sun to return upon mountain and vale, lift upon us the light of Thine own reconciled countenance; as Thou hast opened our eyes to see the works of Thy hands in the heavens above and on the earth beneath, grant us also a clear vision

of Thyself, who art more glorious than all Thy works. Lift from our spiritual eyes the veil that hides Thee from our view, and enable us, even when most beset by the things that are seen and temporal, to discern the things that are unseen and eternal. Look out upon us, O God, from the depths of Thine own immensity, and let us behold Thy face, brighter than the sun in the mid-day heavens, that our hearts may be gladdened by Thy presence, filled with a peace and joy which the world can neither give nor take away.

O Lord, as Thou art our Maker, and hast given us all things richly to enjoy, we would humbly acknowledge ourselves Thy servants. Thou hast not sent us into the world to do our own vain pleasure, but to do Thy holy will. Whether rich or poor, we would seek to serve Thee with contentment and thankfulness of heart; and though there are those who are called our masters according to the flesh, yet would we do all things as unto Thee, and not unto men. Our daily task we would accept as from Thy hand, and for Thy glory would we seek to discharge it. Grant us, we beseech Thee, all needed skill and patience, so that, if in the course of the day difficulties occur, we may find our way through them, or at least know how to meet them. Keep our hearts from being ruffled by opposition, or discomfited by failure. Help us to assert against the "carcs of the world," and the "deceitfulness of riches," the spiritual freedom wherewith Thou hast made us free. May we be content to let everything slip from our hand which we cannot hold except with danger to our souls.

"Let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish Thou the work of our hands; yea, the work of our hands establish Thou it." AMEN.



## No. 138.

HEAVENLY Father, we would end as well as begin all things with Thee. As the birds return to their nests; as the traveller, wherever he roams, still turns fondly to his native land, so to Thee, O God, from whom we came, we would ever direct the desires and longings of our hearts. Forbid that we should ever become so enamoured of the world as to become forgetful of Thee. We rejoice that Thine ear is ever open to hear our cry; that even when our fellow-men would decline to listen to our tale, Thou dost graciously attend to the voice of our supplication.

Though we had no friend but Thee, we should be happy indeed; though heart and flesh fail, Thou art the strength of our heart, and our portion for ever. What shall we render unto Thee, O God, for all Thy goodness? Though we lay ourselves upon Thine altar, we make no greater sacrifice than Thou art worthy to receive. Thy love, O God, is wonderful, it passeth knowledge. "When I consider the heavens, the work of Thy fingers; the moon and the stars which Thou hast ordained, what is man that Thou art mindful of him, or the son of man that Thou visitest Him?" We thank Thee that Thou hast brought us near to Thyself, forgiven us our many sins, and filled our hearts with an eternal hope.

Impress us with the fact of our dependence upon Thee, that we may not affect an independence which does not belong to us—that we may not rebel against the dispensations of Thy providence, or resent Thy righteous requirements. Teach us, O God; for whatever we know of Thee, there is much that we do not understand; yea, "who can by searching find out God, who can find out the Almighty unto perfection?" Thou

knowest how unable we are to comprehend Thy vast designs, how, though Thou doest all things in wisdom and mercy, we often fail to see the excellence of Thy ways. Yet, though we cannot always appreciate the workings of Thy providence, we can understand the love wherewith Jesus has loved us. We would seek to enter into a closer communion with Him, "to know the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death." Teach us, O God, "what manner of persons we ought to be," who have named the name of Christ. May we count it a privilege and an honour to follow in His footsteps, and even, if need be, suffer for His sake.

When Satan would have us, that he may sift us as wheat, do Thou preserve our faith from failing. Our unsteadiness of purpose, the oscillation of our hearts, the fluctuation of our hopes, in a word, our unbelief, do Thou graciously forgive. And do Thou, O God, increase the faith of Thy church, that, more firmly grasping the truth by which it is saved, it may be fearless in the presence of evil, and, by its well-grounded confidence, inspire the hearts of the doubtful with a settled trust in Thee.

Save us from being unduly anxious even with regard to the kingdom of God, when its progress is arrested by unbelief, or by any contrary tendency whatever. May not our zeal for the realization, in their full extent, of our Christian desires and aspirations, whether they concern ourselves, the church, or the world, lead us to disesteem any partial fulfilment of them that we may be privileged to witness or experience. Grant us, we beseech Thee, in all its varied phases, "the peace of God which passeth all understanding," and which is able to keep our hearts and minds, through Christ Jesus. AMEN.

## No. 139.

O GOD, with the morning light we would again seek Thy face, to Thee consecrate our earliest thoughts. We would remember that, whatever our relation to the things of the world, we sustain a more essential relation to Thee; for, though they force themselves upon our attention, while Thou dost remain silent and unseen, yet Thou art the First and the Last, the unfailing Fountain of life and blessedness.

We would not venture on the duties of the day before looking up into Thy fatherly face, and receiving Thy fatherly blessing. Did we not acknowledge Thee, our hearts were ill at ease, for great were our ingratitude; did we take, or attempt to take, ourselves out of Thy hands, in whose alone we are safe, we could have no feeling of security. We would dwell in the secret place of the Most High, abide under the shadow of the Almighty. Wherever we go, we would, like Enoch of old, walk with Thee. Then shall we fear no evil, even the darkness shall be light about us.

We thank Thee that, with every new day, Thou dost grant us fresh opportunities both for getting and for doing good. We rejoice that, though we have sinned times and ways without number, we are not obliged to repeat our sins for ever, but may, with every new day, make, as it were, a new beginning. Every Christian impulse of our hearts do Thou maintain and strengthen, that we may not weary in well-doing, but run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith. Help us to avoid the sins and errors of the past, and to make this day more truly Christian than any we have yet spent upon the earth.

Help us to realise the ideal of a Christian household. Shed abroad in our hearts the love of Christ, that, possessed of His spirit, we may fulfil His law by bearing each other's burdens. May we look not merely on our own things, but every one also on the things of others. May we recognise the presence of Christ in our midst, speak as in His ear, act as under His eye. We rejoice that all who are dear to us are dear to Thee; and as we ask Thee to bless them because we love them, help us to do them good since Thou dost love them.

Be with those of us whose hours are spent chiefly under the domestic roof in the discharge of domestic duties. Save us from being cumbered about many things; teach us to do Martha's duties in Mary's spirit, with a sweet, unobtrusive grace. The children we commend to Thy fatherly care. Do Thou protect them from all danger, both in going to school and in returning from it. Favour Thou their growth both of mind and body. May they early acquire habits of diligence, obedience, and self-control. Grant them the docile mind and the willing heart, that they may be fit not only for the society of earth, but also for the kingdom of heaven. And unto those of us who go forth with the morning to toil until the evening, do Thou grant all needed strength. Suffer not our foot to be moved; be Thou our shade upon our right hand; our hearts preserve from everything that would defile them.

Heavenly Father, lead us, and we will follow Thee; bless us, and we will praise Thee. "O satisfy us early with Thy mercy, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days."  
AMEN.



## No. 140.

**O** LORD, our God, we praise Thee that Thou art still, day by day, loading us with Thy benefits. Never yet has a day closed upon us without giving us abundant reason for calling upon our souls to bless and magnify Thy holy name; nor has the day to which we are bidding farewell been less kindly than the many that have gone before it. The longer we live we would feel that a growing obligation is laid upon us to love and serve Thee, and in every way show forth our faithfulness unto Thee. Often hast Thou graciously falsified the fears to which our hearts are prone; often, often when we looked for evil, and deserved it, Thou hast sent us good; Thou hast done great things for us, greater than we could have ventured to anticipate: eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither hath it entered into the heart of man to conceive, the things which Thou hast prepared for them that love Thee. And even when we loved Thee not, when our hearts were so possessed of the world that they were void of Thee, Thou didst remember us in pity, and visit us in love.

Now that we have learned to love Thee and trust Thee, we would cling to Thee with all our heart, and jealously guard against everything that would impair our devotion to Him who loved us and gave Himself for us. Often are our hearts overcome of evil before we are aware of it; sometimes we imagine that we are doing the right, and only afterwards, when it is too late, discover that we have been doing the wrong; grant us, therefore, Thy guidance and illumination, that, amid all the perplexities of our outer and inner life, we may ever act in harmony with Thy perfect will. "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

Save us from the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the

eye, and the pride of life. Make us clear of mind, and pure of heart, resolute for righteousness and truth. Grant us a childlike simplicity of soul, and infinite faith in Thyself. Help us to discharge the duties for which Thou hast sent us into the world. Forbid that we should live for ignoble ends, only to augment the evil influences already abounding in the world. Help us to be what the disciples of Christ should be—the light of the world, the salt of the earth. In our home help us to exert a holy and helpful influence, day by day, and thus render our nearest kindred not only temporal but also spiritual service; and also in the church, among our brethren in Christ, help us to be all that we ought to be—kind, tender-hearted, forgiving, capable of assisting them, willing to be assisted by them, in all things pertaining to the kingdom of God. Heavenly Father, so long as Thou art pleased to extend our days, do Thou also extend our usefulness. We would not be as the barren figtree that yielded nothing but leaves: we would seek to glorify Thee by bringing forth much fruit; then, when the night of death descends upon us, the morning of an eternal life will dawn.

O Lord, if we have this day acted inconsistently with our own prayer, if we have in any wise preferred the evil to the good, extend to us again Thy forgiving mercy, for which we have already so often prayed, nor ever prayed in vain. Then shall we lay ourselves down to rest in peace, assured that, though we should not open our eyes again upon the world, we are safe in Thy keeping, safe from every danger, safe for eternity. AMEN.

## No. 141.

WE thank Thee, O God, that in Thy gracious providence we have been permitted to see the return of another sacred day of rest. As we bow around our family altar we would gratefully remember Thy loving-kindness to us during the week that is past. Thou hast preserved our lives and favoured us with a measure of health and comfort, for which we now desire with one heart to render thanks unto Thee. Ever blessed be Thy holy name for Thy watchful and tender care, and for the hand that so liberally and so constantly supplies all our wants.

We humbly confess before Thee our entire unworthiness of mercies so numerous and so precious. Our sins rise up before us and tell us how often, and in how many different ways, we have offended against Thy word and grieved Thy pure and holy heart. We have broken Thy good and righteous law, and thereby forfeited all claim to the enjoyment of Thy favour. Alas, O God, but for Thy great mercy in Christ Jesus, Thy Son, we might already have been cut down as cumberers of the ground and suffering the just reward of our deeds in the place of everlasting woe. But we are spared by Thy mercy, and saved by Thy free and unmerited grace. The love of a forgiving Father is constantly around us, and in that love we now kneel and worship and adore Thee as the bountiful giver of every good.

We seek Thy smile to rest upon us throughout the hours of this Thy holy day. Let the peace of God rest upon all the members of our home circle, and help us faithfully to serve Thee this day and all the days of our life. May we feel as we go up to the sanctuary that Thou art graciously present with us. And do Thou keep our feet from falling

and our lips from speaking guile. May we worship Thee in the beauty of holiness, and realise that of a truth Thou art speaking to us by Thy word and Spirit, and by all the exercises in which we are privileged to engage. We invoke Thy blessing to rest upon all Thy people with whom we may be associated in holy worship within the house of prayer. As we meet and mingle with them in the solemn services, may we be conscious of high Christian fellowship in the enjoyment of the blessings of Thy salvation. And especially do Thou richly endow with Thy heavenly grace all Thy faithful servants who minister in holy things. May their hearts be burdened with a suitable message for all who shall listen to the word of instruction as it falls from their lips; and may the people who transgress Thy law be rebuked and convicted of sin and led to sincere repentance and to a lively faith in Thine only begotten Son, the Saviour of sinners.

Grant, we also beseech Thee, that Thy people may be enlightened, strengthened, and comforted by the preaching of the truth, and experience a large increase of faith in Thee as they hear anew the blessed story of redeeming love. With new and hearty devotion may they consecrate themselves to Thee, remembering how much they owe to Thine infinite goodness, and how unspeakably precious the privilege is of serving Thee. Thus may Thy kingdom be yet more thoroughly established in the hearts of those who are Thy children, and more widely extended in its gracious and benign influences among those who have not as yet yielded a becoming obedience to its righteous laws.

Hear us, O God, in these our humble prayers. We present them to Thee through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom, with Thee, and the divine Spirit, our Comforter, be glory now and forever. AMEN.



## No. 142.

OUR most merciful Father in heaven, we desire this evening to approach Thy throne of grace in the name of Jesus Christ, the ever-blessed Saviour. We thank Thee for that name, so precious that it is as ointment poured forth, and so exalted that it is above every name. There is, indeed, no other name by which we may draw near unto Thee, none so potent that it can bring down blessings from Thy hand upon the heads of creatures so sinful and undeserving as we are. We, therefore, bless and adore Thee, that coming to Thee with that name upon our lips, and with its fragrance upon our every petition, we are encouraged to hope for that acceptance which we so earnestly desire to obtain. Yea, our faith lays hold of the blessed truth which the promises of Thy word teach, that Thou wilt in no wise cast out those who come to Thee in the name of Thy dear Son.

We bless Thee that the name of Christ has this day been once more prominently brought before the minds of Thy people, and for the comfort and joy they have experienced at the mention of that name which is sweeter to them than the sweetest music. Grant, we entreat Thee, that their lives may become more holy and be increasingly adorned with every Christian virtue as their hearts are more fully imbued with the Spirit of Him whose name is to us the symbol of infinite excellence. Our hearts rise to Thee in gratitude that the name of Jesus has also been proclaimed in the hearing, and pressed upon the attention of many this day who have been hitherto leading careless, worldly, selfish lives. May the memory of that name lead them to repentance. And for those whose hearts have been cheered and whose minds have been enlightened by the word preached and applied by the

Spirit of Truth we render to Thee due honour and praise. We beseech Thee that the number of the saved may, day by day, and week by week, be largely increased, until the whole earth know Thy salvation, and rejoice in its great and inestimable blessings.

We would thank Thee, blessed God, for what measure of joy and peace we who now worship in Thy presence have derived in the sacred hours of this day from the remembrance of the name of Christ. Let the power of that name rest continually upon us. May its influence be felt not only in special seasons of religious fervour, or of spiritual devotion; not only on the Christian Sabbath and in the solemn services of the house of God, but in our daily life, in our private intercourse with family and friends, and in our ordinary occupations in the world whatever may be the degree of their public character. Thou knowest, O God, how much of the world and of self enters into our lives to lessen their usefulness and to mar their spiritual beauty. How seducing is the influence of earthly pleasure; how engrossing the cares and pursuits of worldly business and toil; how many and subtle the temptations by which we are constantly surrounded. May Christ ever dwell richly in our hearts by faith, that none of these influences may move us away from the hope and purity of the gospel. Let the very name of Christ act as a spell upon our souls, constraining us to obey His word, and to honour and glorify Him in all things.

Forgive what Thou, O God, hast seen amiss in us this day. Give us the help of Thy Spirit to serve Thee aright continually, and at last, when the great day of solemn reckoning comes, find acceptance with Thee.

Hear these, our imperfect petitions, for the sake of Jesus Christ our blessed Redeemer. AMEN.

## No. 143.

“O GOD, Thou art my God; early will I seek Thee.”

To Thee our hearts would turn, as the flowers to the morning sun. We thank Thee that Thou hast made Thyself known unto us; we rejoice in the peace imparted by the knowledge of Thy grace. Once, alas! we were far from Thee, strangers to that filial confidence which we now enjoy; our minds were vexed with doubts and fears; our faith was but feeble, and the joy which it brought us all but unfelt; but Thou hast led us by Thy Spirit out of the labyrinth in which we had lost our way, and now we live in the clear sunlight of Thy countenance, and understand by experience the blessedness which we have heard so many testify—the blessedness of fellowship with Thee.

Blessed ourselves with the revelation of Thy grace, we would pray that Thy way may be known upon earth, Thy saving health among all nations. Like the light which steals over the sleeping world, let Thy mercy and truth appear unto such as seek Thee, yea, even unto those that seek Thee not. May the gospel be sounded through the earth; let it fly on every wind, and ride on every wave, till even the lonely islands of the sea join in the song of the redeemed. Let the peoples praise Thee, O God; let all the peoples praise Thee.

Insignificant though the day may appear which has just dawned upon us, when we take into account merely what we ourselves may be able to accomplish in its fleeting hours, yet when we send our thoughts a-circling round the globe, from land to land, from shore to shore, how important, how fruitful of consequences, does even one brief day appear!

Bless all kings of the earth, all potentates whatsoever, that, exalted in social position, they may also be eminent

in righteousness. May they not needlessly embroil the nations in war; may they faithfully dispense justice between man and man, and, by all means, protect and promote the sacred interests committed to their care. Those who are the teachers of men do Thou Thyself instruct, that they may be teachers indeed, not blind leaders of the blind. May all who are engaged in commerce conduct their transactions with uprightness and integrity, nor pollute their conscience for the sake of unhallowed gain. May the unnumbered sons of toil that buckle on their harness with the rising sun, realise the dignity of their own manhood, and the honourableness of all work honourably done. However humble their duties, may they discharge them in a noble spirit, not as slaves, but as the Lord's freemen.

Grant, O God, that when, a few hours hence, this day's work is done, the world may be found to have made some forward movement, which Thine eye at least, if not ours, will be able to measure; and little by little, day by day, may the kingdom of heaven extend among the kingdoms of earth. And forbid, O God, that we should despise, as we are too apt to do, the importance of a single day, in its bearings on our own personal development. Help us ever to die unto sin and live unto righteousness, to grow in faith and charity, to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling, and thus become more meet for the inheritance of the saints in light.

Heavenly Father, leave us not to ourselves, suffer us not to sink into indifference, to desist from the endeavour to apprehend that for which we have been apprehended of Christ Jesus; but do Thou renew our strength and quicken our zeal, so that, advancing in days and in years, we may yet remain ever young and vigorous at heart. AMEN.



## No. 144.

WE thank Thee, O God, for all of Thy goodness that Thou hast caused to pass before us this day. Thou hast watched over us in our outgoing and in our incoming. Thou hast been with us by the way, and in the place of business; and Thou hast brought us again to the peace and quiet of our own home. We thank Thee not only for the busy hours of the day, but for the still hours of the evening, a brief respite from worldly toil—a figure of that rest which remaineth for the people of God, after the strife and turmoil of this earthly existence. We rejoice, too, that every act of ours, if done in the right spirit, is owned as an act of service unto Thee, though it should not be the direct homage of the heart or lip, though it should be performed with the hand as a part of our daily labour.

Be pleased to accept of the varied service which we have endeavoured to render unto Thee this day. Follow with Thy blessing the works of our hands, and the meditations of our hearts. May the result answer to our desire, if it may at the same time conduce to Thy glory. We have been planting and watering: we look to Thee for the increase. And, O God, if there is anything in what we have said or done, or in the silent unconscious influence which has proceeded from us, that can be used for the furtherance of Thy kingdom, do Thou protect it and cause it to abide, that it may be as good seed sown in a good soil. And if we have said or done anything that is fitted to injure the souls of our fellow-men, or hinder the work of Christ, grant us Thy forgiveness, and cause it to be forgotten and destroyed.

We pray that, amid the thousand things with which our minds and hands are daily occupied, we may possess

“the one thing needful.” Help us to make the things of earth stepping-stones to heaven; and as each day closes upon us, may we find ourselves “a day’s march nearer home.” O God, be Thou our constant guide. We are thankful that even in the darkest night, there is some star twinkling overhead; and we rejoice that, though we may not be able to descry the distant future, Thou dost lead us, step by step, along our way. Above all things we would dread the darkness of an eternal, or even temporary separation from Thyself; above all things prize the light that shows us the path of life. In darkness and danger we would keep near to Thee; we would follow hard after Thee, that we may not miss our way and stumble into the snares that are laid for our feet. Here we kneel before Thee, unseen by any human eye, unheard by any human ear; but Thou dost make the silence vocal, and the darkness luminous. When there is no other eye to pity, nor ear to hear, nor hand to help, Thine eye pitieth, Thine ear heareth, Thy hand bringeth salvation. “Many, O Lord, my God, are Thy wonderful works which Thou hast done, and Thy thoughts which are to us-ward; they cannot be reckoned up in order unto Thee; if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered.” Therefore will we lay us down in peace and sleep; for Thou, Lord, only makest us dwell in safety. As Thou art equally near to us by night and by day, we would trust Thee alike in our times of joy and in our times of sorrow.

Thy faithfulness, O God, which is from everlasting to everlasting, is our sure foundation. Into Thy hands we would commit our souls and all our interests, with an unwavering confidence. For Jesus, our Saviour’s sake, do Thou accept us, and bless us. AMEN.

## No. 145.

**M**OST merciful and most gracious heavenly Father, help us now to draw near to Thee with true hearts, and present unto Thee the sincere desires thereof, that our morning sacrifice may rise up with acceptance before Thee. We rejoice to know that Thine eye is not only upon the righteous, but that Thine ears are open to their prayers, and that Thou art nigh to all them that call upon Thee, to all that call upon Thee in truth. May we not only have the form but also the spirit of prayer, and be fully conscious that Thou art a Spirit, and desirest all who worship Thee to worship Thee in spirit and in truth. Forbid that we should come to Thee with our mouths while our hearts are far from Thee.

We thank Thee, O God, for the kind care Thou hast exercised over us during the silent watches of the past night, and for having raised us from our beds of repose to see the light of another morning. As Thou hast brought us to the commencement of the day, we humbly beseech Thee to carry us through all its hours and bring us to its close. We acknowledge, O God, our dependence upon Thee, not only for life and breath, but for all things. Grant us wisdom, strength, and grace, to direct, defend, and uphold us in all our goings, that our path all this day may be a plain path, even the path of the just, which is as the shining light that shineth more and more unto the perfect day. Weak, ignorant, and sinful, we need Thee as our help, and guide, and shield. Go with us, therefore, to the duties that lie before, us and grant us Thy gracious aid in the discharge of all, that we may honour and glorify Thy holy name.

Look upon and graciously visit the sons and daughters of affliction everywhere. Show Thyself to them as their

refuge and a very present help in time of trouble. May they lie passive in Thy hands and seek to know no will but Thine, and wait patiently upon Thee, trusting Thee where they may not be able to trace Thee, and believing Thou doest all things wisely and well. May they so love Thee as to rest in Thee and in the blissful assurance Thou hast given in Thy holy word, that all things work together for good to them that love God and are the called according to his purpose. Bring them forth from the furnace, if it please Thee, in Thine own good time and way. And may they come forth purged of all impurities, more brightly to reflect the perfect image of the perfect Christ amongst men. May they learn the lessons Thou desirest to teach them by the afflictive dispensations of Thy providence and become wise in Thy wisdom—the wisdom which is from above, which is pure, peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

Have mercy on the dying. May all who are appointed unto death be led to look to Jesus as the resurrection and the life, who by His death hath abolished death, and brought life and immortality to light by the gospel. Thus may they not even see death, but only life, and wait patiently, confidently, and with a happy expectancy the hour that sets them free from the body of sin and death and brings them home to God. And may all to whom the blessed revelation of Thyself and Thy salvation, which Thou hast given in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ, has not been made known, be disposed by Thine ever-living and all-pervading Spirit truly to trust in Thy holy love and mercy, so that even they, in the hour of their release, may die in true peace and pass to brighter and better scenes beyond. For Christ's sake. AMEN.



## No. 146.

O THOU that dwelleth in the heavens, and who art the Father of an infinite majesty, unto Thee would we now lift up our eyes. Thou hast prepared Thy throne in the heavens and Thy kingdom ruleth over all. Lord, Thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever Thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting Thou art God. We adore Thee as the unchanging and unchangeable I Am, the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever, and as the Father of mercies from whom every good and perfect gift comes. We acknowledge, O God, that in ourselves we are nothing, have nothing, and that universally everywhere, and at all times, we are dependent upon Thee. Thy fatherly guardianship and care have brought us through another day, and for all its blessings we praise Thee. Its hours have borne to us many real, though silent communications of Thy favourable regard toward us and of Thy true and tender interest in us. Thou hast opened Thy kind hand and plentifully supplied all our returning wants out of Thine infiniteness.

We bless Thee for mercies received and enjoyed, and acknowledge ourselves unworthy of the least of them all. Truly Thou art dealing with us not according to our deserts, but according to the riches of Thy grace. Let us not be insensible to the love of Thy heart and the beneficence of Thy hand, and since Thou art so constantly caring for us and ministering to our happiness in life, help us in our measure not the less constantly to care for Thee and the things that belong to Thy kingdom and glory in the world. May the great design Thou hast in our preservation in life and being be fully realised in us and by us, and grant unto us, we humbly beseech Thee,

Thy Spirit and grace, that we may willingly, yea cheerfully, both do and suffer whatever may be necessary in the working out of that design. In all things may we work from Thee and for Thee; and do Thou, by the manifold operations of Thy Holy Spirit, work in us both to will and to do of Thy good pleasure, and graciously fulfil in us all the good pleasure of Thy will. Be Thou Thyself the inspiration of all our movements through Thy great love to us in Thy dear Son, so that whatsoever we do, in word or in deed, we may do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to Thee, the Father, through Him.

Let it be our chief concern as a household and home to honour and glorify Thee in that sphere of life in which Thou hast placed us, and amid those relationships of life which Thou hast thrown around us. May our house be truly a Bethel—a house of God in which Thou shalt be daily praised, and loved, and served; and may holiness to the Lord be inscribed upon it and upon all that it contains. We thank Thee for our home and for all its comforts, for all around us that is fitted to remind us of Thee and of Thy goodness to us, and that make life happy to us and enjoyable by us.

And now that we are about to retire to our rest we will lay ourselves down in peace, fully assured that Thou wilt make us to dwell safely. Do Thou watch over us this night as Thou hast watched over us during the day. The blessings we ask for ourselves we ask for all our dear relatives and friends. May that blessing that maketh rich and addeth no sorrow with it rest alike upon them and upon us. Graciously hear us in these our prayers, and forgive wherein we may have offended against Thee this day, and all that we ask is for our Redeemer's sake. AMEN.

## No. 147.

**A**LMIGHTY and everlasting God and Father, we thank Thee for the privilege of prayer, and the freedom of access we have thereby into Thy holy presence. We bless Thee for the divine mediation and intercession of Thy well-beloved and only begotten Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, and that in Him Thou art seated upon the throne of grace to bless us, Thy needy and guilty children. This morning would we again draw near to Thee, through Him, for the mercy to pardon and the grace to help in time of need. We are always needy, though not always conscious of our need of Thee and of Thy rich grace, but we bless Thee that Thy merciful ministry is always over us, and not at all limited by the sense we may have of our need. Accept, O God, we humbly pray Thee, our thanksgiving for the mercy of the past night. All through its silent hours Thy wakeful eye has been over us, and Thy guardian arm around us. We bless Thee for raising us again from our unconscious slumbers, and restoring us to new life. We thank Thee for the new mercies bestowed upon us with the dawning of this new day. Thy mercies are new unto us every morning, and Thy faithfulness every evening; and by Thy goodness Thou art making the outgoings alike of the morning and of the evening to rejoice.

We praise Thee for the bright and joyous sunshine, and for the sweet and pleasant calm of this morning. Cause the brighter and more joyous sunshine of Thy love to flood our souls; and the sweeter and more pleasant calm of Thy peace to take possession of our hearts.

As by the rays of the sun Thou hast dissipated the darkness of the night, so do Thou, O most gracious Father and Redeemer, as our sun, dispel all our spiritual dark-

ness by Thine own pure and blessed light. May the light of the truth, and peace, and love, and hope, and joy that shine in the face of Jesus ever shine into our dark hearts, giving us the knowledge of Thy glory, and making us all light in the Lord.

We would in faith look up to Thee, O God, for Thy blessing all this day which by Thy mercy we have begun. Let us go forth to the labour of the day in Thy name, and so pursue our calling in life as to serve Thee, the Lord, with joy and gladness, and with singleness of eye and heart. Let Thy presence be with us in all our works. Should Satan stand at our right hand to resist and trouble us, be Thou at our left to assist and comfort us, and graciously make us to abound in every good word and work. From Thee alone is our fruit found. Without Thee we can do nothing. Be as the dew unto us, that in all truth and goodness we may grow as the lily, and cast forth our roots as Lebanon. May our branches spread, and our beauty before Thee be as the olive tree, and our smell as Lebanon. Let us so live in Thee by faith, watchfulness, and prayer, and do Thou so live in us by the renewing power of the Holy Ghost that all who may be brought within the circle and under the shadow of our influence, may spiritually revive as the corn, and grow as the vine, and their scent be to Thee, and all in whom Thou dwellest, as the wine of Lebanon.

Be with all whom we ought to remember before Thee, the sick and the afflicted, the distressed and the dying, the perplexed and sorrowing, and all ranks and conditions of men. Hasten Thy work everywhere, and may the kingdoms of this world soon become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and unto Thee shall be the glory for ever and ever. AMEN.



## No. 148.

THOU most gracious and ever-blessed God, who art more ready to hear us than we are to pray, and who art specially near to all them that call upon Thee, pour down upon us, as we now kneel before Thee, of Thy abundant grace. Give us of Thy spirit, as a spirit of true supplication and prayer. We adore Thee as the source of light and life, as the perennial fountain of all being and of all well-being; and give Thee the tribute of praise that is due for all the blessings of the day. We cannot reckon them up unto Thee, but we would not be forgetful of all Thy benefits. Thine is our life, our friends, our peace, our health, and everything that ministers to our enjoyment and increases the sum of our happiness; and Thou dost distribute all Thy good and precious gifts as in Thy great wisdom and love Thou seest to be best.

We pray Thee, O merciful Father, to make us increasingly thankful to Thee for all Thy goodness; and constrain us, by Thy mercies, to present our bodies living sacrifices unto Thee, holy and acceptable in Thy sight, which is our reasonable service. Deliver us from conformity to the world either in spirit or in practice, and may we be transformed by the renewing of our mind, that we may prove, from day to day, what is Thy good, acceptable, and perfect will. Graciously forgive our imperfections this day, and blot out all the transgressions whereby we may have transgressed against Thee. In many things we offend against Thee, and come far short of Thy glory; but do Thou grant unto us, for the sake of Thy dear Son, the free remission of all sin, and may we have the rich and inestimable blessing of sin confessed, sin forsaken, and sin forgiven, and a mind at perfect peace with Thee. Let our aspiration ever be, nearer, our God,

to Thee. Oh do Thou enlarge our heart, that we may run in the way of Thy commandments; that our peace may flow like a river, and our righteousness as the waves of the sea. Draw us, and we shall run after Thee; and deepen our love to Thee, quicken and intensify our zeal and devotion in Thy service, that we may always do the things that please Thee.

Look upon the whole household of faith everywhere, and may all who name the name of Jesus depart from all iniquity, and be careful to maintain good works. May the life lived by them be such as to convey to the men of the world true and comprehensive conceptions of the power of Jesus and His love to make all old things pass away, and all things become new. Have mercy on the ignorant and on them that are out of the way. Pity those who are under the dominion of sin and Satan, and who are living as if there were no God to love and serve, no heaven with its glory to gain, and no hell with its woe to shun. Reveal to them the evil of their ways, and convince them of sin, and may they be brought to the exercise of repentance toward God, and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. May the number of the saved everywhere be increased, and the works of the Devil destroyed; may the light of Thy renewing, saving truth and love, revealed in the Gospel of Thy grace, soon visit all lands, and irradiate all hearts, and the hour speedily come to pass when incense and a pure offering shall ascend unto Thee from the rising of the sun to the going down thereof, and when the dominion of Jesus Christ our Lord shall extend from the river even to the ends of the earth, when all nations shall be blessed in Him and call Him blessed. Hear us in these our prayers, and grant us an answer, for the sake of Thy dear Son, our Saviour. AMEN.

## No. 149.

FATHER of mercy and God of all grace, by whose loving kindness we have been cared for and preserved during another night, give us grace wherewith we may now serve and worship Thee acceptably, with reverence and godly fear. We bless Thee for the refreshing and strengthening repose of the past night, and for the renewal of morning mercies. Give us now, and at all times, a sweet sense of Thy love, that we may humbly and fully confide in Thee for all things. We would look up to Thee, this morning, as our Father in heaven; and do Thou graciously look down upon us as Thy dear children, Thine accepted and adopted children, Thy beloved in Christ Jesus.

In view of the trials and duties of the day, we implore Thy kind protection, Thy wise direction, Thy loving presence, and Thy rich blessing. So prevent us by Thy goodness, and inspire and sustain us by Thy Spirit, that all we do and endure may tend to the extension of Thy kingdom of truth and righteousness, the truest and most enduring interests and welfare of ourselves and of all others. Amid the varied pursuits and occupations of time, in which we are called upon to engage and follow, do not suffer us to forget eternity; but do Thou graciously and constantly remind us that this is not our rest—that here there is none abiding.

Teach us the uncertain and unsatisfying nature of all things earthly, that our affections may be entirely weaned therefrom, and be fixed upon those things which are above at Thy right hand, where Jesus our Saviour lives and reigns. May our life in the highest, fullest, and best sense be truly hid with Christ in God, and our treasure be so in heaven that our hearts shall be there also. Per-

mit us not to live so much for what we can see, and feel, and handle, as for those things that are unseen, and that are spiritual and eternal. Let us seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, assured that all things else shall be added unto us. Make all the events and circumstances of life, whether they be pleasing or painful, prosperous or adverse, the occasions of leading us into a deeper, richer, and fuller experience of Thy faithfulness and truth. Shouldst Thou at any time, in Thy goodness or severity, afflict us, may we have the spirit that shall neither faint under Thy rebuke nor despise Thy fatherly chastening. Whisper in our ear words of sustenance and strength. Say to us, as Thou didst to tried ones in days of old, Fear not, for I am with thee; be not dismayed, for I am thy God: when thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee, and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou passest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned, neither shall the flames kindle upon thee!

Graciously visit, O Lord, all whom we love, and in whom we are more especially interested. May they all be Thine by faith and personal choice. If any are living indifferently or carelessly concerning the things of eternity, awaken and arrest them. Suffer them not to go on unchecked, and be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin, but may their feet be turned into the ways of righteousness and peace. Hear us, we beseech Thee, for all mankind. Have compassion on the ignorant, pity the weak and the unbelieving, and may the light of Thy salvation soon shine into all the sin-darkened hearts of men, and all rejoice in Thee. Hear us in these our supplications, for Thy name's sake; and unto Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord, shall be all the glory. AMEN.



## No. 150.

**O** LORD God of hosts, Thou who art the King eternal, immortal, and invisible, the only wise God, we this evening bow in lowly adoration before Thee. The highest, the holiest, and the best of beings veil their faces with their wings as they enter Thine august presence; how much more doth it become us, who are but sinful dust and ashes, to prostrate ourselves at Thy footstool. All our righteousnesses are as filthy rags, and we are as an unclean thing in Thy sight; but ever-blessed be Thy name for that new and living way which Thou hast opened up for us through the rent veil of the Saviour's flesh, whereby we can ever come to Thee, as the sin-forgiving and sinner-compassionating God.

We rejoice that in Christ Thou art seated upon the throne of grace to dispense blessing to the needy children of men, and that coming to Thee there, through Him, we shall find mercy to pardon, and grace to help us in time of need. We acknowledge, O God, that there is no time which is not a time of need with us. Forgive, we pray Thee, whatever Thou hast seen in us and about us this day that has not been in harmony with Thy holy mind and will; and give us such a sense of Thy fatherly forgiving love, that Thy peace may be our rich possession, and we be made to rejoice in the blessedness of those to whom Thou dost not impute sin.

We thank Thee, O Lord, for the rich ministry of Thy grace toward us this day. Thy thoughts toward us are truly many and precious, and we feel that Thou art dealing with us, not according to our evil desert, but according to Thy great love. We bless Thee for whatever good word or deed has been spoken or done by us this day, and for whatever temptation we have been

enabled to resist. Our strength and goodness are all from Thee, and all our life's well-springs are in Thee.

Bless us as a household and home. Grant us, as parents, all needed wisdom and grace to train the dear children Thou hast given us in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Make us deeply sensible of the preciousness of the trust Thou hast committed to us in them, and of the greatness of our responsibility to Thee. May our precept and example be always on the side of what is true, and lovely, and of good report, that they, following, may be led past all that is evil, and into the way of all that is true and upright. Give to them the spirit that will lead them to obey their parents in the Lord, and honour their father and mother, which is the first commandment with promise. Make them respectful and attentive to their teachers and diligent in their studies, that they may make good progress with their education and be the better fitted thereby for filling usefully and successfully whatever sphere in Thy providence Thou mayest appoint unto them. May we and they alike ever follow the voice of Jesus as our good Shepherd, and never listen to the voice of the stranger, our adversary, who goes about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Thus may we live always in the blissful assurance Christ gives to His following ones, that they shall never perish, that He gives them eternal life, and none shall pluck them out of His hands.

We commend us all to Thee and to the word of Thy grace. Grant us Thy protection during the silent watches and slumbers of the night, and raise us in the morning, if it please Thee, to health, fitting us for the duties of a new day; and all that we ask is in the name of Jesus:  
AMEN.

## No. 151.

MERCIFUL God and heavenly Father, in Thy great love Thou hast brought us to the beginning of another day. And now we come before Thee to thank and praise Thee for Thy renewed mercy to us. We adore and bless Thee for all that Thou art in Thyself, for all the high, holy, and indestructible relations which Thou hast instituted between Thyself and us, and for all the good Thou art making us to experience and enjoy. We bless Thee for the high place Thou hast given us in the scale of being, and that Thou hast made us capable of knowing, loving, and serving Thee. But we have to confess with shame before Thee that we have not been true to the promptings of the high nature bestowed upon us. We have prostrated ourselves before an unholy shrine, and worshipped and served the creature more than Thee, the Creator. All we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned every one to his own way; but we bless Thee that Thou hast not cast us off in our waywardness and wandering. Thou hast sent Thy well-beloved Son to seek and save us, the lost, and hast laid all our iniquities upon Him. We rejoice that He not only died for us, but rose again, and is exalted to Thine own right hand in the heavens, to make intercession for us.

See God our Shield, and look upon us in the face of Thine Anointed, Thy well-beloved Son, and our Saviour. In His name, and through His mediation, cause Thy rich smile and benediction to rest upon us during all the hours and through all the engagements of the day. We commit our way to Thee, assured that, according to Thy promise, Thou wilt direct our steps. Let us hear a voice behind us saying, This is the way, walk ye in it; and when we hear, may we quickly and willingly obey, that

our eyes may be kept from tears and our feet from falling. Bless to us the lessons of Thy holy word which we read from time to time. Dispose us at all times, in all places, and under all circumstances, by Thy Holy Spirit, to follow its righteous dictates and just precepts. Guide, guard, and protect us from all sin and danger by the omnipotence of Thine arm, the counsels of Thy wisdom, and the affections of Thy heart; and graciously help us in all things to serve Thee only, and serve Thee fully. As we are Thine by creation, preservation, and redemption, may we seek to glorify Thee, in our bodies and spirits, which are Thine.

Gracious God and heavenly Father, look upon and bless each one of us who now kneel at Thy footstool. Thou hast set us in families, and art interested in, and concerned about, all that can be a source of interest and concern to us. So reveal Thyself to us, in the face of Jesus, that we shall love Thee first and love Thee best. By a simple and vital faith in Thy dear Son, may we be united to Him as the branch is to the vine; and may the life we live be truly the life of faith on Him who loved us and gave Himself for us. May we all finally be found among Thy jewels when Thou makest them up, and have a place given us in Thy presence, where there is fulness of joy, and at Thy right hand, where there are pleasures for evermore.

Be with all whom we should bear on our hearts before Thee. In an especial manner do Thou sustain, encourage, and strengthen all those at home and abroad whom Thou hast set forth for the defence and proclamation of the gospel of peace. Smile upon and greatly prosper their efforts to bring sinners to the fold and flock of Christ. Pardon all our sins and hear us, for Christ's sake. AMEN.



## No. 152.

OUR God and Father who art in heaven, we come to Thee this evening to offer Thee our evening sacrifice. As we bow the knee before Thee, so would we bow in spirit. We humble ourselves in lowly adoration at Thy footstool, deeply sensible of our littleness and of Thy greatness, of our sinfulness and of Thy holiness, of Thy great mercy and of our own great unworthiness. Thou hast renewed Thy goodness toward us throughout the day that has just passed away, and we renew our thanksgiving and praise unto Thee. We bless Thee for the many mercies Thou hast been pleased to bestow upon us this day. Thou hast been besetting us behind and before by Thy presence and favour as with a mighty shield. Give us eyes to see and hearts to feel Thy goodness; and as we live by the bounty of Thy hand, let us live to the honour and the glory of Thy name.

Help us increasingly to realise the claims Thou hast upon us, and the obligations under which we lie to Thee, and that we have no right in anything we are and have, but that ourselves and our possessions are altogether Thine. Suffer us not to live, therefore, for ourselves, but only for Thee. Save us, O Lord, we humbly pray Thee, from the folly, the sin, and the punishment of seeking our chief good in anything the world can give us, or we can receive from it. Teach us, in whatever way and by whatever means Thou seest best, that all things pertaining to this world are fleeting and perishing, and that nothing can be to us all that we desire, nor fill our soul's great capacities, short of Thyself.

Disappoint all our expectations and desires if Thou art not their source and their end. Glorify Thyself in us and by us, and so reveal Thyself to us in all Thy attractive

beauty and loveliness, that all lesser loves shall be lost and swallowed up in the love of Thee, and Thou be to us all our salvation and all our desire. Let us so see Thee as Thou art to be seen in Christ as our redeeming God and Father, that our hearts shall be drawn out towards Thee in their truest affections. Be Thou ever seated on the throne of our hearts as the chief among ten thousand and the altogether lovely.

And now that we are about to retire to rest, we earnestly beseech Thee to look down upon us and bless us still. Command Thine angels to encamp round about us, and may our sleep be sweet and refreshing. Forgive whatever Thy pure eyes may have seen amiss in us this day in thought, word, or deed. And whilst we pray for ourselves, we would not be unmindful of our dear relations and friends. Thou knowest where they are, and all about them. We commend them all to Thee. Bless them with all needed blessing, especially with all spiritual blessing in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. May they and we alike be Thy true-born, spiritual children, and have the spirit of adoption shed abroad upon our hearts by the Holy Ghost given unto us, by which we shall ever cry unto Thee, Abba Father. Permit not any of them to live indifferently about their truest and best interests, but stir them all up to an earnest and constant pursuit after that vital godliness which alone hath the promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come ; and may we all finally, of Thy great mercy, find a place among the blood-sprinkled host who stand before the throne of God and of the Lamb in the better world beyond, and unto Thee we shall give the praise and the glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

## No. 153.

**O** LORD our God, in the morning we would direct our prayer unto Thee and look up. We laid ourselves down and slept; we awaked, for the Lord sustained us. Our rest has not been disturbed by pain, our pillow has not been wet with tears, we have not had to sigh for the morning. We look up to Thee as the giver of all those personal and family favours. We thank Thee that our nature enables us to look up to Thee, that our education has taught us to do so, and that the good Spirit has disposed our hearts to delight in such an attitude and exercise this morning. We would hear Thy voice saying to us even now, "Look unto me."

We thank Thee that it is into the face of a loving Father we look when we thus look up. May our look this morning be one of fresh joy, of filial love, of conscious gratitude, and of calm trust. We rejoice that there is nothing in Thy look to damp our expectation or make us afraid. We would live in that look, for a Father's love is there. We thank Thee that while Thou dost give us as a family this morning the privilege of looking to one another for help, for love, for counsel and encouragement, it is our peculiar privilege to look away from all creatures, even the truest and most tender, that we may look to Thee. We are all weak, but Thou art strong; we are all liable to err, but Thou art wise; our breath is in our nostrils, but Thou art from everlasting to everlasting. We thank Thee for all we have in one another, but we thank Thee especially for what we have in Thyself.

Grant us, we pray Thee, ever to rise from all finite mind to Thine. We believe and are sure that only Thy will can control the movements of the universe, that only Thy thought can know the end from the beginning, that

only Thy love can make the life of man a perpetual joy. Made in Thine own image, we would not bow down to beings less than ourselves or to finite and erring creatures like ourselves. We would be glad and rejoice in Thy works, but we would worship only Thee. In our various spheres of daily life we shall be called upon to-day to discriminate and choose; but Thou art above our choices, and when they are erring, Thou knowest how to check us, guide us, and control us. We would not forget that it is our glory as it is our duty to choose the things in which Thou delightest. We look up to Thee this morning for guidance, that we may not, by wrong and sinful choices, degrade ourselves and grieve Thee.

Help us, Heavenly Father, to see the path which Thou hast marked out for us. We are safe and happy only as Thou art our guide. All this, our Father, in our calm and thoughtful moments is clear to us; but Thou knowest how the grasp which passion takes of us, and the blows with which the world blinds us, and the wild ways into which a wayward heart would lead us, are apt to make us forget with what wisdom Thou art seeking to direct our life. Oh let not any act of folly on our part rob us of the dignity and bliss of being ruled by Thee. Thou dost not bind us with bands of iron, but dost graciously draw us with cords of love. Thou hast sent Thy Son Jesus Christ that He might inform us of the greatness of Thy love, and, by a sacrifice of Himself, open up a way in which Thy love could wisely reach and save us. Yet more and more shed Thy love abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost given unto us.

Hear our cry, Heavenly Father, when we pray for wisdom so to live that we may not grieve Thy love any more, for Jesus' sake. AMEN.



## No. 154.

O LORD our God, Thou hast made the human heart and knowest all the joys and sorrows it can feel. In the afflictions of Thy children Thou art afflicted. The pangs we bear on earth have their echo in the skies. Help us to remember all this as we now bend before Thee. The shadow has fallen upon our home and our hearts to-day. Sorrow has come into our circle. That which we did not expect at this time has come upon us. How shall we bear it? Give us strength and calmness we beseech Thee. What time the heart is overwhelmed, to whom can we go but unto Thee? May the tidings which have reached us and saddened us to-day in no way darken our views of Thy love, Thy providence, Thy kindly care for us and ours. We would not forget that we are in the body, and that the body is disturbed by disease, and that all society has been put out of order by sin, so that sorrow is the common lot of all. But, O our Father, the stroke is painful. We feel it. Thou knowest how we loved the friend who has now gone from us. Thou knowest how the sympathy, the cheerfulness, and faith of that loving heart oftentimes gave us strength and joy.

Pardon us if now, while we are speaking to Thee, we weep for our friend. Thou knowest how our children will miss the friend that loved them so much. May this portrait on the wall, and those many little gifts of love on which the eyes now rest, and the hallowed pictures that hang on the walls of memory, be like so many cords drawing us to the glory-land whither our friend has gone.

We thank Thee, our Father, that though the pang is sharp we do not sorrow as those who have no hope. We thank Thee that the truth about Jesus could do so much for the departed. We thank Thee that it could refine

life and chase all fear of death. We thank Thee that it could make the life now brought to a close so unselfish, shedding such a genial influence upon the home hearth, and performing so many quiet Christian deeds in the social circle. May that same truth about Jesus do all these things for us who are at this time plunged into sorrow. Pardon us, O Lord, if at this time we are feeling that earth is so much poorer to us now. We know that heaven is richer. We know also that Thou art more to us than all friends. Oh! gather us nearer to Thyself while this sorrow-storm rages, and we are feeling how much colder, lonelier, and poorer life has become.

Grant, Heavenly Father, that this new sorrow may be as a furnace from which all thought, all feeling, and all choice shall come forth as gold seven times purified. Dimmed though our eyes are with tears, may we be able to see how much nobler a gentle Christian life is than the noisy life of men who live without God. May all such examples of the gospel's power lead us to keep our minds and hearts open to its constant influence. And grant us, Gracious Father, to be able, even by reason of our new sorrow, to sympathise with all tried and afflicted homes. Through our torn hearts send strength and consolation to the hearts of others. If there be wounds to bind up teach us how to bind them. May we be able to comfort others with such comfort as we ourselves have experienced. And when all these purifying fires have done their work, take us, Heavenly Father, to Thyself, that with Thee and all the good we may be at home for evermore.

In the sorrows of the day we would not forget the multitude of good things for which our thanks should rise to Thee. Accept our evening offering of gratitude for Jesus' sake. AMEN.

## No. 155.

WE bow down before Thee, our Heavenly Father, and thank Thee for this Sabbath morning. We thank Thee for all its holy memories, and for all its high hopes; for all the sweet and happy influence it is meant to exert upon our minds and hearts. Even now, while we kneel before Thee, we would think of our triumphant Saviour. We would not forget that He has conquered death and the grave, and has ascended up to the right hand, our all-prevailing Advocate. We thank Thee that, through His resurrection from the dead, Thou hast given us a lively hope that we, too, shall rise to be with Him for ever. May the return of the Sabbath deepen our conviction, and increase our enjoyment of all these great realities. May none of us forget redeeming love. May none of us forget the Lamb of God. May these, the holiest of all memories, greatly enrich and influence our heart and conduct from day to day. May the power which Calvary and the Cross are meant to exert upon us, transform all thought, and feeling, and action into the likeness of Jesus.

We lay, O Lord, our family offering of thanksgiving on the family altar this morning. We thank Thee for those who taught us and trained us to love and respect the Sabbath, and for the memories they have left behind them, and of which we can think, even now, while we bow at the throne of Thy grace. May their example and their instruction not be lost upon us; may the rich inheritance of saintly conduct which we enjoy through their life, be treasured by us, that we, too, may walk before Thee in love and peace. What they conferred upon us, may we be able to confer upon those whom Thou hast given us to train for Thee; and may this Sabbath aid us in discharging this duty.

We thank Thee, Heavenly Father, that on this Thy day we have the prospect and the privilege of going up to public worship. Thou hast taught us to see the advantages, as well as to feel the obligations, of doing so. Thou art God: we would worship Thee. Thou art our Father: we would stand among Thy children, and rejoice in Thy love. We thank Thee that our family circumstances admit of our going up to Thy house. Affliction does not prevent us. Discord does not unfit us. No difference of opinion about Thee and Thy worship divides us. Sorrow does not bow us down. Distracting cares do not disqualify us for the joys and the duties of the sanctuary. We thank Thee that, as a family, we have felt the attractions of the Lord's house. Go with us, we beseech Thee, and make all the service to us, and to all who shall come together for worship, profitable. Hear us when we sing Thy praise. Hear us when we pray. Enlighten us when we read Thy word; and may all we hear make us wiser and more like Thee. May Thy servant, the pastor whom Thou hast set over us, be greatly enriched with all spiritual blessings, that out of a full mind and heart we may all receive of the fulness with which Thou dost fill him. When he speaks of Christian duty, may we all be willing to learn. When he speaks of Christian privilege, may we be grateful that such a privilege is ours. When he warns of danger and temptations, may we feel how welcome all wise words should be. And when he lovingly entreats men to think of that Saviour who shed His blood for them, may we as a family be in fullest sympathy with him, that through him and us Thou mayest draw the wandering back to Thyself. Bless the afflicted who cannot go up to Thy house. Comfort the sorrowing. Shield the tempted, for Jesus' sake. AMEN.



## No. 156.

AT sundry times, and in divers manners, O Lord, Thou dost speak to men still. Loudly Thou hast been speaking to us to-day by Thy word, by Thy servants, and through all the services of Thy house. Thy speech drops as the rain and distils as the dew on all hearts that are thirsting to be blest. We thank Thee that Thy word has fallen to-day with pleasant and profitable emphasis upon our ear, that we are able to retain some of it in our memory and in our heart, and that by means of it we are emboldened more and more to come that we may speak with Thee. For we have heard again that Jesus has passed into the heavens, there to appear in the presence of God for us. For His sake, heavenly Father, grant us now an evening blessing.

We thank Thee that, since Jesus has passed into the heavens, the way is made plain for our return to Thee and to the home of all the happy. Thou hast so constituted us that even now we can follow Jesus in thought, in aspiration, and in happy hope. May we, as a family now kneeling in Thy presence, thus follow Him, that at last we shall be taken to Him and so be for ever with the Lord. May the youngest of our home circle, as well as the oldest, follow Him, and may the pleasure of thus following Him become sweeter to us all, as the result of what we have learned to-day. Let not the world, with its cares, weaken the resolution formed in Thy house to-day to follow Jesus. Let not anything in youthful life, in youthful joys, in education, in companionship, in play, in rest or toil, efface the impressions made, and the purpose formed to follow the Saviour. Give us all grace to follow Him with all our heart, that the family circle, still complete and now so happy here, may also be com-

plete in heaven. Let not our familiarity with Thy word, Thy Sabbaths, and Thy house, render our hearts insensible to the greatness of the love which Thou hast bestowed upon us, but may every such day as this be a foretaste of the joys that are at Thy right hand.

Grant us, merciful Father, as the result of this Sabbath's experience, to see more clearly into the glorious purposes of Thy love to men. May our thoughts be more constantly occupied with the work which Jesus finished ere He passed into the heavens. Oh that men everywhere understood what love and mercy He has brought to them, and is now bestowing upon them! May the word spoken to-day be a new revelation of that love and mercy to all who heard it. Grant that the Divine Spirit may continue to use that word that has been lodged in the memory and in the heart. Should any one be tempted to treat that word as a mere commonplace, grant that in some way the power of that temptation may be broken, and that Thy word may work to the salvation and purity of the soul.

Lord Jesus, look in Thy pity upon a wounded, bleeding world, that dreams of getting on without Thee. Thou seest how the literature many of the people read is poisoned, how the path which the people choose leads to darkness and death. Oh let not Thy compassion fail! Give Thy gospel the victory. Save men.

And, Lord, accept our evening song of praise, and mercifully guard us while we sleep. We are about to sink away back from all consciousness of what shall be going on around us, back into mysteries we cannot comprehend; but yet we do it calmly, because Thou dost guard us. We are safe, for we are Thine, through Jesus Thy Son. AMEN.

## No. 157.

O LORD, Thy mercies are new to us every morning. They come to us in many forms, but they all come as the expression of Thy love. Enlighten our eyes, we besecch Thee, that we may see where they are, what they are, what they mean, and what we should do with them, that we may not ignorantly undervalue them, or wickedly turn any of them to purposes which Thou wouldst condemn.

In the prolonged life and health which as a family we enjoy this morning, we see some of Thy mercies. In the home comforts which fit us for the new day's duties, and cheer us for any sacrifice the day may demand, we see Thy mercies. O Lord, they are very manifold, and very great, and very tender. We are able to look upon one another in love this morning, and listen to one another, and understand one another, and have confidence in one another. No gulf of wrong feeling separates us, no want of sympathy chills our hearts. How shall we praise Thee for these and so many other mercies we enjoy?

And yet, Lord, we are unworthy of the least of all these mercies. If there be any strength in our right hand, Thou hast put it there. If there be any skill in our way of doing things, Thou hast taught us it; for there is a spirit in man, and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth understanding. If from day to day we have been able to be diligent and enterprising, Thou hast encouraged us, and sustained us, and made the way plain for us. If our home is brightened and blessed with reciprocal love and esteem, Thou hast put it all into our hearts; for every good and perfect gift cometh down from Thee.

We would therefore, Heavenly Father, make mention of Thy mercies this morning with grateful hearts. We would not hide them from our own eyes; we would not

hinder them from producing their due influence upon our hearts; we would not prevent them from accomplishing the end for which Thou hast given them. May the result be as the design.

We thank Thee that, amid all the mercies we enjoy, the knowledge that Thou hast forgiven us our sins, the consciousness that Thou hast given us peace, and made us Thy adopted children, enhances and sublimates all. We know that, having given us the greater gifts, Thou wilt not withhold any good thing from us, if we walk uprightly. Thou hast loved us and given us Thy Son. Jesus is more to us than wealth, or health, or fame, or friends can be. Lord, teach us so to walk to-day that every hour may testify to new favours received into our minds and hearts through Jesus. May we be steadfast in purpose, simple in character, loyal to Thy cause, and consciously dependent upon Thee all the day. May the men among whom we toil, with whom we do business, with whom we walk in the street or stand in the market, get no injury by anything we think, or do, or say. Rather may they get good by the silent influence which goes forth from hearts which Thou hast blest. Thus, may Thy mercies shield us, refine us, uphold us, and fit us for all the duties which this new day may bring.

Should any reverses or disappointments come, O Lord, may the memory of all Thy mercies in the past fortify us against undue grief, and save us from everything like bitterness of heart. Let us not be too sorely depressed. Should men prove harsh, and cold, and faithless, let not man's conduct hide from our minds Thy constancy and love. And should Thy good providence favour us with a measure of success, let not that success injure us, for Jesus' sake. AMEN.



## No. 158.

**O** THOU mighty Conqueror, the battle of life is easy when we follow Thy command. Thy strength is made perfect in our weakness. We are made more than conquerors when we are held in the grasp of Thy nail-pierced hand. The struggle may be great, our foes many, we may be pressed on every side, but no movement can escape Thy notice, and no assault weaken Thy might.

We come to Thee, O Thou mighty One, with our evening offering of thanksgiving for help and victory to-day. There have been snares not a few, but Thy loving hand has led us. Men are unreasonable, and there has been much to try patience, ruffle temper, and prompt to words that are severe. But Thou hast shielded the heart, and set a watch upon the lips. When trembling seized us, Thou didst come nigh. Stripping the evil of all disguise, Thou didst enable us to see its true character, and turn away. All evil is repulsive when the light of Thy thought is turned upon it. Thou hast taken to-day the soft glove from off the iron hand by which we were in danger of being grasped. We are yet free; we are still uninjured. O Lord, we praise Thee that we can still bow before Thee with frankness and peace.

Sanctify us, we entreat Thee, by the struggles of this day, and by the memory of the strength which Thou didst impart. We looked to Thee, and were lightened. We remembered Thy presence, and were able to put the evil thing away. The memory of Thy cross was around us as a shield. The thought of Thy glory over-awed the proud powers that sought to dethrone our purpose. We have been brought back into the house still clothed in Thy beauty, and preserved in our right mind. To Thee, blessed Saviour, and not to us, be all the glory.

Grant, dear Redeemer, that our little ones who have retired to rest, may never know the subtlety and strength of the temptations through which we have had to pass. May no habit be contracted that would weaken them. May no liking be cherished that it would be sinful to gratify. May no line of life be followed that would unnecessarily expose them to the evil influence of bad men. May the snares of the evil fowler never prove successful over them. Teach us how to train them, that they may have a fair chance of escaping the ruin that overtakes so many. May they be honest, upright, trustworthy, sober. May they grow up in this home familiar with Thy name, attached to Thy service, and breathing the atmosphere of Christian love. May the great thoughts of Thy word take deep root in their memory and heart, that when assaulted by evil they may know how to overcome it. Thus may they grow up in all goodness, a joy to us and to Thee.

Be gracious, blessed Saviour, to the members of the family who are absent. Establish them in their purpose to be wholly Thine. Bless the friends with whom they tarry; and in due time bring our children back to us in safety and peace.

And now, blessed Redeemer, we commend to Thee again our tender child. We can trust, though we cannot see. It may be that Thou art leading the lamb of Thy fold homeward, though it be by the winding way of prolonged affliction. If it please Thee that our eyes be holden for a time, give us grace to bear all and wait. Should a wider vision bring us what we fear, oh hold Thou up our hearts, that they may not fail. Fit us for the issue, as coming from Thee. And all glory shall be Thine for ever. AMEN.

## No. 159.

WE thank Thee, O Lord, for this new bright morning.

The cheerful sunshine, the singing birds, and the green fields are all Thine. Thou hast made them, and art pleased to use them in the interests of man. All Thy works praise Thee, O Lord. May man also, Thy noblest work upon the earth, praise Thee. May all men everywhere praise Thee. And may we who now kneel before the home altar live to praise Thee with grateful hearts.

In Thy smile, O Lord, the flowers blush into beauty. By Thy breath, all nature is ever fresh and strong. Round us and above us Thou hast placed whatever is needed to nourish thought and feed affection. We sometimes feel how much the outer world answers to our inner moods. Oh keep us from misreading Thy works by reason of the dim lights that burn within our souls. Thou hast, Heavenly Father, opened our eyes this morning upon all the beauty that is around us, and upon all the comfort which our family circle affords. Our table has been spread with food convenient for us. Our home joys and hopes have not been darkened or disturbed by any unhallowed noises of the night, or any painful surprise of the morning. The letters we have received contain no tidings of sorrow. The duties to which we are called are not such as to discourage our hearts. We have work to do, but Thou hast given us strength for it. O Lord, we will praise Thee with all our hearts for these and all the other mercies of the morning.

We pray Thee, Heavenly Father, to make our home life to-day still more sweet and Christian. May both work and play be greatly sanctified by the thought that Jesus is with us. May all temptation lose its power by His presence and interest in us all. Make it a joy to us, as

members of this family, to help each other to be good and useful. We thank Thee for everything we enjoy as a family that speaks to us continually of Thee. Still go before us, we pray Thee, and lead us by such paths as are best to Thy thought, that our home may be a truly Christian home. And should strangers come into our circle to-day, should friends visit us, may they find that all speech and action savour of the knowledge of Christ Jesus our Lord.

And now, Heavenly Father, we ask Thee to go with those of us who go to do business in the world. In the use of the opportunities which Thy kind providence may bring, may no evil be done to our own hearts, or to the hearts of those with whom we come into contact. May no use of our liberty and strength degrade or injure other men. Help us to go about all work as if holding commerce with the skies. If the task that comes to-day appear to us an unwelcome one, keep us from putting it away on that account. May the voice of duty inspire as well as command. We have often felt that difficulty and restraint have been good for us. Let us not reject them if they are necessary to-day.

Show us, Heavenly Father, how to rejoice in the prosperity of other men, even if that prosperity should not visit us. Let not ideas of mere material interests or passing pleasures regulate our life. We know and have felt that a man cannot live by bread alone. Thus may we have grace given us to-day to make manifest that it is a joy to us to do the Saviour's will in all things. Make us loyal to Him. Make us true. Let not the world enslave us, that, returning to our home, we may raise our evening song with deeper gratitude and joy. For Jesus' sake. AMEN.



## No. 160.

**O** LORD Jesus Christ, Thou art far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but in that which is to come. Round Thee stand all the great: angels who never sinned, and men who have been saved from sin. All the forces of nature are at Thy command. All the machinery of providence is worked by Thy wisdom. The ages are under Thy control. The key of all treasure is in Thy hand. Without Thee men are poor and foolish and weak. Nothing they can do is strong, nothing is wise, nothing is enduring. Thy favour is life; Thy frown is death. We bless Thee that as we kneel before Thee this evening, we can know that, as a family, Thou dost love us and care for us and extend to us Thy favour.

We give Thee thanks that amid the pursuits and distractions of the day Thou hast not forgotten us. Human perplexities do not bewilder Thee. Thou hast not lost sight of us in the great crowd of creatures that require Thy help. Thou hast not allowed the day to darken upon us in sorrow. Our path has not been planted with thorns. Our feet have not been caught in evil snares. Danger has not overtaken us. Thou hast brought us together this evening as a family, some from toil, some from school, and others from travel, yet all in safety and health. Another warm welcome to the home has gladdened us, and we pray Thee to accept our evening song and thanksgiving for all Thy goodness.

We would rejoice, blessed Saviour, to remember to-night that all power is in Thy hand. When the staff on which we are sometimes tempted to lean breaks in our hand and bleeds it, Thou hast power and skill to bind up the wound and lead us to lean supremely upon Thy-

self. When the shadow falls upon our path, Thy light can chase all shadows away. When the purposes of good which we form are exposed to influences that would weaken, Thou art able to gird about with strength that gives the victory. To-day Thou hast been our Shield and Deliverer, and we now raise our thanks to Thee.

More and more, blessed Saviour, may we all keep in mind that our life is personally superintended by Thee. We are sure that no mother ever so watched over her child as Thy love and care watch over every heart that trusts in Thee. Let nothing that we read in books, or hear in conversation, lead us to forget or doubt or deny this sweet and precious thought. It is our privilege to lay our hand in Thy hand, to look into Thy face, and tell our wants to Thee. May we ever prize the privilege of being thus upheld and encouraged by Thee.

Keep us, gracious Redeemer, from taking the management of our life into our own hand, as if we could walk alone. Save us from the folly and impiety of separating Thee from our life. Thou alone art able to be a wall of fire around us. Thou alone art able to keep all enemies at a distance from us. Head and heart and hand are dependent upon Thee.

Forgive, we beseech Thee, all that comes short of what Thou hadst a right to expect of us to-day. We thank Thee that Thou wilt allow nothing that we have experienced to place an impassable gulf between Thee and us. Lord Jesus, we desire more and more to walk so that men may see what new thoughts Thou dost put into the minds of those who know Thee, what new feelings Thou dost put into their hearts, what new words Thou dost put into their mouths. Strengthen this desire, for Thy name's sake. AMEN.

## No. 161.

**A**LMIGHTY Jehovah, we would draw near to Thy throne in Jesus' name, delighting to know that Thou waitest to be gracious, and art rich in mercy unto all that call upon Thee with the whole heart. We thank Thee for the safety of the night and for all the mercies of a new morning. Thou art to be praised for all that is past and trusted for all that is to come, Thy love is broader than our minds can measure. We are less than the least of all Thy mercies, but we rejoice to know that our deserts are not Thy rule. Thou givest according to the riches of Thine own grace. Thou art the source of good to all that live. When we think of the poor returns that we make for all Thy constant loving care of us, we have reason to be humbled in the dust, and to say with adoring thankfulness—Who is a God like unto Thee, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin?

We praise Thee, above all, for Jesus Christ and Him crucified. We would glory in Him as mighty to save and strong to deliver, the same yesterday and to-day and for ever. We thank Thee for blood that cleanseth from all sin, a righteousness that is unto all and upon all them that believe, a Saviour that saves His people from their sins and who makes all things work together for their good, and who will, in due time, bring them to be with Him where He is to behold His glory and to praise Him in holier and sweeter strains than they could ever employ here below. May we, and all who cherish such hope, be found constantly acting in character, seeking to be pure as God is pure, until made fully meet for being partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light. Thus may each succeeding day be an improvement upon the days that are past. We cannot

tell what may arise to us between the morning and the evening of any day ; but our joy is to know that Thou wilt never fail nor forsake.

We would now, in faith and hope, commit our way to Thee for the day that lies before us. If danger should be near do Thou defend. If temptation should assail us may strength be given us to resist and to come off more than conquerors through Him that loves us. Forbid that we should ever sin in view of love so endearing. If trials await us help us so to meet them as to be strengthened and purified by them. May all our dear friends share largely in Thy best blessings. Whatever may befall them as regards time and the body, may they be all rich in faith and have their best affections set upon things that are above.

If any joined to us by specially endearing ties are living without Christ and without hope in the world, we pray that they may be soon brought to see their guilt and danger and be led to take with them words, the fitting words of confession and supplication, and return unto Thee, the living and true God. Of such may it yet have to be said that, although once far off they have been brought nigh by the blood of Christ.

We pray for all who love the Lord Jesus Christ. May grace, mercy, and peace be multiplied unto them. In the various spheres of life in which they move may they shine as light, holding forth the word of life, that others seeing their good works may be led to glorify the heavenly Father. Bless Thine own people and cause Thy face to shine upon them, that Thy way may be known upon the earth and Thy saving health among all nations. May the churches of Christ be as well-watered gardens, as vineyards which the Lord doth bless. We ask all in the name of our gracious Redeemer. AMEN.



## No. 162.

HEAVENLY Father, Thou art great and to be had in reverence of all who would draw near to Thee. But we delight to know that, great as is Thy majesty, Thy mercy is not less. While worlds on worlds hang on Thy hand Thou art pitiful and full of compassion and worthy of our warmest affections. They that know Thy name will put their trust in Thee, and we joy to know that Thou takest pleasure in them that fear Thee, in them that hope in Thy mercy. Thou knowest our rising and our rest and all the secrets of our hearts, but Thou condescendest to be our Father and our Friend. None that trust in Thee ever trust in vain. The hope that is built upon Thy word can never make ashamed.

We thank Thee for all the mercies of the day that is past. Thine eye has been over us for good. The everlasting arms have been around us, and we are still the living to praise Thee. Our life is but as a vapour that appeareth for a little and then vanisheth away, but Thou art from everlasting to everlasting. Thy years are one eternal day, and we bless Thee that although we have no continuing city here, there is a glorious endless life to come in a city that hath foundations that can never be overthrown, a city whose builder and maker is God.

Looking back on the day that has closed, while we see great cause for thanksgiving, we see much that we need to confess, many shortcomings, but, blessed be Thy name, there is forgiveness with Thee—Thou art rich in mercy. We pray that Thou wouldst fulfil unto us the promise—Their sins and transgressions will I remember no more. May every day we live see us, in Thy strength, getting more full deliverance from all that is evil within us and increasing fitness for living to

Thy glory and doing something to forward the Saviour's kingdom on earth. May the ever blessed Spirit take up His abode within us, purifying our hearts by the faith of all that He shows to the believing mind of the things of Jesus. May He so dwell in all that name the name of Christ as that they will depart from all iniquity and be zealous followers of all that is good. May they ever aspire after perfect love, and hope, and peace, and truth, and never fail to show their faith by their works.

May we increasingly enjoy a foretaste of the endless life above, and thus become strengthened to be followers of those who, through faith and patience, inherit the promises. May those of Thy children who may be in adversity remember that although, even to them, weeping may endure for a night, joy will come in the morning, and, from the recollection of Thy goodness in times past, may they be able to borrow new courage for the future, and may that courage rise with danger if danger should assail them. Let faith suppress each rising fear and exclude all anxious doubt. May the gospel of the kingdom make great progress in these latter days, that multitudes of those that yet know Thee not may soon taste and see that God is good, and know that He is the God of their salvation.

Keep us safe, we pray Thee, from all evil during the hours of rest, and grant that, whether we sleep or wake we may live together with Christ. And when for the last time our eyes close on earthly things, may we be brought to see the King in His beauty in that glorious clime where there is no night, but where those who have died in the Lord rest from their labours while their works follow them. We are altogether unworthy, but we ask all in the worthy name of our Redeemer. AMEN.

## No. 163.

OUR Father who art in heaven, we adore Thee as the God of our life, and the length of our days. Thy loving kindness is new every morning, and continued all the day. We have to confess that we are often forgetful of Thee, and of our unspeakable obligations to Thee; but Thou art ever mindful of us, and unwearied in bestowing blessings upon us. There is much, O Lord, that Thy goodness should lead us to repent of. May this be a day of more close walking with Thee than heretofore. Thou hast told us that Thou carest for us. Help us to cast all our cares on Thee. May all known to us, and specially dear to us—because they are Thy children—have the peace that passeth all understanding, keeping their hearts and minds as the result of living near to Thee, and, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, making all their requests known to Thee. We thank Thee for Thy precious word, the sure guide to holiness and eternal life.

We praise Thee for the ever new glad tidings that God so loved the world as to give His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him might not perish, but have everlasting life. Thou didst send Him, not to condemn, but to seek and to save. We delight to think of the multitudes that have already been found and saved, and are now in the Father's home above, seeing the Saviour as He is. May all those yet on earth, who have, through grace, believed, hold on their way rejoicing; not resting in the measure of conformity to Christ that they have already attained to, but seeking still to grow in grace by growing in knowledge, until they attain to the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ. May they never be found quenching the Spirit, but strengthened with all might by the Spirit in the inner man, with Christ dwelling in their hearts by faith, be able more and

more to comprehend the height, and breadth, and depth, and length of the love of Christ, until, to their utmost capacity, they are filled with all the fulness of God.

We pray for the world still lying in the wicked one. Thou, from Thy holy habitation, beholdest all the sons of men. Thou knowest the extent to which sin and suffering still abound. We delight to know that Thou art compassionate. Thou art not willing that any should perish. Thou art long-suffering and slow to wrath. May those who should witness for Thee to those to whom they can find access, be more zealous, more wise in winning souls, more devoted in testifying in every way they can, that God sent His Son to be the Saviour of the world. We thank Thee for all that is, by Thy blessing, being accomplished in our day. We delight to know that Thy word is running swiftly, and is being glorified, in turning many from darkness to light, and from the service of Satan to serve Thee, the living and true God—waiting for Thy Son from heaven.

We praise Thee for increasing proof that the gospel is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believes. May Thy word still grow and multiply, until all shall know Thee, from the least unto the greatest; and until all the kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ. May we, and all dear to us, realize Thy friendship throughout this day, and find that it is good for us to draw near to Thee, and to walk closely with Thee—that Thy favour is life, and Thy loving kindness better than life. Hold Thou up our goings in Thy good and perfect way, that our footsteps may not slide, but that we may close the day in peace. We are unworthy. We ask all in the prevailing name of Jesus. AMEN.



## No. 164.

OUR Father and our God, Thou art daily loading us with Thy benefits, and it is good for us to draw near unto Thee. It is our delight to know that Thou shalt endure for ever, and that no expectation founded upon Thy word can perish. Thy words are pure words, as silver seven times purified. Thou hast promised that they that trust in Thy mercy, shall rejoice in Thy salvation. That mercy is our only trust. Thy favour is life, and Thy loving kindness is better than life.

Thou compasses with favour as with a shield. But we have to confess, with grief and shame, that we are ready to forget Thee, and to wander from the way of Thy commandments. The ungodly have great power of living in forgetfulness of Thee, and even those that have known Thy forgiving love, and have rejoiced in hope of the glory of God, allow their souls to cleave too much to the dust. But, blessed be Thy name, Thy love knows no change. We thank Thee for a Saviour whose name dispels all guilt and fear; and for love that follows us in all our wanderings, and which, whenever we return, bestows pardon and comfort, gives a home and rest for the soul.

We thank Thee for all the mercies enjoyed throughout the day, and for the joyful thought that heaven is nearer day by day. We praise Thee that, even now, we can by faith draw near to the general assembly and church of the first-born above; and can hear the songs of the unnumbered multitude, from every kindred and clime, that worship before the throne. It is ours on earth to say, like them, that Jesus has loved us and washed us from our sins in His blood. Help us to set our affections more on things above, where Jesus is, who has entered into the holiest by His own blood, there to appear for us.

We thank Thee for all that Thy people have to cheer and sustain them in the present life, in whatever circumstances they may be placed, and under whatever trials they may have to bear. Thou hast promised that as their day is, so shall their strength be: Thou hast given them cause to rest in the thought that, although grief and tears should employ the night, the morning's dawn will restore the joy, and that, whether through tempest or sunshine, still the path will be homeward. May all Thy children, while they have such hope in them, be daily advancing in likeness to their Saviour.

Banish selfishness from every heart: soon may men cease for ever from all opposition to Thy will. Strengthen those whose principles are severely tried by temptation. Help men to anticipate the time when all conflict will end, and when those who have overcome as Christ overcame shall be glorified together with Him, when those who have suffered with Him shall also reign with Him. May wanderers be drawn back to the Saviour's fold, and may those who are cleaving to Him be built up, through faith, unto complete salvation. We pray for all who are connected with us by the ties of relationship and friendship: may they be all found in union with the Saviour—such a union as will secure that because He lives they shall live also. May they be able to say that they know in whom they have believed.

Let the eye that never slumbers nor sleeps watch over us during the hours of rest. Grant us refreshing sleep, and if we awake in the morning, may we awake in Thy love, and may each day that we live be a day of new enjoyment of Thy favour and new devotedness to Thy service. All we ask is in the great Redeemer's name. AMEN.

## No. 165.

**E**VER-BLESSED God, we adore Thee, on a new day, as the Father of Lights, from whom every good and every perfect gift comes down. Thou makest Thy sun to rise upon the evil and upon the good. We bless Thee for protecting us from all harm throughout the hours of darkness, and giving us to see the returning light of day, surrounded with so many mercies, calling for new thanksgiving. We are in danger of forgetting that all our mercies come from Thee, because they are so constant, and because we see not an immediate connection between them and the loving hand that secures them; but we desire to have our souls and all that is within us stirred up to magnify and praise Thy name for all Thy gracious benefits. But we thank Thee above all for the light of divine truth, for the sacred pages that give the knowledge of the glory of God as it shines in the face of Jesus; and for the glorious immortality that He has brought to light by the gospel.

Enable us and all that love Thy name, to pass through all scenes of labour and business and recreation, as children of the light, having no fellowship with any of the unfruitful works of darkness. It is in Thee that we live and move and have our being. May lives, sustained by Thy bounty, be ever found devoted to Thy service. Thy love shines in all Thy commandments and in all Thy counsels and works. May it be ours ever to confide in Thee, and esteem it more than our meat and our drink to do Thy will. Thou hast given us capacities and wants and aspirations that connect us with Thee as a heavenly Father. Separated from Thee, we could never be exalted and blessed to the full. They that forsake Thee forsake their own mercies. Help us, whether we

eat or drink or whatsoever we do, to do all to Thy glory.

It is Thy love that awakens and sustains the love of man. Help us to see Thee in every form of good that we enjoy. Thou didst of old teach Thy children to bear upon their spirits the dark places of the earth; that were the abodes of cruelty. Thou knowest the extent to which darkness and cruelty still prevail in many lands. May the light of the knowledge of divine love soon chase all these away. May the beam that shines from Zion Hill soon enlighten every land. May the wretched and the erring soon come to know that with Thee is tender pity and everlasting love. May the Saviour's name soon be great from the rising of the sun unto his going down.

Remembering that the days of life will ere long come to an end, may we, and all who claim to be Thy servants, be careful to redeem the time and to be steadfast, immovable, and always abounding in whatever department of Thy work Thy providence may shape out for us. Amidst all the changing scenes of time our hearts' desire and prayer would be that Thou wouldst be unto us a sun and a shield, giving us the needed grace from day to day, and crowning us with glory at the end.

May all who are in affliction, and thus hindered from working for Thee, be enabled to suffer so as to give evidence that Thou art now the strength of Thy people's hearts as well as their everlasting portion; and that Jesus is found to be a Brother born for adversity, a great High Priest, whose known sympathy can cheer the darkest hour, and who has engaged to bring to the wealthy place, if it should be through fire and through water. Our prayers are before Thee. Of Thy rich mercy, grant us an answer, for our Redeemer's sake. AMEN.



## No. 166.

**M**OST gracious God, we come to Thee in the faith that Thou art, and that Thou art the rewarder of them that diligently seek Thee. We adore Thee as the centre of all love, the source of all light and true liberty, of all truth and mercy, of all blessing and immortality. We bless Thee for the salvation that Thy love has brought near to guilty men. Herein is love, not that we loved Thee, but that Thou didst love us, and didst give Thine only begotten Son up to the death for us. Well may the response of our hearts be—Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift. What shall we render unto the Lord for all His gracious benefits?

We thank Thee for all the temporal mercies that, through Christ, Thou bestowest on men. Thou art causing goodness and mercy to follow us, and we must feel that the least of all Thy mercies is more than we deserve. Hitherto Thou hast cared for us and blessed us, and in Thee we would still put our trust. Our prayer at the close of another day is, Forgive the sins that are past and grant us grace and strength and wisdom for the time that is to come. Thou art the Helper when other helpers fail. Thou art the soul's eternal rest, the strength of every saint.

Thou knowest the inmost secrets of the breast; Thou knowest our thoughts afar off. Give us victory over all that is evil in our nature, that we may be well-pleasing in Thy sight. According to Thy gracious promise, wash us that we may be whiter than the snow. Save us from the evil heart of unbelief that leads to depart from Thee, the living God. May all our dear friends consciously share Thy friendship, and be able to say that it is good for them that they draw near to God, and walk with God

always. Thou hast taught us to cherish enlarged sympathies, to say, Grace be with all them that love the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. May it be unto all such according to Thy word. May they become more and more one in heart and in effort. Whereunto they have already attained, may they walk by the same rule, and mind the same things, and, as they have opportunity, strive together for the furtherance of the gospel. Help us all to live as those who have earth for their pilgrimage but heaven for their home.

We pray for the wide and rapid extension of the Saviour's dominion in the hearts of men. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. We thank Thee for telling us of a time when the people shall be all righteous, and the former troubles forgotten. Soon may all the ends of the earth remember and turn unto the Lord; all princes and peoples worship Him who is the blessed King of Kings. May those who have gone to preach Christ in distant heathen lands realise that Thou art ever near, that they are not sent a warfare on their own charges. May they realise the Saviour's sympathy in all their labours and sufferings and sorrows, and be from time to time rejoicing in seeing men turned from darkness unto light, and from the power of Satan to God; and may all who remain at home understand the obligation resting on them to sustain those who have gone with their prayers and contributions, and esteem the obligation to be an honour, and feel it to be a joy.

We now commit ourselves to Thy care for another night. May no evil come nigh our dwelling. Fit us for the close of life and for an eternal day in the heavenly home. We deserve no good. Hear and accept us, for Christ's sake. AMEN.

## No. 167.

OUR Father and our God, we thank Thee for having watched over us while we slept, and for raising us up again to the activities of daily life. May this be a day of increased newness of spiritual life. We thank Thee for daily bread, and for all that makes the present life a blessing, but we thank Thee above all for the sure prospect of an endless life at Thy right hand in that happy land where there is no need for the moon or sun to give light, because the glory of the Lamb is there. We thank Thee for giving Him authority over all things who once shed the human tear, who has a heart touched with all our joys, and who feels for all our griefs, a friend that can read our souls' deepest longings. We lament that so many still shut their eyes, loving darkness more than light, because their deeds are evil, and that we are all so prone to turn away from the light of life. But we thank Thee for all Thou art doing to keep us in remembrance of the words whereby we and all ours can be saved. Be Thou ever our guardian and our guide.

May godly fear be found planted in the hearts of all with whom we are connected. May there be glowing in them the flame of undying love to God and to men through realising that God first loved them, that Christ has loved them and given Himself for them. Keep those who are in affliction and perplexity near to Him on whom they may safely lean in the deepest distress. Help us all, in every variety of condition, to say intelligently and devoutly Thy will be done, while Thy presence shines upon us through all the journey of life and crowns that journey's end. May all who need comfort and strength bear in mind that it is Thine to treasure up bright designs in mines of deep, unfathomable wisdom, and that Thou

art wonderful in counsel and excellent in working. We rejoice in knowing that when, from the heights of Zion, Thy people look back on all the way Thou hast led them they will praise Thee intelligently and joyfully for the roughest footsteps of the journey.

We pray for men of all ranks and conditions. Soon may all men of strife cease their tumults and peace bless all nations. While evil still abounds may all Thy servants be animated by the faith that in danger knows no fear and in darkness knows no doubt. Keep all from seeking slothful ease and from forgetting that no man should live unto himself or die unto himself. May all that love Thy name be drawn to the side of all goodness and be ready to every good work abounding therein with thanksgiving.

Thou knowest the variety amongst those for whom we should pray—some in youth and some in old age, some in joy and others in sorrow, some in the flush of hope and some in the chill of disappointment. We pray Thou would suit the communications of Thy grace to their diversified wants, dangers, and temptations, that the fruit of all may be unto praise, and honour, and glory in the great day of account. May they all be able to say daily that they find Thy grace sufficient for them. Let Thy people everywhere joyfully bear each other's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. May they exemplify in life, as they have opportunity, the blessed commandment that requires them to be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ has forgiven them. Walking in wisdom to them that are without, may their influence be a blessing to all who come within its range. Hear us in heaven, Thy dwelling place, and accept and forgive because we ask all in our glorious Saviour's name. AMEN.



No. 168.

WE thank Thee, Father of mercies, for all the favours that have crowned another day. Thou art the Preserver of all men, and specially of them that believe. We bless Thee for the life that now is, with all the proofs it brings of Thy unchanging love. We praise Thee for the glorious immortality that our blessed Saviour has brought to light. While the close of each day reminds us that time on earth will soon be at an end, may we be prepared for meeting that end in the peace of believing, rejoicing to know that it will be far better to depart, because we shall then be with Jesus. But while continued on earth may our daily experience be that the blessed purposes for which life is continued are being accomplished. Help us to live useful lives, to be both getting and doing good. We know that we have not yet attained. We are yet far from being perfected, but we thank Thee for the calling with which we are called as the children of God, and entreat the aid of Thy Spirit in our endeavours to walk worthy of that calling.

May all who have named the name of Christ be careful to depart from all iniquity, to have a conversation becoming the gospel, and give no occasion for any adversary to speak evil of the good ways of God. May Thy people and churches ever keep in mind that they are the salt of the earth, the light of the world, and so think, and feel, and pray, and act as that they shall be blessings in all places round about their dwellings. In all their efforts to bless the world may they be kept from trusting to their own wisdom or leaning upon their own strength, but, while conscious of their own weakness and their readiness to be led astray, may they habitually ask of Him who giveth to all men liberally and upbraideth not. It is

Thine to strengthen the weak hands and to confirm the feeble knees. May the downcast be raised, the wandering restored, the stout-hearted humbled, and the slothful stimulated, that all may run in the way of Thy commandments with growing enlargement of heart. We thank Thee for all the glorious things that are spoken of Zion, and for the proofs we have, in our own day, that although all flesh is as grass, and all the godliness of man is as the flower of the field, Thy word liveth and abideth for ever.

We bless Thee for the extent to which the name of Jesus is, even now, a power in the earth, a name that is above every name. In vain have the kings of the earth set themselves, and princes taken counsel together, against the Lord and against His anointed. We rejoice to know that the name of Jesus shall continue thus for ever, and that all nations shall yet call Him blessed. Be gracious to all our dear absent friends. May they realise nearness to Thee and continually enjoy the light of Thy countenance. Whatever may be their history as regards time and the body, may they be all rich in faith and heirs of the inheritance that is incorruptible, undefiled, and that passeth not away.

We adore Thee when we think of the multitude that no man could number who are already at home with the Saviour, free from sin, and for ever beyond the reach of sorrow and pain and death. We delight to know that there are many on earth who are journeying Zionward. May they be strengthened to hold on their way rejoicing, and exerting such an influence on all around as will be as a voice saying unto them, Come with us and we will do you good. We deserve no good; we ask and expect only in Jesus' ever blessed name. AMEN.

## No. 169.

**G**RACIOUS God and Father, we desire to come into Thy presence with reverence and humility, for Thou art great and full of majesty. Help us to worship Thee in spirit and in truth. During the week which has gone past Thou hast kept us in health and soundness of mind, and with Thy loving kindness we have been encompassed. Make us very thankful to Thee for all Thy benefits.

We thank Thee that our weeks are measured by our Sabbaths. Once more Thou hast permitted us to see another day of the Son of Man. We beseech Thee to cause this first day of the week to be holy, peaceful and very blissful to our souls—a day prophetic of the rest which remains for Thy people. We rejoice in the sacred associations of this day, its blessed memories, and its cheering hopes. We thank Thee for our Saviour's sufferings until death, as the sacrifice for our sins; and for His resurrection from the dead, whereby He has taken the sting of sin from death, and the victory from the grave. Help us to look forward to the time when He shall appear to raise us from the dead, and, in soul and body, shall glorify us together with himself. Give us enlarged and steadfast faith in Thy risen and exalted Son, and cause our hearts to glow with fervent love to Him that was delivered for our offences and rose again for our justification.

We unite in giving Thee thanks for our privileges in this land, for our Christian homes and sanctuaries, for Thy Word read and preached, for all the churches of Christ, and their influence on the customs and the laws of our country. Do Thou teach us all to understand the great things Thou hast done for us as a nation, and to remember that Thy benefits, so freely bestowed on us, are the

measure of our obligations to Thee and Thy Son, Jesus Christ.

Prepare our hearts for Thy service in the house of prayer. Go Thou with us and bless us and all who come into Thy holy presence. May the heavy burdens of earthly cares and sorrows be lifted from weary hearts, so that they may be glad in Thee and the joy of Thy salvation. May all who are in darkness and doubt, whose way seems shut, find joy in Thy light piercing their gloom, and revealing Thee as their unfailing Guide. Let those who are tempted by the flesh, the world, or Satan, be strengthened to overcome, and stand fast in the liberty of Christ. Comfort all who are cast down, and sad in soul, and show Thyself to them as the God of hope and consolation. May all who are of a backsliding heart be restored to their first faith and love. Supply the need of all according to Thy riches in Christ Jesus.

Bless, we beseech Thee, all Thy ministering servants to-day. Give them wisdom and spiritual power, fidelity to Christ, and love to men, that they may commend Thy truth to every man's conscience in Thy sight. May the word of the Lord have free course and be glorified. May Thy people be confirmed and established in faith, and let sinners in great numbers be converted from the error of their way, and turned unto the Lord, their Saviour.

Remember all who are sick or passing through afflictions and bereavements. Be present in their homes, and manifest Thy tender love towards them. May they amid manifold temptations, rejoice and be glad in Thee, knowing that all things are for their sakes to Thy praise and glory.

Hear us, we beseech Thee, and answer us beyond what we ask or think, forgive our sins, and fill us with Thy holy spirit, for Christ's sake. AMEN.



## No. 170.

**O** LORD our God, we rejoice that Thou art our Father, and hast ever loved us and watched over us. As Thy children, we thank Thee that we are endowed with power to know, love, and serve Thee, and so find in Thee our highest joy. But, with humility, we confess that we have sinned and grievously transgressed Thy holy law, and have made ourselves liable to Thy righteous condemnation. If Thou wert strict to mark iniquity against us, and render unto us according to our deservings, we should be banished from Thy favourable presence; but we rejoice that Thou hast not left us to perish in our sins. Sinful as we are in Thy sight, Thou hast loved us, and hast sent Thy Son, Jesus Christ, to live, suffer, and die for us, to redeem us from death, and enrich us with the blessings of eternal life. As redeemed by the blood of Christ, we come to Thee now, and beseech Thee to accept of us and our offerings.

At the close of this Christian Sabbath-day, we beseech Thee to bless us. For its quiet hours at home and in the house of God we are thankful. We praise Thee that Thou hast inclined our hearts toward Thy house of prayer to-day, and hast drawn us to Thyself with the cords of love. Our songs of praise, prayers, and meditations, and uprisings of heart, be pleased to accept as our worshipful homage to Thy most holy name. Whatever to Thy pure eye was sinful or unworthy in these our sacred services, do Thou mercifully forgive; and whatever was pure and true, graciously accept, and grant that the whole service of this day may issue in the good of Thy people, and in glory to Thyself.

We commend unto Thee the manifold labours of Thy ministering servants and churches. May every true

thought, conviction, faith, and confidence awakened, be confirmed and established. May all pure loves, motives, and aims stirred up in the souls of men be permanent and powerful. We beseech Thee, cause the inspirations of Thy Spirit, which have been moving in the souls of men to-day, to awaken within them higher purposes, lifting them above self and time, so that they may live for Thee and the great eternity.

Grant, we pray Thee, that Thy Spirit may so bring Thy truth, as presented to-day, to remembrance, and so enlighten the understandings and impress the hearts and consciences of men, that the careless may be awakened and that the anxious may be brought to peace through faith in Christ. In Thy gentleness, be merciful to the impenitent who are resisting Thy Spirit and rejecting the love of Thy Son. Cause their sinful course to be very hard, so that, wearied of rebellion, they may turn unto Thee. Have pity upon those who are of a backsliding heart, and lead them out of their temptations. Be gracious to all who are in sorrow and affliction, from whatever cause, this night. Amid the storms and tumults of their weary souls, appear to them, and let them hear Thee saying, "It is I, be not afraid."

We commend all in this household to Thee for the night. Give us refreshing sleep. Raise us in the morning, and send us forth on our duties for the week with faithful hearts, to do or to suffer Thy holy will in all things. In the things seen and temporal, give us principles and motives of life from the unseen and eternal, so that we may glorify Thy name in our bodies and spirits, which are Thine. Hear and answer us, for the sake of Jesus Christ. AMEN.

## No. 171.

IN Thee, O God, we have put our trust, and Thou wilt not suffer us to be put to shame. All Thy ways toward us are faithfulness and truth. Ere our eyes were closed in sleep, we entrusted ourselves and all dear to us to Thy mighty hand. As children under the watchfulness of a mother's love, we slept safely beneath the shadow of Thy presence. We, therefore, thank Thee for refreshment to soul and body.

By Thy merey and most loving care, we are once more raised up and stand face to face with the duties and possibilities of another day. We humbly beseech Thee to give us grace faithfully to serve Thee in all things. We desire to lay ourselves as living sacrifices upon the altar of Thy service, and humbly pray that our souls and bodies may be offerings acceptable unto Thee. We beseech Thee so to assist us this day, that we may remember that we are not our own, but are Thine, and that our duty and privilege are to serve Thee lovingly with all we are and with all we have. Help us thus to live to Thy praise and glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

We pray this morning for all the members of this family. Thou hast bound us together by bonds of love, and hast made us dear to each other. In these our home loves and sympathies, Thou dost manifest Thyself to us. Teach us all to know Thee as our loving Father, and enkindle within us filial love to Thee in return. Grant, we beseech Thee, that the parents may, like Thee, be patient, gentle, and loving. May all the children trust in Thee with all their hearts, and obey Thy holy will in all things. Shield this home from all evil. Preserve us from all dangers. Give us peace in all troubles, courage in the presence of all difficulties, victory over all tempta-

tions, and patience in all things hard or painful to our souls. In all that is dutiful make us to be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might—yea, more than conquerors—through Jesus Christ, who once trod this world, and knew all our trials and weaknesses.

Our manifold transgressions we confess, and beseech Thee to forgive us. We bless Thee that Thou art merciful and ready to forgive, for Thou hast commended Thy love toward us in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. For His sake, pardon us, we beseech Thee. May that redeeming love which comes to us through the sacrifice of Thy dear Son, constrain us to live to Him, and not unto ourselves.

Remember all who are dear to us by social ties, and let all needful blessing rest upon them. The sick and all in trouble do Thou comfort and sustain in the dark and stormy day.

Bless the Church of Christ in all lands, and cause Thy word to spread quickly, winning many to the faith of Christ. Remember those who preach the gospel, help them in all their duties, and fill them with Thy spirit. Render their labours, public and private, a ministry of God to the souls of men. May the preaching of Thy Word, on the past Sabbath, be made exceedingly fruitful in faith and love to all Thy people, and so fit and furnish them for every good word and work that they may show forth Thy praise. So bring Thy Word to the remembrance of the ungodly that they may forsake the error of their ways, and return unto Thee that Thou mayest have mercy upon them, and abundantly pardon.

Hear us in these our prayers, and accept of us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.



## No. 172.

OUR Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. We thank Thee that we have come to the close of another day. For all Thy loving kindnesses and tender mercies, we desire to be very grateful. In Thy merciful providence we have had health, and strength, and soundness of mind, amid our home comforts. We have been enabled to work to-day for ourselves and others in mutual helpfulness, according to Thy wise arrangements, and have in all things been made to experience Thy great kindness. For every difficulty we have overcome, every temptation we have resisted, every lesson we have learned, and the integrity of heart we may have maintained, we earnestly thank Thee.

Teach us, we beseech Thee, to regard our lives as a discipline in which Thou art training us each day for the day that is coming, and for higher duties and attainments. Help us, therefore, to be faithful in that which is present, so that we may become fully fitted and furnished for every future duty and privilege Thou mayest have in reserve for us. May we ever be taught by Thee that the meaning and purpose of life to-day are found in the life of to-morrow, whether for time or eternity.

Thou knowest our weakness, O Lord. Wearied with the tumult of many thoughts and deeds this day, grant that we may rest in sleep this night, and be as little children peaceful and safe in Thine unslumbering care. Refreshed and strengthened, be pleased to restore us to life's wakeful energies in the morning, that we may faithfully serve Thee and our fellow-men on the coming day.

Help us to remember before Thee our great unworthiness and sins. We have had a busy day, and even though we may have sought to serve Thee, yet we must confess

our many short-comings and sins, and our felt need of pardon. We beseech Thee, therefore, for the sake of Thy dear Son, to forgive all our sins, according to Thy promise in the gospel. We also beseech Thee to enlighten us by Thy Word and Spirit, and so to lead us into Thy truth that all errors, vain thoughts, unruly passions, and unlawful desires may be taken away from us, so that we may walk in the light as Thou art, and have fellowship with Thee and Thy dear Son.

In our several places, duties, and relationships, we pray for all the members of this family. Grant that we all may trust, fear, love, and gladly serve Thee all our days, and be in soul and body, now and for ever, enriched by Thy blessing. Deliver those of us who are young from the snares and temptations of early life. We thank Thee for home here on earth, with all its love and affection, and endearing ties. May we all be united in holier bond, as children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. We beseech Thee to keep us from all evil, and, as a family, bring us all safely, through Jesus Christ, to the great home above.

We commend unto Thee all our relations and friends. Let Thy blessing rest upon them according as Thou knowest their manifold need may be. We also beseech Thee to bless all united to us in the faith and fellowship of the gospel. May the Church of Christ be filled with Thy Spirit, and let the ministry of Thy Word be with great power manifested in the conversion of souls and the edification of all who believe.

Hear us, our God and Father, and grant to us and to all for whom we pray according to Thy wisdom and love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

## No. 173.

OUR God and Father, we come to Thee, humbly desiring to render the glory due to Thy most holy name. We thank Thee for having kept our souls in life during the past night. Thou hast sustained us while we slept, and we have awaked this morning because of Thy merey. We gratefully acknowledge that, whether asleep or awake, we are Thine, and that Thou watehest over us in love. Gathering around this family altar, we present our united offerings of prayer and praise before Thee, beseeching Thee to accept of us and our sacrifice.

We praise Thee that Thou dost permit us to approach Thee as worshippers, and take our place along with the holy ones in heaven. We rejoice that Thou hast opened up for us the new and living way into Thy holy presence by the precious blood and intercession of our great High Priest, Jesus Christ. Through Him we draw near now, presenting ourselves and our worship, and do Thou be pleased to accept of this our homage.

Strengthen us, we humbly pray, for all the duties, trials, and temptations of this day. Teach us, by Thy Spirit, to remember that we are Thy children, and help us to live as becomes our filial relationship to Thee. Cause us also to keep in mind that we are servants to Thee, so that we find in the lowliest duties of life a true service for God and Jesus Christ. We pray that Thou wouldest give us such a sense of Thy presenee, love, and authority as shall keep us from displeasing Thee in word or deed. May Thy righteous will and tender love have such dominion over us in all our thoughts, loves, and aims, as shall make our conduct to-day a true service to Thee. We thank Thee, that whatever our duty is, however lowly in the eyes of men, in Thy sight it is accepted as

a service rendered to Thee, when done in obedience to Thy will. Teach us, therefore, whatever we do, whether we eat or drink, to do all this day to Thy glory, and as the shadows of evening fall upon our weary souls, grant that we may have the joy of hearing Thy voice saying within the silence of our souls—"Well done, good and faithful servants."

Bless all Thy people this day in their several callings. In all their struggles, perplexities, and discouragements, grant to them wisdom and strength to know and to do what is right, to the praise of Thy name. Let integrity preserve them in all slippery paths, so that they shall neither stumble nor fall.

Bless the church and congregation with which we are connected. May the Word and work of the Lord prosper in our hearts and in our hands. May the young in the several families and Sabbath schools grow up in the knowledge and faith of our Lord Jesus Christ. May they be preserved from the deceits of the devil, the world, and the flesh, and be kept safely in the fold of the Great Shepherd. May he who ministers to us be filled with Thy Spirit, and be fitted for all his work. Give him insight into Thy word, and spiritual power as a preacher of divine truth.

Hear us, we beseech Thee, in these prayers. Forgive our sins, for the sake of Thy dear Son. What we have not asked, or know not how to ask, do Thou bestow according to the riches of Thy grace, and we shall praise Thy name now and for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. AMEN.



## No. 174.

**M**OST merciful God and Father in Christ Jesus, we humbly beseech Thee to hear us as we bow at Thy footstool to-night. Grant unto us a deep, true sense of Thy nearness to us, as we present our prayers and thanksgivings before Thee. We thank Thee for having brought us through this day, with its various duties. While we have sought to do Thy holy will, yet we confess that in all things we have been unprofitable servants, and have not done all things as we ought to have done. Have mercy upon us, O Lord, and for Thy name's sake forgive our sins. Whatsoever has in Thy sight been selfish, unkind, or unjust to those around us; whatsoever has been unloving or unfaithful toward Thee, our Great Lord; whatsoever in us has been according to the flesh, and not after the Spirit, do Thou forgive through the merits and sacrifice of Thy dear Son, and we shall with joyful hearts praise Thy holy name.

Blessed as we have been all through this day, yet we are still dependent on Thy bountiful love and grace. Thou knowest we have no store of blessing laid up from which to supply our ever-pressing need. We gladly remember our dependence as creatures upon Thee, our great Creator and daily Preserver. Thou art infinitely sufficient for us and all our wants. Teach us to remember that without Thee we can do nothing good, true, and holy. We therefore come to Thee, yea, must come, or perish. Thou hast laid on us a necessity to come to Thee, with empty heart and feeble hand, that we may be filled out of Thy fulness, be made strong in Thy strength, and be rendered pure and glad in Thy love.

Bless us, O God, this night. Watch over us with Thine unceasing care as we rest insensible and unthink-

ing in the sleep Thou givest. Let no evil come to this home of ours. May all that is healthful surround us. May all that is peaceful, pure, and heavenly abide upon this house, and upon each one, young or old, as Thou know each may severally require. Remember all our dear friends, and grant them as they need every blessing for body and for soul, for this life and for the life to come.

Those united with us in the faith of Christ and in the fellowship of the church, do Thou enrich with all spiritual blessings in Christ Jesus, and lead them, by Thy good Spirit, so to live by faith in the Son of God that they may glorify Thy name through their godly conversation. Bring many, who are now wanderers in the paths of sin and death, from their evil ways, unto the knowledge of Thy love and mercy in Jesus Christ.

Remember, we beseech, all Christian ministers and pastors of churches. Give them wisdom, love, and spiritual power in their work. Grant them grace to win souls, and establish all who believe in their most holy faith.

Send peace and comfort this night to all who mourn and have heavy hearts through calamities, bereavements, and diseases. In all such homes, and to all such hearts, make Thyself manifest as the God of peace, comfort, consolation, and hope.

Hear us now, we humbly pray. When Thou hearest, forgive. Till we have done with passing days and nights, and this transitory life, keep us from all evil, and finally grant that we may enter into the light and the life of the eternal day of Thy holy presence, and Thine shall be all the glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

## No. 175.

**M**OST holy and ever-blessed God, we bow down and worship Thee, who art from everlasting to everlasting. Thou hast created us in Thine own image, that we may know, love, honour, and serve Thee for ever. It is in Thee we live and move and have our being, and all our good flows from Thee, the Fountain of life. We adore and praise Thee that Thou hast had mercy upon us sinners in sending Thy Son to redeem us from the penalties of our sins, and to enrich us with the blessings of eternal life. Help us, therefore, to honour Thee not only as our Creator, but also as our Redeemer through Jesus Christ.

We draw near to Thee this morning with grateful remembrance of Thy goodness toward us as a family during the past night. For its rest in sleep and for this morning's renewed energy of body and soul we present our thank-offerings. Many around us have passed through a night of weeping and are now in heaviness through severe trials, but Thou hast mercifully spared us from suffering such sorrow. Having received greater blessing lead us, we pray Thee, to feel our greater obligations, and to be duly thankful to Thee for Thy great goodness.

Assist us, we beseech Thee, to go forth this day in Thy strength and faithfully to do all our duty. Give us wisdom in all things and so put Thy fear into our hearts that the duties of this day, however many, may be a service acceptable to Thee and truly useful to our fellowmen.

O Lord our God, Thou knowest our difficulties and temptations. We are ignorant respecting so many things, doubtful and weak in many directions, and prone to live according to the pleasures of this world, and to look at things which are seen and temporal rather than at the

things unseen and eternal, therefore we entreat Thee to grant us Thy holy Spirit, that He may strengthen us in soul and lead us to discover Thy will and to act always as in Thy sight. May our motives be pure and our aims be single. Graciously do Thou deliver us from whatever is false in word, dishonest in work, selfish in spirit, or ungodly in heart, and so grant that whatsoever we do may be to Thy praise and glory.

According to Thy fatherly love bless this family. Fill the hearts of the parents with affection, gentleness, patience, and righteousness, that they may train their children in the knowledge and fear of God. May all the children grow up as plants in the garden of the Lord, and become very fruitful and beautiful in all that is good. Shield them from all evil, and teach them by Thy Word and Spirit to trust, love, and serve Thee with all their hearts. Dwell Thou in the midst of us and make us all to feel glad that Thou art indeed our own most loving Father.

All our dear friends we commend to Thee, and beseech Thee to teach them to turn to Thee with their whole heart, and to know Thy love to them in Jesus Christ. May all souls bowed down with unuttered sorrow be lifted up to Thee, the Helper and the Strength of the needy, so that in Thee they may find their comfort and consolation. Bless all the churches and ministers of our Lord Jesus Christ. Under Thy blessing may the gospel spread quickly, till all the ends of the earth shall see Thy salvation.

Hear us in these our prayers, and according to our wants bless us and keep us this day, and Thine shall be all the praise now and forever, through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. AMEN.



## No. 176.

**O** LORD our God and Father in Christ Jesus, Thou hast graciously brought us to the close of another day and hast not forgotten us. We thank Thee that Thou hast kept us in such health and soundness of mind and hast given us so many comforts in our places of work as well as in our home. We acknowledge all these benefits as Thy gifts, the daily tokens of Thy thoughts and love to us-ward. All these most free and undeserved favours in life are from Thee, and therefore unto Thee we give hearty thanks.

We earnestly beseech Thee to have mercy upon us, and pardon all things sinful in thought or desire, in aim or deed, during the hurry and tumult of this day's life. We rejoice that Thou art merciful and gracious and ready to forgive, and that Thou hast manifested that wonderful love of Thine to sinful men in Christ Jesus. O most holy God, how could we lay ourselves upon our beds to sleep with unforgiven sin in our hearts, and the burden of condemnation on our conscience, and Thy wrath and sore displeasure against us? Necessity has no law, and, therefore, we come to Thee confessing our sins and imploring Thy merciful forgiveness through the precious blood of Christ once shed for the remission of sins. We thank Thee for the assurance that His blood cleanses us from all sin whenever we come believing on His name. In this humble confidence in Thy faithfulness to pardon, our souls peacefully rest this night.

May this love of Thine abide in our souls, not only as speaking peace and pardon, but also as the master motive of a holy heart and a holy life. Under its gentle yet mighty power may we be filled with love to Thee, and ever be constrained to deny ourselves to all ungodliness

and worldly lusts, and to live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world. May Christ dwell in our hearts by faith, and so cause us to know the love of Christ, that we may be filled with all the fulness of God, and thus be constrained to live not unto ourselves, but unto Him that died for us. Grant unto us, we pray, such love to all that is good, and such hatred to all that is evil, that we may have fellowship with Thee and with Thy Son, and that thus we may become meet, for the higher duties and privileges of life on earth, and finally for the life eternal in heaven.

Be very gracious to all in this household during this night. Watch over us with Thine unsleeping eye and uphold us with Thine unwearied hand. Let no evil, danger, or alarm assail us. We rest under the shadow of Thy sheltering wing, and feel safe amid the darkness of the night and the helplessness of sleep.

We bear upon our hearts all those who are stricken with sorrows and anxieties from whatever cause. Grant that the love and sympathy of the Son of Man, the Man of Sorrows, may come to them with soothing sweetness, causing them to lay their weary souls upon His gentle breast, so that, if need be, they may weep forth their sorrows there till the eternal rest shall come in the pleasures for evermore.

Into Thy loving hand, as our faithful God, we commit ourselves and all dear to us by ties of kindred and by ties of faith, in the assurance that whether asleep or awake Thou art ever with us, our Strength and our Redeemer. Hear us, we beseech Thee, through the merits and intercessions of Thy Son, our Saviour. AMEN.

## No. 177.

**A**LMIGHTY God and ever-merciful Father, we humbly look up to Thee as the bountiful giver of every good, the inexhaustible fountain of all blessing. Nothing that concerns our temporal comfort, prosperity, or happiness, or that bears upon our eternal destiny, is unnoticed by Thine observant eye, or uninteresting to Thy great and infinitely generous heart. In all the affairs of time Thou art ever working, and art seeking to overrule our various experiences to a high and glorious end. We come, therefore, to Thee to implore Thy blessing to rest upon us this day on which we have been graciously permitted to enter, and that Thou wouldest help us to feel our responsibilities in regard to all the duty Thou hast laid upon us to perform. As every day comes to us, may we be more fully taught by Thy spirit speaking to us in Thy word, or through our reason and conscience, and the varied dealings of Thy providence, the solemn meanings that lie hidden in this our earthly life. May our life here become to each of us, as every morning dawns upon us and as every evening closes around us, more real and impressive in its teachings. By what Thy servants, the holy apostles and prophets of old, have written in Thy book, and by the language of our blessed Saviour himself, handed down to us in the gospels, Thou hast clearly taught us the folly of a life of thoughtlessness, of indifference, and sin. Help us, O God, to give earnest heed to the things that have been written for warning and for instruction, that we may not grieve Thee by walking in ways of vanity, or bring our souls into peril by rejecting the grace which is ever sufficient to keep in safety and peace those who put their trust in Thee. Subdue every vain emotion that may spring up within our

hearts, curb every passion that may agitate our souls, and let all evil thoughts and imaginations be banished far from our minds, that our inward experiences and outward life may be well pleasing to Thee.

Bless, O God, all those with whom we may come into contact this day. May their influence upon us, and may ours upon them, be for good. Send upon our hearts the influences of Thy holy Spirit, that we may walk worthy of our high calling in Christ Jcsus, letting our light so shine that others seeing our good works, may glorify Thee, our Father in heaven.

O Thou who dost sympathise with Thy people, whatever their state or circumstances may be, do Thou lend Thy gracious aid to those this day who may have to encounter temptations, disappointments, or sorrows. May their cry rise to Thine ear; and as Thou dost hear, so do Thou strengthen them with all might by Thy spirit in the inner man, and comfort them with the comfort wherewith they need to be comforted of Thee. And let the light of Thy forgiving love in Christ shine this day into the hearts of those who are in spiritual darkness, and who are longing and searching for the smile of their God and Saviour. Thou knowest how far they may have gone away from Thee; into what crooked ways of rebellion and wild deserts of sin they may have foolishly wandered. May they be led to Thyself through him who is the way, the truth, the life—without whom no heart can be reconciled to Thee, and no enduring peace can be enjoyed.

Grant that we, whose prayers now rise to Thee, may ever be found cleaving to Christ as our Saviour, and living a life of holy obedience in Him. And all we ask is for His name's sake. AMEN.



## No. 178.

**D**IVINE Father, we come to Thee on the evening of another day, acknowledging Thee to be our God, our King, our Creator, and the gracious Preserver of our lives. Humbly would we look up to Thee, remembering what Thou art and what we are. Thou art the holy, holy, holy One, and we are sinful dust and ashes. It well becometh us to approach Thee with the deepest humility. But whilst we would approach Thee with humility, we would also approach Thee with confidence, remembering that Thou art our Father. We rejoice to think that Thou dost stand in that relationship to us. Thou art our heavenly Father. No father's heart is so warm and tender as Thine; nor is there a father whose arm is so strong and so ready to save. We bless Thee that Thou hast revealed Thyself to us by that endearing name, and for all that Thou hast done for us and for all men. We thank Thee for the way by which we have been led through this earthly pilgrimage, for all the blessings, temporal as well as spiritual, which Thy kind hand has bestowed upon us. We confess our unworthiness of Thy love and Thy paternal care. How often have we been ungrateful, and rebellious, and unmindful of our duty to Thee! Yet Thou hast not cast us off in Thy wrath, nor caused us to perish in Thy fierce anger. Thou hast in Thine own great mercy found a ransom for us. We have been bought with a price, even with the blood of Thine only begotten and well-beloved Son. We thank Thee that through His atoning sacrifice spiritual life is renewed **within our hearts**; that we are able, in true filial confidence and love, to look up to Thee and cry, "Abba, Father;" and, day by day, cherish the bright and blessed hope of being with Thee in Thy heavenly home.

Almighty God, who dost hear the prayers of Thy people on behalf of all men, do Thou be graciously pleased to send the rich influences of Thy favour upon those this night who specially need Thy help. We pray that Thou wouldst bless the homeless and destitute, the sorrowful and dying. Grant Thy divine succour to those who are in distress. May they find indeed that Thou art a present help in the time of trouble; that Thy sympathy is infinitely more than a mere passing emotion; that it carries with it the forth-putting of Thy divine energy in strength by which the soul is sustained, and the way made plain that seemed hard and impassable.

We beseech Thee also, O God, to let the light of Thy love rest upon our dwelling. Sanctify us by the dispensations of Thy providence taking place in our daily experience. May we not mourn as those who are in despair when we taste the bitterness of sorrow, nor murmur when we drink the waters of affliction. When Thou dost chasten us, may we ever be able to feel and to acknowledge that it is for our good. And if Thy hand should be laid so heavily upon us that our souls come into anguish or fear, and we know not which way to look, nor how to discover the meaning of chastisements of a nature so grievous to be borne, may we have grace to wait with patience till Thou art pleased to reveal the righteousness, and wisdom, and mercy of all that Thou hast done.

Gracious Father, let Thy protecting arms be round about us this night. In the hours of slumber do Thou draw near and guard us from all harm. May Thy good angel hover over us. Prepare us for the duties of the coming day, and hear these our prayers, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. AMEN.

## No. 179.

WE adore Thee, O God, this morning, as we anew look upon the light of the sun, and resume the labours which ceased at the approach of the time of nightly rest. Thine are the light and the darkness; the seasons revolve at Thy command, and the years come and pass away according to the order which Thine infinite wisdom hath established. We thank Thee for the brightness of this earth, and for the glories of the nightly sky. Thou hast created all things, and for Thy pleasure they are and were created. All nature speaks to us of Thee, and is redolent of Thy praise. Our minds are specially impressed with such considerations at this season of the year, when the earth is robed in garments of summer beauty, and the woods are vocal with the gladsome songs of birds. Help us to hear Thy voice in all these pleasant sounds, and to see in the fair scenes around us something of the glory of Thy presence. May our song of praise be added to the sublime anthem of nature; yea, on the wings of faith and love, may it rise to Thee as part of that still more lofty hymn which Thine intelligent and holy creatures pour forth in Thine ear before the throne of Thy glory. And O Thou who art the Infinite Purity, graciously help us as we look upon the earth, with all its varied beauty of field and forest, mountain and stream, to aspire after that moral purity, that holiness of heart without which we cannot please or honour Thee. Not only by faith may we be clothed with the righteousness of Christ, but may our characters be adorned with those virtues which our Saviour expects to find in all who are called by His name. Help us ever to keep before us a high standard of moral excellence. May He who was the one perfect Man be seen in the holiness, dignity and grandeur of His

character; and may His hand beckon us on to a higher spiritual life. Imitating Him in all His imitable perfections, may we be found rising every day nearer to the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.

This day, O Lord, as we commit ourselves to Thy good guidance, and to the gracious keeping of Thy Holy Spirit, may we be preserved from all evil, and drink abundantly of the life-giving streams of Thy free and boundless mercy. Grant that we may obtain large increase of faith and love and zeal, that with energy and perseverance we may run the Christian race.

When we go down into the world, help us to be in the world and yet not of it. Diligent in business, may we also be fervent in spirit, serving Thee. Help us to be patient with the infirmities of our fellowmen, and wise in dealing with them. Teach us to be of a meek and quiet spirit, full of that charity that thinketh no evil, and that rejoiceth in the success and happiness of others. Keep our hearts spotless in Thy sight. May we give no quarter to sin in ourselves, and faithfully, as we have opportunity, may we reprove it in those to whom our influence may extend.

We deplore, O God, the iniquity that prevails around us. The drunkenness, the profanity, the impurity that meets us on all sides may well grieve the hearts of Thy true followers. Give us grace to be valiant in the fight against every species of iniquity, and may we see Thy work prospering in our hands and in the hands of all those who faithfully serve Thee. Let the blessings of the gospel of Thy Son everywhere spread and flourish; and to His name shall we ascribe all praise now and ever.  
AMEN.



No. 180.

O THOU who art the Lord of Hosts, before whom angels bow, and in whose presence even the highest orders of created intelligence veil their faces with their wings and adore Thine infinite majesty, we are privileged at this the close of another day to join together in worshipping Thee. We thank Thee that Thou hast revealed Thyself to us as the God of our life, as He in whose hands are all our destinies, and by whom all things that happen to us are over-ruled for our highest good. Condescend in Thy great mercy, through Christ, to look upon us now as we humble our spirits before Thee, and help us to realise Thine infinite goodness and the readiness with which Thou dost listen to the cry of Thy children. We bless Thee that Thou dost look with favour upon the man who is of a humble and contrite heart, that his prayers will not ascend to Thee in vain, but that Thou wilt hear him when he calls upon Thee, and bless Him with the comforting and enlightening influences of Thy grace.

Almighty Father, we confess our sins before Thee, believing that for the sake of Thy Son who died on Calvary Thou wilt forgive us our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness; for hast Thou not said by Thy holy servant that if any man sin we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous, and that He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world? In faith, and yet with deepest penitence, we would draw near to Thee, again to obtain Thy favour and to have our souls filled with the joys of Thy pitying, pardoning love. Thou seest us as we are. What is wrong in us do Thou rectify; what is dark do Thou illumine; what is sinful do Thou

take away. Cleanse our hearts from all evil, and make us wholly Thine.

It is of Thy mercy, O God, that we are preserved in the land of the living, the living to praise Thee; that while many are being suddenly, or after prolonged affliction, called upon to cross that bourne whence no traveller returns, Thou art still adding to the length of our days. Help us to appreciate the importance of so great a privilege, and, at the same time, to remember that while our years are increased, the period is still rapidly shortening betwixt us and the solemn transactions of that great day, when we shall render unto Thee an account of the deeds we have done in the body. Help us, therefore, to ponder over the ways of our life, and to seek after truth and righteousness with an earnest and unselfish purpose. Teach us more implicitly to believe Thy word, and especially to rest upon the glad tidings of salvation by Christ, as the true and only foundation of those hopes by which we never can be put to shame.

May we have, O Father, an increasing sense of the paramount importance of those things that are unseen and eternal, and may all of us before Thee manifest a growing acquaintance with these things.

Bless, this night, all our kinsfolk, our friends, our neighbours. May true and undefiled religion prosper in their hearts. Take under Thy sheltering wing widows and orphans and fatherless children. Be Thou a husband to the widow and a father to the fatherless; and may they all truly know the comfort of leaning upon Thee. We pray that all men may be blessed of Thee, and that Thy kingdom may come and Thy will be done on earth as it is done in heaven. Let the name of Christ be glorified, and all the earth see His salvation. AMEN.

## No. 181.

**O** LORD, we thank Thee that Thou hast been pleased to open our eyes to the light of a new morning. Thy good hand has been upon us through the silent watches of the past night, and we desire, refreshed as we are in body and spirit, to offer up to Thee our humble tribute of thanksgiving and praise. We bless Thee for all the mercies with which we begin the day. Thou openest Thine hand and bestowest Thy blessings upon every living thing. We are sharers in the general bounty, and have innumerable precious blessings for which we owe to Thee the deepest gratitude of our hearts.

For family, friends, and acquaintances, for the comforts of home, for daily food and raiment, for the joys of social intercourse with Thy people, and for all opportunities of useful labour, it is our privilege to praise Thee. We thank Thee also for the gifts of Thy salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord, and for all the aids Thou hast placed within our reach, that we may grow in that divine life which is by faith in Thy Son who hath loved us and given Himself for us. Grant, we earnestly beseech Thee, that when this day has come to a close, we may be able to look back over its hours, and feel that through Thy strengthening grace we have in some measure discharged its varied duties, and fervently hope that through the sanctifying influences of the holy Spirit Thou canst more fully discern in our hearts the image of Thy Son.

Thou knowest, O God, the many and oftentimes subtle temptations with which Thy people are assailed in their daily endeavour to live holy and consistent lives; how frequently strong temptations, whose presence has been unsuspected, may suddenly surprise them and lead them from the path of rectitude, or may come with slow and

stealthy steps and leave them with their hearts pierced through with sorrow. May we have grace this day to resist all temptation. May the enemy of our souls not gain any victory over us, either by the violence of his attacks or by those cunning wiles which often prove so fatal to spiritual happiness and peace. Let Thy holy Spirit direct our minds so that our thoughts shall be pure and just, and graciously restrain our feet that we may not walk in devious ways.

All hearts are known unto Thee, O God, for Thou searchest the hearts and triest the reins of the children of men. No thought or desire or purpose can be concealed from Thine infinite intelligence, even those secrets that seem hidden in the depths of our being are all as open to Thee as the pages of a book before our eyes. Thou art acquainted, therefore, with the state of each heart now in Thy holy presence, and with the peculiar temptations before which we are severally prone to fall. Bestow upon us, good Lord, the blessing that shall be suitable for each of our circumstances, that in nothing this day we may offend Thy law or vex Thy gracious and holy Spirit. Grant us all needed wisdom that our lives in all things may be ordered aright; all needed light that our path may appear clear before us; all needed zeal combined with humility that we may, with an earnestness that cannot be quenched by trial or chilled by adversity, walk in Thy blessed way, and let us ever in what we do cherish a sincere and lofty purpose that shall give a holy unity to all our actions, and thus make our outward life but the blossom and fruit of inward righteousness.

Again, O God and Father, we go forth into the world looking to Thee and leaning upon Thy strength. Do Thou preserve us, for Thy Son's sake. AMEN.



## No. 182.

O THOU who art the Hearer of Prayer, we desire, now that the shades of evening have deepened around us, to draw near to Thee. To whom can we go but unto Thee? Thou only hast the words of eternal life. Thou art the Father of Lights, with whom there is no variable-ness, neither shadow of turning—the same yesterday and to-day and forever. We praise Thee that Thou hast revealed to us Thine unchanging nature and character, and would earnestly lift up our supplication to Thee, that it may be our blessed and constant privilege to rest in Thine unchanging love and to bask in the sunshine of Thine unchanging smile. We adore Thee as the God of our life, as the great and ineffably glorious One, by whom we have been created and in whom we live and move and have our being.

Help us, we beseech Thee, more than ever to recognise our dependence upon Thee and to acknowledge Thy goodness to us in all things. Thy providence has been around us this day as well as throughout all the past days and years of our life. We would, therefore, call upon our souls and all that is within us to be stirred up to bless and magnify Thy holy name.

What shall we render unto Thee, O God, for Thy wondrous mercy toward us? Alas, how poor must be the return even of our best offerings when compared with the greatness of Thy loving kindness to us, Thy sinful creatures. Yet would we cast ourselves at Thy feet and surrender to Thee the homage of our hearts; we would seek to glorify Thee with all the warmth of devotion and self-sacrificing fidelity becoming in those who are infinite debtors to Thy grace, in the assurance that through Thy Son, our Saviour, Thou wilt accept our humble service.

We have to deplore how little we have done this day to honour Thee and how much of imperfection Thou dost continually see in us. Mercifully pardon our transgressions, we humbly entreat Thee, and bestow upon us Thy heavenly grace, that hereafter we may love and serve Thee more. Also let Thy blessing rest upon whatever efforts we may have put forth this day to benefit our fellowmen in body, soul, or estate, and from day to day cause Thy favour to rest upon the labour of our hands in whatever departments of life that labour may be carried on. Help us to feel that there is a sacredness in daily toil that lends dignity even to the humblest occupation, and that Thou wilt bless those who cheerfully labour, and truly wait on Thy providence to make their work fruitful of what is good. Save us from mere formality in religion. May our worship be sincere, and may we ever be characterised by a whole-hearted devotion to Him who hath loved us and redeemed us with His precious blood. Grant that in all our thoughts, words, and deeds we may be animated with a pure and ardent desire to glorify the name of Christ, and, according to the grace bestowed upon us, may we be successful in fulfilling the ends of our being in the direction of all that is high and holy.

Most gracious Father, we ask of Thee to bestow upon all the members of our household an abiding portion of the riches of Thy loving kindness, as also upon all others who are connected with us by the ties of nature or friendship or grace. Thou knowest our needs and canst fully supply them all. May our hearts be disposed more earnestly to seek Thee, and as we draw near to Thee may we feel that it is indeed not in vain. Keep us, O God, through this night and ever preserve our souls in Thy peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.



# APPENDIX

CONTAINING

## PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

AND

## FORMS OF INVOCATION

FOR

## THE DIVINE BLESSING AT TABLE.





## FOR THE SICK.

No. 183.

GRACIOUS and Merciful Father, we come to Thee now on behalf of our sick one before Thee. Thou art the helper of the helpless, and the refuge of those in trouble. We need not tell Thee about his ailment, or his pain and distress, for Thou knowest these. Thou art the maker of our frame, and knowest all about its infirmities and its liabilities to disease and suffering; and it is our comfort to know that like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him. We humbly beseech Thee that Thou wouldest deal very tenderly at the present time with our dear one before Thee. Be pleased to arrest his disease and remove his trouble. Heal him if it be possible and seem good unto Thee. Guide and direct us in the use of means that Thou wilt be able to bless to this end, and keep us from doing anything in our ignorance that would increase his suffering or mar his recovery. While suffering in body, may he realise Thy presence and enjoy Thy sympathy. May Thy peace keep his heart and mind, and may he be able calmly to leave the issues with Thyself, resting in Thy infinite wisdom and goodness. If it be Thy will to raise him up again, as we trust and pray, may his days be more fully consecrated to Thee than ever they were. If Thy will be otherwise, prepare him for going to be with Thyself, and

with the blessed company of the redeemed in heaven. May he leave himself like a little child in the hands of the Saviour, trusting Jesus to carry him safely across the Jordan of death, and to receive him into that place which He has gone to prepare for His people. May this sickness be blessed to us all. May we realise our own frailty, and so live in Christ and for Him that to us dying will be great gain. Hear us and answer speedily, for Jesus' sake. AMEN.

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### FOR THE SICK.

No. 184.

**O** GOD, our Father, we read that in all our afflictions Thou art afflicted, and therefore in this time of trouble we bring our sorrows unto Thee. Thou art the fountain of our life, and every secret of our wonderful structure is naked and open unto Thee. To whom, then, can we go but unto Thee when disease invades our frames, and we are laid low with fever, racked with pain, or the pallor of death is on our brow? We know that Thou art sufficient for all emergencies; at all times able to restore us. Look mercifully upon the sick before Thee now. Heal this afflicted one. Assuage this pain. Make the bed soft and restful, and ere many days may there be rejoicing in complete recovery.

And bless such in their spirit. May the affliction of the body humble, yet exalt them. While sorrowing in the flesh, may they learn to rejoice in the eternal health and prosperity of the soul. While they have still to suffer, enable them to be patient, resigned to Thy will, grateful for the kindly ministries of those who wait on

them, and confident of Thy care over all that concerns their weal.

Impress upon us all, whether in health or sickness, that our first duty is to be at peace with Thee, so that if we live it will be to serve Thee here, and if we die, to enjoy Thee yonder. In every sickness make us to feel as if Thou wert saying, "Be ye ready, for ye know not when the Son of Man cometh." And though there be in us that which clings to life even when life is worth but little, prepare us to put our life into Thy keeping with the prayer, "Thy will be done."

Hear us, O Lord, and forgive us all our sins, for Christ's sake. AMEN.

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### FOR THE SICK.

No. 185.

O LORD, look in pity upon —, now afflicted, and lessen the trouble through which — is now passing. In health we sometimes forget that we depend on Thee; and we learn the value of Thy common gifts when they are withdrawn for a time. We may have forgotten to thank Thee for rest—for unbroken sleep. But we feel how precious Thy daily benefits are in the hours of distress. When the pillow fails to soothe the head aching with pain, when the pulse throbs too fast, and "the bones are sore vexed," let Thy peace be given to the soul; may faith in Thee be strong, and patience have its perfect work. Bless the means used to restore the sufferer to health, and such alleviation of pain as may be possible do Thou in Thy mercy bestow. Keep the soul calm trusting in Thee; and may Thy servant recall Thy



promise that Thou canst make all things work together for good to them that love Thee. Even those whom Thou lovest Thou chastenest; grant that the purpose of the affliction now endured may so far be known that spiritual life may be increased by this painful experience. May the eternal weight of glory more than balance, by anticipation, the afflictions of this life. Help us all to preserve health by care, and to regard life as a treasure to be husbanded for Thy service. If it please Thee, soon may — regain strength. May every sorrow bring us nearer to the Man of Sorrows; and may the sympathy of the Redeemer be felt to be sweet. May we, even on the sea of trouble, when the waves threaten to overwhelm us, hear His voice—"Be not afraid, it is I." May we learn to sympathise with all the sick. May we so know Jesus that through faith our hearts may not be troubled. Forgive us our sins, we beseech Thee, for Christ's sake. AMEN.

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### FOR THE SICK.

No. 186.

GRACIOUS God, into whatever circumstances in Thy wise and good Providence Thy people may be brought, whether circumstances of health or sickness, prosperity or adversity, joy or sorrow, may they show themselves to be Thy believing, trusting, loving, submissive, and obedient people. Forbid that they should be slow to claim Thee as their God and Father, or that they should give occasion for the remark—ye have not, because ye ask not; ye ask and receive not, because ye ask

amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts. Let them not judge of Thee by themselves, or only within limits. Bring it home to them that Thou art very pitiful, and of tender mercy, and render them thankful for the encouragement to pray contained in the words—"If ye, then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father who is in heaven give good things to them that ask Him?"

We bless Thee, O righteous Father, that ours is not an orphan world. We rejoice in the proofs continually afforded that Thou art interested in it, and presidest over it. Increase our faith in Thy preserving and superintending care and goodness; and may it be a relief to us to roll the burden of our care at Thy feet, and leave it there. Happen what may to us, may we not lose confidence in Thine infinite power and enduring wisdom, and may the knowledge that to those who fear Thee and hope in Thy mercy Thou canst make all things work together for good, have a tendency to make us calm and resigned.

We pray for all the children of affliction. Look in Thy pity on this sick one, and may the sickness not be unto death. May the means of cure which are being used issue in recovery; but shouldst Thou have otherwise determined, may he be passive in Thy hand—have the sustaining and cheering presence of the Son of Man with him in the furnace, and be enabled to glorify Thee in it. Fulfil to him Thine own promise—My grace is sufficient for thee; and should the solemn hour of departure be at hand, may the emancipated spirit, washed from its stains in the atoning blood, find admission into that place where no tears are shed, and partings and farewells are unknown. We ask all in His name who ever liveth to make intercession for us. AMEN.

## FOR THE SICK.

No. 187.

WE thank Thee, O our Heavenly Father, that Thy throne of grace is so near, and that we have liberty of access at all times, in all circumstances, and on all occasions. Thou art our refuge and strength, a very present help in time of trouble. We live in a world replete with trial and change, with affliction and death, reminding us most forcibly of the terrible nature of sin which we have all committed and upon which Thou canst not look. But O we thank Thee that Thou hast not abandoned us to all its unmitigated consequences as Thou mightst have done. In infinite unmerited love and mercy Thou hast provided a Saviour, even Thine only begotten and well beloved Son, whom Thou hast sent into our world in our nature to suffer and to die for our sins. We thank Thee that He is as merciful as well as a faithful High Priest. That He feels for us and sympathizes with us in all our afflictions. In His name and for His sake do we come now to Thee, beseeching Thee to forgive all our sins, and to heal all our diseases, and to bestow upon us all the temporal and spiritual blessings which we need.

Bless in an especial manner the member of this family whom Thou hast afflicted. "Even so, Father, for so it has seemed good in Thy sight." If it be for good and Thy glory, we pray earnestly that Thou wouldest rebuke the malady. O do Thou heal the disease and spare life, that the sick one may be a comfort to parents and a blessing to the race. If, however, Thou hast otherwise determined, we leave it to Thy sovereign will and pleasure, assured that Thou art too wise to err and

too good to be unkind. For the grace bestowed in the past, for the faith and patience which is manifested, and the peace which is enjoyed, we thank Thee. Fill more and more with Thine own Spirit, separate all sin from the soul, and should the end be now, may angel guards conduct the spirit safely home, and in concert with myriads of spirits now in glory, sing the new song to the Lamb. O we bless Thee for the assurance that Jesus gathers the lambs to His arms, and carries them in His bosom, and that they are safer and happier with Him in Heaven than they could ever be with us on earth. Help us all to live a life of faith in Jesus, and of obedience to Him, of usefulness to others, and of weanedness from the world, that we may be prepared for whatever awaits us on earth, and dread the grave as little as we do our bed. We thank Thee for the resurrection of the body, for the life everlasting, for the gathering of the saints around their glorified Redeemer at the last day. May we and all connected with us be among them, and the glory shall be Thine now and for ever more. AMEN.

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## FOR THE SICK.

No. 188.

OUR good Father, we humbly pray Thee to bless Thy servant now lying upon a bed of sickness. May his spirit be sustained in hope and cheerfulness by Thy word. Thou art infinite in power, wisdom, and love. We know therefore that no suffering can be allowed to befall us, but such as Thou seest will be followed with greater good. Lord, may he thus endure with patience whatever



is before him, feeling that he is fulfilling a work for Thee, which Thou hast need for. If it be Thy will may he speedily be raised to health and strength, and to a life of sweeter sympathy with others, and more devoted usefulness. For that end bless all the means which may be used for his recovery. Guide those who attend and nurse him, that both in body and mind they may help and encourage him through the time of his weakness. May a truer and more tender tie of friendship bind his Saviour and him together in future days. And may all who dwell in this family, by their common anxiety, their prayers, and their self-denying effort, be rendered more grateful to Thee for Thy goodness, and more lovingly united to one another. Grant our request, O Lord our Saviour, for Thine own name's sake. AMEN.

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### FOR THE SICK.

No. 189.

**O** LORD, Thy hand has made both the light and the darkening cloud, and Thou hast been pleased to surround this habitation with the gloom of affliction. We would at this time pray first for the recovery of our dear one whom Thou hast stricken, and if it be Thy holy will, to grant gracious restoration. Thou didst say by the Spirit to the primitive Church, "Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the Church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: and the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins they shall be forgiven him." O Lord, we believe that it is as possible for us to offer the prayer of

faith to Thee as it was for the men of apostolic times. We cry to Thee with almost agonising earnestness on behalf of our dear one, most humbly and importunately beseeching Thee to grant a blessing upon the means used. Come with our medical adviser every time he visits us, and guide him in every prescription which he recommends so that the disease may be met in all its vicissitudes and ultimately mastered.

But we know, O Lord, that in this case, and in all similar circumstances, it becomes us to add, with our Saviour in the garden, "Not our will but Thine be done." Nor can we present a more appropriate prayer for the sufferer than that the model prayer of Gethsemane may be offered from the gloom of the sick bed with heart-felt sincerity, so that its gloom may be dissipated by the light of heaven—"O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as Thou wilt." May he be no stranger to peace and blessing, but may the patient on this bed of suffering see Thee to be a Father, and Jesus to be a Saviour, and thus be led to taste the joy of resignation to Thy will.

Help all the members of this household who are afflicted in this affliction, to receive the blessing that is intended, and meekly exclaim, "God's will be done;" and what we ask is for Jesus' sake. AMEN.

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### FOR THE SICK.

No. 190.

O THOU Great Physician of the body as well as of the soul, who didst send Thy dear Son into the world that He might bear our sicknesses and carry our sorrows,

and who, as our Mereiful High Priest, was made perfect through suffering, that He might be touched with the feeling of our infirmities, hear our ery on behalf of Thy servant, who is now suffering under Thy afflicting hand. Thou dost not afflict willingly any of the children of men, and if now for a season Thou permittest us to be in heaviness through manifold trials, it is only that Thou mightest bestow upon us at last a brighter crown. And O God, if we have had fathers of our flesh who eorrected us and we gave them reverence, shall we not much rather be in subjection to the Father of Spirits and live; for they verily for a few years chastened us after their own judgment, but Thou for our profit, that we might be partakers of Thy holiness. Grant Thy servant, we beseech Thee, grace to say, not as of necessity, but from the heart, Thy will be done. May he be able to rest in the Lord and wait patiently on Him, casting his burden on Thee, who will not only bear the burden, but the burden-bearer as well. And, Heavenly Father, we pray that Thou wouldst speedily restore him to his wonted health, and guide with Thy wisdom those who are striving to remove his suffering, that they may be guided to such means as are fitted under Thee to promote the end desired. And whatever be Thy holy will, may he and we be able to say, "Living or dying we are the Lord's;" and that though we have to walk through the valley and shadow of death we will fear no evil, for Thou art with us, and dost go before us, that where Thou art, there we may be also. And what we ask is in the name of Jesus. AMEN.

## FOR THE SICK.

No. 191.

O GOD, it is in Thee that we live and move and have our being. We humbly acknowledge our dependence upon Thee, not only for life, but also for all that makes life desirable. Our times are in Thy hand, and we ourselves are altogether at Thy disposal.

We would at this time commend to Thee very specially those on whom Thou hast seen meet to lay Thine afflicting hand. We remember with thankfulness that when our Saviour trode this earth, multitudes of those who suffered under grievous distresses, were brought to Him, and that he healed them all. We would bear upon our spirits before Thee, O Thou who art the great Healer of men, our dear afflicted ones. May it please Thee to rebuke the disease that has laid them low, to bless the means being used for their recovery, causing the tide of health and vigour that has been ebbing to flow once more.

Grant to them, we humbly entreat Thee, Thy sustaining grace in this their time of need. Make all their bed in their sickness, and may Thy comforts within them delight their souls. When racked with pain, may they let patience have her perfect work. Forbid that they should think that some strange thing has happened to them. May they remember that man is born to trouble as the sparks fly upward; and may their thoughts be directed to the prophets and those who have spoken in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering, affliction, and of patience. Above all, may they be assured of the deep undying sympathy of our great High Priest. Blessed be



Thy name that we have not an high priest who cannot be touched with a feeling of our infirmities; but one who knows what sore temptations are, for He has felt the same. May His presence in the sick-chamber be realized; may His power be present to heal; and may His Spirit be near to sanctify and save. Should any dark doubt distract the mind, may it be removed; should any troublesome fears arise in the heart, may they be expelled; should any needless cares and anxieties disturb their inward peace, O may those anxieties and cares be all rolled over upon Him who is both able and willing to bear them.

Fill, we beseech Thee, the hearts of our dear afflicted ones with all joy and peace in believing. Strengthen their faith, brighten their life, enlarge their confidence, perfect the spirit of resignation to Thy holy will; and if it please Thee to spare their lives and lengthen their days, may the trials through which they are now passing be sanctified to their future usefulness, so that when the time does come for them to be called hence, they may be ready for the summons. May they and we, all in whom we are specially interested, live while we do live to Thy praise, that when we die death to us may be gain.

May the Lord bless us, and keep us; may the Lord make His face shine upon us, and be gracious to us; may the Lord lift up His countenance upon us and give us peace, for His name's sake. AMEN.

## FOR THE SICK.

No. 192.

IT is before Thee, O Lord, that we bow. May our wills bend to Thine. Kneeling here by the bedside of one we love, we feel that hard what we often thought so easy, namely, to say, Thy will be done! But, dear Lord, it is not too hard for Thee to make it easy for us, and we pray that Thou wouldst master our hearts and control our fears so that we may say calmly, and perhaps, perhaps even happily, Thy will be done. Nothing is too hard for Thee. It would not be too much even to ask of Thee that our dear one should be restored, and that speedily, to health. But, dear Lord, we are not our own. We are Thine: Thine by the pangs and death of Jesus: Thine by the sweat-drops in Gethsemane: Thine by the agony of parting love which did give Him to us, and for us. Thine to love Thee, Thine to work for Thee, and Thine, if need be, to suffer when and what Thou wilt. It would be hard, Lord, to suffer were we not Thine own, Thy very own. Lord Jesus, why do we suffer? Why is this laid on our dear one? Is it not Thy dear one that is suffering? Hush us, Lord. Hush the cry of our hearts with Thine own soothing power. O the pain is hard to bear, but Thou art a friend. When we know not how to help Thy stricken one, give us wisdom. May the healing power of love, the soft touch, the quiet step, the cheery word, be present in this chamber. May the means used for recovery be the wisest and most proper. Surely Thou wilt withhold no good thing from us.

But Thou art far wiser than we. Thy will is always

the best. Nothing but relief, nothing but restored health, would gladden and gratify us ; but keep us in perfect peace, in unswerving faith, that Thou wilt do the very best. Lead us as Thou wilt. We shall fear no evil if Thy rod and Thy staff comfort us. But, O Lord, our hearts yearn for recovery. It is the yearning which Thou Thyself hast planted within us, even the love of dear life and the love of health. But grant that beloved one may feel that living or dying he (she) is the Lord's. Earth is not our home. In heaven are the mansions which Thou art preparing. Let not our hearts be troubled. We know not, Lord, what shall be. If health return, and this the suffering one see many years, may they be years dedicated to Thy service. It is harder, Lord, to be fit to live than to be fit to die. Do with us as Thou wilt, and keep our hearts in peace, through Jesus our precious Saviour, and the Holy Spirit whom Thou hast given to comfort us. AMEN.

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### FOR THE SICK.

No. 193.

**O** THOU God of all comfort, Thou who dost comfort us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them who are in any trouble, we very specially and tenderly commend to Thee the sick and the dying. Baptize us with Thine own sympathy and gentle love, that we may not in our strength and peace forget those who are in weakness and pain. Many whom Thou lovest are sick, the world is full of plaint and sorrow, and we would lift up all the suffering and broken-hearted on the

bosom of our prayer, and lay them down at Thy feet. Thou knowest how hard it is sometimes to be sick, and to lie down to die. It is hard to leave life with all its dear and tender interests and relations. It is hard to lose or leave those we love: hard for a mother to leave children, as it is hard for the little ones to lose the mother they love so well. Be pleased to stand close to such in their sorrow and trial. Let the dying be assured not only of Thy presence and love for themselves, but also for those whom they leave behind. If it be hard for them to say farewell, let them be sure of meeting again in the Father's house, never to be sundered any more. Let those left to mourn have the very tenderest of divine consolations—the all-sufficiency of the grace and sympathy of the Son of God. He is our brother, and is touched with a fellow-feeling of all our sorrows. We would hear Him say to us still in our times of loss and parting, “Let not your heart be troubled: I will not leave you comfortless, I will come to you.”

So let all the afflicted and dying be strengthened and comforted. Let them not fret, or be impatient, or be distrustful. Let them not think they are too good to need a Father's chastening. Let them see how tender is Thy heart, when their own hearts are ready to fail. Let them see a little of what Thou dost mean by the ministry of suffering, that it is still the ministry of love, and Thy chosen way of fashioning them into the image of Thine own perfect beauty, so that in their darkest, sorest day, they may still be able to look up into the face of God and say, It is our Father, we will trust and not be afraid: all is well, for living or dying we are the Lord's. Let this be their exceeding comfort and sweet joy, that Thou knowest all, and canst hold their hand in the darkness



and through the valley, and that Thou canst bring them safe out on the other side, into the place of perfect light and life, into Thine own presence, where there is fulness of joy, and set them at Thine own right hand where are pleasures for evermore. AMEN.

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### FOR THE SICK.

Ps. 194.

**O** LORD, our God, who is the fullness of life and love, to whom but unto Thee can we turn for help in the time of our sorest need? "O thou that hearest prayer, unto Thee shall all flesh come." In our inmost hearts we feel that our life is not in ourselves. Truly "all flesh is as grass, and all the goodness thereof as the flowers of the field; but the word of the Lord endureth for ever." Look in mercy, we beseech Thee, on Thy afflicted servant. As we witness his sufferings, we cannot but feel pity for him; we have done what we could, and fain would we do more, but we cannot. Therefore, Lord, Thou wilt not reprove us, if we bring him to Thee. Thou, too, dost love him, and with a love greater than ours. Even before we speak to Thee, Thou knowest what is in our hearts, what we would that Thou shouldst do for him. If it seemeth good in Thy sight, grant us, we beseech Thee, our desire. Let Thy servant live. Spare him, O God, to the friends he loves, the friends that love him; grant that he may yet serve Thee for many days upon the earth. And, meanwhile, do Thou enable him to bear with all patience whatever Thou art pleased to lay upon him; if the thorn is in

his flesh, let Thy sustaining grace be in his heart. Help him, O God, night and day to trust in Thee, to possess the faith which fails not, even when most sorely tried. Give him to realize the sympathy of Jesus, our great High Priest, who was tempted in all points even as we are; and help him also, like Jesus, to honour Thee by the meek acceptance of thy will. Sustain the hearts of Thy servants who are afflicted in his affliction; and may the tender impression made on their hearts by this dispensation of Thy providence prove a means of their permanent sanctification. We thank Thee, O God, that Thou hast given us the hope of a future life, free from sin and sorrow. Help us so to serve Thee here in health and in sickness, in prosperity and in adversity, that when we at last close our eyes for ever upon the things that have grown familiar to us, we may open them upon that brighter and better world, and find that it is not so much a strange country, as our proper home. AMEN.

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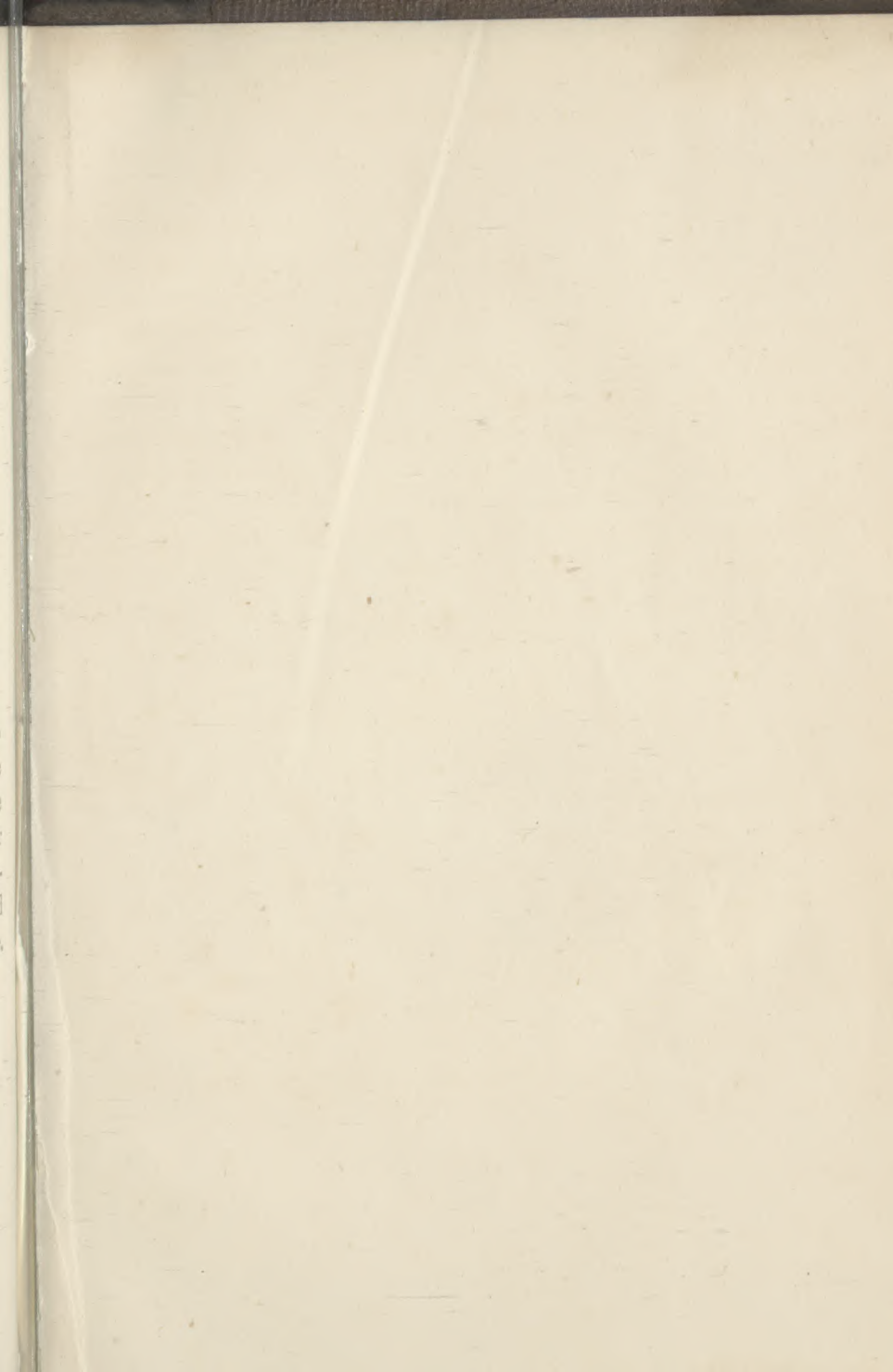
## FOR THE SICK.

Dc. 195.

HEAVENLY Father, we kneel by this bed of sickness, and lift up our hearts to Thee. The sufferings of the present time are all before thine eyes. Thou knowest all their causes and effects. Let us not be impatient. May we not, in our ignorance, misinterpret the meaning of this affliction, severe though it be. Even in this matter, Lord, we would wait for Thy salvation. If for the present we must needs endure chastening, may we

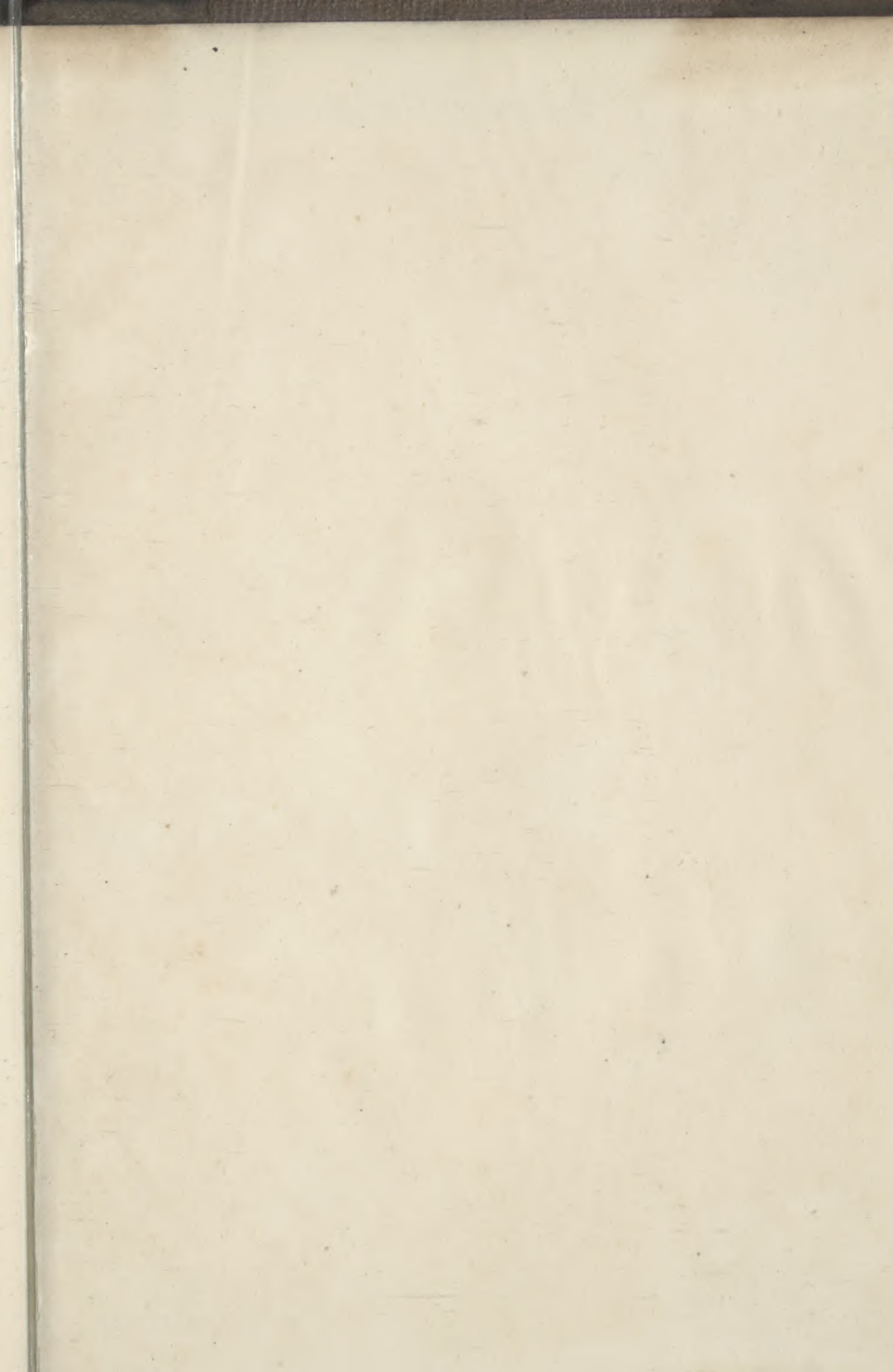
see clearly how gentle and kind a Father's hand is. If for a time the school of adversity is the best thing for us, may we learn with diligence every lesson that is given.

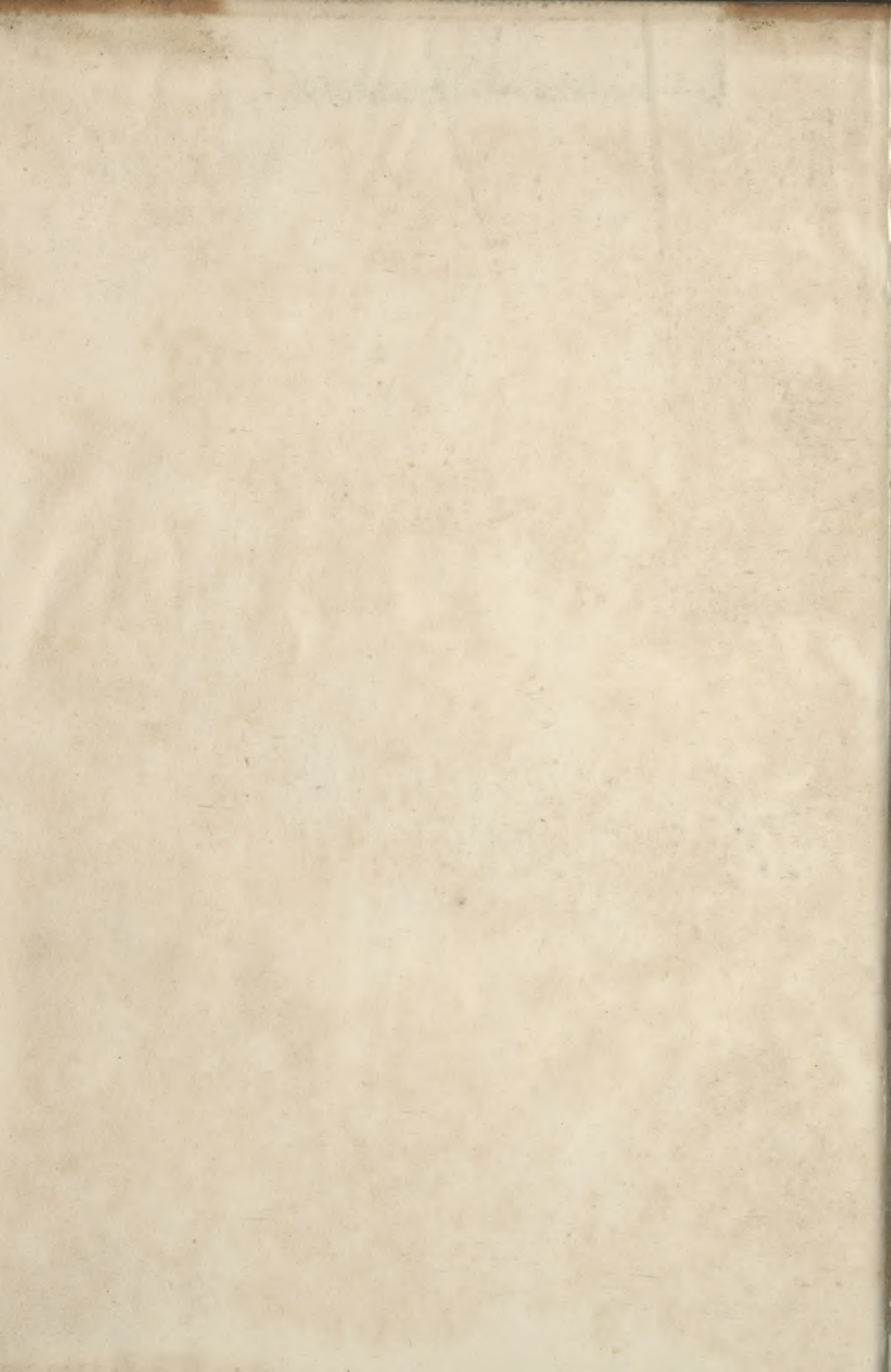
O Thou Man of Sorrows, we would remember that Thou art able to succour the sorrowing, the suffering, the tempted. Thou art able to soothe all grief. Thou art able to still all alarm. The cross we carry is light when Thy hand is beneath it. Thou hast taught us that the very hairs of our head are numbered. We will therefore trust and not be afraid, for by Thy skill, O Great Physician, it may yet be all well. May the afflicted one before Thee feel Thy sustaining hand. May the comforts of Thy salvation be abundantly enjoyed. If this suffering must continue for a time, may all grace be given to endure quietly, patiently, and in the spirit of true Christian meekness. Graciously bless the means employed to restore health. Guide the physician that he may be able to do his best. Aid those who nurse and minister to the afflicted one. Hear the prayers that ascend from the bosom of this home daily for speedy recovery, and grant, blessed Saviour, that, with restored health, there may be renewed devotion to Thee and to Thy cause on the earth. And all glory shall be Thine. AMEN.





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