

Almighty! Immutable! Eternal! Invisible, save in Thy Wondrous Works! Unheard, save by the slumbering elements of Creation in Thy Word, which said, "Be Light!" and Light was! Who art without beginning of days or end of years,—we would begin and end every good word and work with Thee!

Righteousness exalteth a nation,—teach us to be righteous. Thou hast made Man a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour,—inspire him with respect for his own nature, and us with reverence for the infinite significance of a human soul.—The meanest of us are immortal—the greatest are but as yesterday when it is past. Teach the mighty how mean is time—and the mean how mighty is eternity.

King of kings and Lord of lords, before whom the mightiest monarchs are but abject vassals, and at whose bar judges will be judged,—in whose awful presence sovereigns will hide their crowns, and veil their faces, and nothing but Truth and Justice can stand,—teach rulers that are found wanting, that Thou hast weighed them in the balance,—require of unjust stewards the talents the Lord of the vineyard has committed to their care,—and enable all to perceive that Thou art no respecter of persons, but acceptest those alone who diligently serve Thee.

Man lives not by bread alone. By Thy Word, which by its power could feed multitudes, and yet by its frugal providence commanded mortals to gather up the fragments, Thou hast taught the nations that nothing should be lost. Teach governors the wisdom of economy, and Thine earthly vicegerents the wickedness of waste, and the wholesome uses of a sparing management of Thy material bounty. Give to statesmen a saving grace—to use Thy temporal gifts as not abusing them, and to remember that they are set over us for our good, and under Thee for their guidance.

We are all equal in Thy sight,—may we be equal also in our own. The great ones among the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, but Thou hast said it shall not be so among Thy followers, for the chiefest among us shall be our servant, and our minister shall be the greatest of all. Thou hast made of one blood all nations and taught us to call thee Father. Forasmuch then as we are Thine offspring, and that Thy first and great commandment is, "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself," hasten the reign of Peace on earth, and good will among men. Turn our swords into ploughshares, our spears into pruning hooks,—prosper our agriculture, make the solitary places glad, so that the desert may rejoice and blossom as the rose, neither may there be War any more.—When the small still voice whispers, "Which is my neighbour?" let conscience answer, "He whom I can serve."—When Jerusalem would hold no dealings with Samaria, remind us that Thou art a spirit, and to be worshipped neither in temples made with hands, nor in consecrated cathedrals, but in spirit and in in truth.

Counsel the Queen's Counsellors, and teach our senators wisdom. Bless us with wise and upright magistrates, fearing Thee and hating covetousness. Majesty itself is nourished by the field,—awaken the prince to the sense of what he owes to the peasant,—animate him with that pure religion and undefiled which visits the widow and the fatherless in their affliction, and guide him by Thy Spirit to the conviction that earthly power doth then show likest God's, when mercy seasons justice.

Suffer not Pharisees to lay burdens on men's shoulders that are grievous to be borne, while they will not touch them with one of their fingers. Let not the poor be bought for silver, or the needy for a pair of shoes, that the rich may sell the refuse of the wheat. Renew within this people the right spirit which shall lead them to prove all things, and hold fast that which is good.—Inspire in us the love of that liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free,—and to that end do thou make us children in malice, but men in understanding. Knowledge is power,—enable us to thirst after it—prosper the means of education—spread abroad the reign of intelligence—of that wisdom from above which is first gentle, then peaceable, full of good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.

Save the people from those, who while they promise them liberty, are themselves the servants of corruption—enable us to separate power from licentiousness—to have a giant's strength, but not to

wield it as a giant—not using our liberty for a cloak of maliciousness, but as the servants of God.

Prosper the cause of temperance; that emancipated from the slavery of their appetites, men may learn by sobriety the virtue of independence, and be strengthened to defy that fear of man which bringeth a snare. Let all the ends we aim at be our Country's and Truth's, and God's. Bless our native land—in its basket and in its store. Give rulers hearts of flesh, and no more hearts of stone. Teach property that it has duties as the equivalent of its rights—and protect poverty in its rights while it is strengthened to discharge its duties. Let us not give up to party what was meant for mankind, or lend ourselves to faction for the gain of the few, at the expense of the many.

Shed Thy blessing over that vast Empire which Thou hast committed to our stewardship, for Thy service and the happiness of the world. Inspire in us a sense of the awful importance of our trust, and enable us to teach the nations how to live by the lesson of a good example.

Teach the Queen that from us, under Thee, she derives her power; that to seek Thy kingdom is to preserve her own, and that to be Thy subject is best to find loyal subjects in us.

Adorn our chief magistrate with the christian graces, and give her wisdom to choose wise counsellors, having a single eye to the public good, and to the glory, but above all, to the happiness of their country.

We would implore upon our fellow-citizens of the sister island the blessing of the spirit of love and of a sound mind.—Hear them—answer them—help them—feed them by Thy bountiful hand—lead them by Thy quiet waters—save them from oppression—that in the unity of the spirit and in the bond of peace, they may, by patient continuance in well doing, in due season, redeem their country, and raise themselves by industry, mutual conciliation, and self-help, to greatness and prosperity, by leading peaceable, sober, and pious lives, in all godliness and honesty.

Bring justice to every man's door, and enable judges to inspire respect for the laws, by the wisdom, purity, and impartiality of their judgments. Have pity on the victims of society, enable us to avert the effects of poverty by anticipating its causes, and lead us to be more sedulous to prevent crime than to punish it.

Promote human intercourse and brotherhood, making the supply of mutual wants the bond of mutual kindness. To this end advance useful arts, strengthen the heart of industry, and crown labour with Thy promise of daily bread. Teach us all that we live by mutual dependance, and that neither head nor hands can say I have no need of thee. Members all of one body, may we feel that neither rich nor poor can suffer without injury to both; and that the weal of the many is the truest interest of the few. In honour, preferring one another, may Truth, Right, and Liberty, bring comfort to the cottage, security to the court, and stability to the throne.

Godliness is great gain—may Thy ministers no longer make a gain of Godliness. Teach them that the pastures are for the sheep, and not for the shepherd—that they must watch as well as pray; not as dumb dogs, but as faithful pastors. What to Thee is the sound of viols, or whole rivers of oil. What the solemn meetings or vain oblations. Thou wilt not hear for much praying, nor answer vain repetitions. Thou madest the sabbath for man, not man for the sabbath—and religion for the people, not alone for the priests. Uncloak the pharisee, and uncover the Levite—purge the church of covetousness—that the cure of immortal souls may no longer be profaned by the traffic of mammon—or the purity of the sacred calling be defiled by the policy of faction, or the sordid purposes of party.

We are not only members of a family, and subjects of a state, but citizens of the world, and the kindred of a common humanity. We are men—let nothing that is human be foreign to us—but hasten the time when there shall be but one Lord on earth as in heaven—when Thy will shall be done here below as it is there above, and when the children of a day shall claim as a Father, the Great Parent of the Universe, and strive to be more worthy of His love by loving one another, and keeping His commandments. Amen.

