

PRAYERS

FOR THE

USE OF FAMILIES.

BY
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P R E F A C E.

THERE is reason to believe that in this busy age the doctrine of the Priesthood of Believers, which was a distinct feature in the Christianity of the Reformation, has very largely lost its value in the eyes of Protestant Christians. The service of the altar, or the conducting of divine worship, is too commonly relegated to the ministry and office-bearers of the Church; and the member of the church, satisfied with the reception of a benefit, forgets that he is at the same time a servant of the church, bound to seek the edification of others. This defection is particularly noticeable in the general disregard, by heads of families, of the obligation to conduct worship in their homes. The plea of inability is one which is so easily made and so plausibly sustained that, under the cover of it, the priest of the household either fails to recognize his vocation altogether, or if he does recognize it, holds himself excusable in not exercising it. It is well, perhaps, to aid those who are deterred from practicing this duty through a distrust of their own competency, by placing in their hands the imperfect substitute for personal and spontaneous devotion, which is furnished by Forms of Prayer. Obviously no set of pre-arranged forms

can ever comprehend all the needs of either individuals or families, since no human mind, however capacious, and no imagination, however fertile, can embrace in its view all the circumstances and the wants growing out of them which belong to the experience of individuals or families. The writer of this collection would entertain the hope that the forms it presents may serve their best purpose in encouraging some halting Christian to undertake the better method of conducting the worship of the family in his own language and under the promptings of the actual conditions in which, from day to day, the family may find itself placed. Forms may serve this end: First, by familiarizing the person using them with what may be called the dialect of devotion. As in every other exercise or occupation, there are special terms and phrases which are becoming in the addresses of a worshipper to God. The Bible is the best source from which to derive these terms and phrases, and is surprisingly rich in the abundance and variety of them. Forms of human composition may, in an humbler way, help to give aid to a hesitating speaker in articulating the thoughts and feelings he may desire to express. Second, forms may contribute to the bringing out into distinctness ideas and emotions which had been but obscurely apprehended by the mind, and by crystalizing into definite shapes desires and aspirations which had lain vaguely and incoherently in the mind. Third, they may be suggestive of more

than the forms contain. They may lead the speaker to notice the defects of the prescribed prayer, and stimulate him to supply the blank with petitions and utterances of his own. They may produce the habit of supplementing what the mind of a stranger has prepared for him by drawing material from the contents of his own mind.

The following hints are offered for the benefit of those who may be disposed to make use of these Prayers :

First, Let the member of the family officiating, acquaint himself previously with the prayer to be used, so that the devotional spirit may not be disturbed by the occurrence of anything unexpected, or ambiguous in sense, in the phraseology of it.

Second, Let him omit what is irrevelant (references to children, for instance, when there are none in the family), and accustom himself to supply what is lacking, and to modify what may not appear to him suitable in the prayer.

Third, Let him strive to keep his mind in such sympathy with the meaning of the form, that he shall recite it as his own, and not as the utterance of another. To make it more than a form it must be used so that the reader can say, "I am praying," and not "I am repeating a prayer."

Fourth, Let him be profoundly impressed with the thought, that nothing is prayer that does not issue from the heart as its source, and that does not terminate upon God as its object.

Fifth, Let him remember that the inspiration which will give vitality to prayer in public must be gained by practicing prayer in secret. Prayer in the closet, often at least, offered in audible tones, is the best expedient that one can resort to for qualifying himself to pray in the presence of a company; and,

Sixth, Let him avail himself of the disciples' resource, when they said to their Master, "Lord, teach us to pray," believing that the answer will come to him, as it came to them.

That this little book may be the means of helping some crippled waiter at the gate of the temple to enter in with a free foot, and some mute tongue to speak forth the praise of God, is the prayer of

THE AUTHOR.

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PRAYERS
FOR WEEK-DAY MORNINGS.

Morning Prayers.

I.

MOST merciful and gracious God, by whose favor we have been preserved through the night that is passed, we praise Thee for the privilege of meeting again as a family around Thine altar. Gratefully we make our united acknowledgment—"we have laid ourselves down, we have slept, we have risen again, for the Lord has sustained us." For these mercies, and all others which meet us this morning, we thank Thee. Help us so to profit by Thy kind dealings with us in the past, that we shall confide in Thee with a simpler and stronger trust in the future. Be Thou our guardian and our guide this day. We begin it with a deep consciousness of our own inability to choose our way or even to determine what is best for us; and we would, like little children, lay our hands in Thine and ask Thee to lead us. O Lord, help Thou our infirmities. Let Thy Holy Spirit so control our minds and hearts, that all our motives shall be good and our purposes right. Strengthen us to resist the temptations to which we may be exposed; enlighten our consciences that they may faithfully remind us of Thy will; restrain us when we are inclined to do evil; and enable us, laying aside every weight and the sin that doth so easily beset us, to run with patience the race which is set before us. Help us to keep a sense of Thy presence

and of our accountability to Thee in our hearts all the day long; defend us from the allurements of the world; teach us to moderate our love of its pleasures and our desire for its gains, and to look with a wise distrust upon its promises of happiness; and may all the experiences of the day be so overruled by Thee that they shall promote in us the growth of piety, and bring us into a closer fellowship with Thee.

Grant unto us this day such success in our worldly business as it is right and safe for us to have; and, if it should be Thy will to send us disappointment or adversity, prepare us patiently to receive it; and while we are laboring for ourselves, incline us, as we have the opportunity, to do good unto all men.

Remember with Thy Fatherly goodness all who are dear to us, wherever they may be. If any of them are in need or trouble, help Thou them as we would help them if we could. Bestow upon all our kindred and friends Thy converting grace, and make us all one in the faith of Christ and in the hope of glory.

Let Thy kingdom come, and Thy will be done on earth as it is done in heaven. Bless every effort made to spread abroad the true religion; and hasten the day when, under its influence, vice shall disappear, violence shall cease, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. Hear us in these our prayers, and to Thy name—Father, Son, and Holy Ghost—shall be the praise forever. AMEN.

II.

O THOU that hearest prayer, and unto whom all flesh are commanded to come, look with Thy mercy upon us, a little company of Thy children, as

we come once more with our wants and our requests to Thy footstool. Thou hast compassed our lying-down with Thy presence; Thou hast made the outgoing of the morning to rejoice for us. What shall we render unto the Lord for all His benefits towards us? We would call upon our souls and all that is within us to praise and bless Thy Holy name. "The eyes of all wait upon Thee: and Thou givest them their meat in due season. Thou openest Thy hand and satisfiest the desire of every living thing." Hitherto hast Thou helped us; and by Thy kind providence we have been upheld through all the days and nights of our lives. We thank Thee for the innumerable tokens of Thy favor which meet us at the opening of this new day; for the blessing of health; for the light of the sun; for the comforts of home; for the sweet ties of love which bind us as a household together; and, above all, for the knowledge of Thee, our Heavenly Father, and for the faith which discerns in Thee the source from which all past good has come, and the pledge that all needed good will be granted to us in the future. Thou hast made us glad through Thy works; make us also diligent in serving Thee. As stewards of the manifold grace of God, help us to be faithful in doing Thy will and manifesting Thy glory in the sphere in which Thou hast placed us in the world.

Suffer not the cares of this life to abate the fervor of our religious affections; and whatever perplexities or disappointments may overtake us, enable us to maintain our confidence in Thee. Endue us with a new measure of faith as we begin the day, that we may be able to bear patiently all the trials, and to resist successfully all the temptations which it may lay in our path. Let us not depart from Thee in a single purpose or act, and may we so carefully order

our conversation that in nothing we shall grieve Thy Spirit, or lead Thee to withdraw the light of Thy countenance from us. O Thou who art the author and finisher of our faith, to Thee we look for ability to carry out the good resolutions we trust we are now forming. We are weak, and our past failures remind us that we have no strength in ourselves. O Lord, be Thou our helper. Let Thy grace be sufficient for us; and, looking unto Jesus and abiding in Him, may we be enabled to walk in uprightness steadfastly to the end of the day.

Grant to all the members of our family the things which are needful for our safety and comfort. Deal kindly with us still, as Thou hast been wont to do. Forgive us for our past ingratitude and unprofitableness. May every heart in this little circle be filled with love to Thee, and become a temple in which God, by His Holy Spirit, shall dwell. Help those of us who are at the head of it to walk before our household in a perfect way, and to be successful in guarding our children from error and sin, and in training them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Let Thy blessing rest upon the community to which we belong. Pity the sick and suffering; raise up benefactors for the poor; reclaim the vicious: give efficacy to the Gospel wherever it is preached, and send it wherever it has not been heard; and let Thy kingdom come and Thy will be done on earth as it is done in heaven. And Thine shall be the glory forever and ever. AMEN.

III.

O GOD, the Father of lights, from whom cometh down every good and perfect gift, we thank

Thee for Thy manifold mercies which meet us this morning. Thou hast breathed into us anew the breath of life. We worship Thee as the author of our being, and would humbly invoke Thy blessing as we again go forth to the avocations of the world. Look down with Thy favor upon each member of our little flock. In the midst of the joy which this morning's reunion brings us, let us not forget Thee who art the fountain of all our joys. Help us to resolve this day, with our bodies and our spirits, to glorify Thee. In all the business which lies before us, keep us—like our blessed Master—mindful of our heavenly Father's business. Forbid that we should make a wrong use of any of the talents Thou hast conferred upon us. Our errors and short-comings in the past teach us how little we can depend upon our own resolutions. We ask Thee, O Lord, to help us to will and to do according to Thy good pleasure. Keep Thou our tongues from speaking guile—our hands from doing evil—our feet from walking in the way of the transgressor. Wherein we have done amiss, enable us to do so no more; and what we know not, teach Thou us.

Protect us from the dangers to which we may be exposed, for we need Thy care as much by day as by night. Bless us in the labors of our hands. Give us this day our daily bread. Dispose us to be temperate in prosperity and patient under adversity; and suffer us not by our folly to do harm to ourselves or others.

Adapt Thy grace to us according to our varying relations as members of our family. May we realize continually our duty as co-workers for the common good of the household, and strive in our several places to promote the welfare of all.

Make us careful to show a neighborly spirit in our

intercourse with our fellow-men; to be kind and courteous to all with whom we may be brought in contact; and, by our just dealing and blameless walk, to put credit upon the religion which we profess.

Remember with Thy compassion the sick in this community, and restore them to health if this be right in Thy sight. Console those who have been bereaved, and sanctify the sorrow of the mourner. Raise up friends for the poor, and be the God of the widow and the fatherless. Bless every institution which aims to reform the vicious and to save the sinner from the error of his ways.

Hear us in these our prayers, not because we are worthy to receive the benefits we have asked, but because of Thine infinite mercy offered to us through our Lord Jesus Christ—to whom, with the Father and the Holy Ghost—be all honor and glory, now and forever. AMEN.

IV.

O LORD, our Lord, how excellent is Thy name in all the earth! Day unto day uttereth speech and night unto night showeth knowledge of Thy glory. With humble gratitude we would remember this morning that He who fills heaven and earth with His presence has, in His infinite goodness, condescended to watch over our slumbers, and bestowed upon us His special protection and care. The ~~ory~~ which we addressed to Thee in our helplessness, as we went to our rest, Thou hast heard; and we are all here to bear witness to Thy faithfulness, and to proclaim together that the Lord is good and that His mercy endureth forever. O let a sense of Thine

unceasing goodness to us abide in our hearts this day, and fill them with loving feelings towards Thee and with kind dispositions towards all our fellow-men. Forbid that we should pervert to any evil uses the lives which Thou hast preserved; but help us—as the stewards of God, each one in his sphere—to act for Thy glory, and for the advancement of Thy kingdom in the world. Though it be but a few things of which we are possessed, make us so faithful in the use of those few things that our Lord shall be pleased at last to own us as good servants and make us rulers over many things. We trust it is our sincere desire this day to please Thee in all that we shall do, and that with truthful lips we can say: “Lord, Thou knowest all things—Thou knowest that we love Thee.” But we dare not rest upon any attainments or promises of our own; and we ask Thee for the special aids of Thy Holy Spirit to keep us in the way of uprightness. In all our efforts to get worldly wealth protect us from the spirit of covetousness; and may our chief desire be to lay up for ourselves treasure in heaven. And amidst all our household cares help us to be intent upon our preparation for “the house not made with hands.” Impress upon the minds of those of us whom Thou hast set over this family the solemn obligation enjoined upon us to train up our offspring in the knowledge of God, and to exercise a wholesome influence upon all who are under our guidance and authority; and may Thy covenant of life and peace be established with all who dwell beneath our roof.

Direct us in all our plans and undertakings; make us moderate in our desires and contented with our lot; and help us so to order our conversation while we are under the eye of the world that all who see

us shall confess that our religion is not merely a profession, but "spirit and life."

Enable us always to maintain a true humility of soul in view of our unworthiness, and a simple and unwavering trust in the infinite merit of our Divine Redeemer, Jesus Christ, in whose name alone we ask these great blessings at Thy hands; and to Him, with the Father and the Holy Ghost—one God—we will ascribe the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. AMEN.

V.

O THOU who hast again made the sun to rise and the light to shine out of darkness, shine into our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of Thy glory in the face of Jesus Christ. Whilst Thou art revealing Thy wisdom and power to us through all the forms and movements of nature, open, we entreat Thee, our spiritual sense, that we may see Thy grace and truth, Thy holiness, Thy mercy and Thy love in the person and work of Him who came into the world to show us the Father. May God, as He has manifested Himself in Christ, be present to our minds all this day—so that we may be guided into the practice of all righteousness,—encouraged in all times of weakness,—and restrained from the enticements of every false way.

The lives which Thou hast so mercifully preserved, we desire, in this morning sacrifice, O God, to consecrate to Thee. Thou dost not need our services; and we would remember that it is a privilege that Thou hast graciously granted to us, that we may be co-workers with Thee in the accomplishing of Thy purposes in the world. Help us from the heart to say,

“Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven,” and inspire us with an honest desire that all our doings this day may be such as shall fulfil Thy holy will. Teach us how to mingle the religious motive with all our schemes and works, and how to maintain in all our undertakings that spiritual mind which shall lead us to do service as to the Lord and not to man,—to endure as seeing Him who is invisible, and to act at all times under the constraining power of the love of Christ.

Go forth with us to the labors of the day; shield us by Thy kind Providence from harm; grant us capacity for our worldly duties; endue us with a sound conscience, a heart sincerely disposed to do right, a dread of sin as that abominable thing which Thou dost hate, and an active faith in all the promises and precepts of Thy word; and clothe us with the whole armor of God, that we may be able to withstand the evil which may meet us this day, and to resist successfully all the wiles of the devil to which we may be exposed.

And now, O Thou Shepherd of Israel, look mercifully upon our little household flock. Fold us within Thine arms of love. Protect us from sickness, from hurtful accidents, and from all those calamities to which we in common with others are liable. Bestow Thy blessing upon each member of the family as age or condition of mind or body may require. Help us, by our mutual thoughtfulness and sympathy, to bear one another's burdens, and to make our home the abode of peace and love; and prepare us by the intercourse and experience of this life for a final meeting in Thy heavenly kingdom, and Thine shall be the glory of our salvation, world without end.
AMEN.

VI.

WITH thankful hearts we bring our offering to Thine altar, O Lord, as we remember the mercies Thou hast vouchsafed to us through the night. Thou hast kindly heard the prayer for protection we addressed to Thee as we went to our rest; and now, through Thy good hand upon us, we meet again in health and comfort this morning. We accept life with all its endowments as a fresh gift from Thee, and humbly ask for the grace which shall dispose and enable us to devote it to Thy service. We trust it is our desire in all things to do Thy will; but so conscious are we of our own inability to carry out our purposes, that we must look to Thee for the power to do even what we desire to do. In all our willing and doing, therefore, this day, O merciful Father, do Thou work in us to will and to do of Thy good pleasure. Help us to keep Thy word continually in our minds; and may it be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. May its precepts instruct our judgment; and by its regulating power may we be led into such decisions and determinations as are right in Thy sight, and be enabled to maintain a good conscience towards God and man. Our wants return with each returning day. We come to Thee this morning—the same needy pensioners we have always been. Pity us, O Lord, with that pity which Thou dost bear to those who fear and trust in Thee. Follow us this day with a Father's kindness and care. We ask Thee for our daily bread; for success in our efforts to provide for the necessities of our household; for continuance of health; for deliverance from evil; and for succor and support if any calamity should overtake us. Let not any apparent security in our condition lead us into forgetfulness of Thee, or be-

tray us into confiding unduly in our own wisdom or strength; and under all circumstances enable us to rest upon Thy promise that all things shall work together for good to them that love Thee. Whatever business may this day occupy our minds and hands, help us to do it in such a manner that we shall have the testimony of our consciences that in simplicity and godly sincerity—not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God—we have had our conversation in the world.

Look with Thy favor upon the children of this family. Defend them from the perils to which they are exposed in their heedless age; shield them from the vices which are prevalent in the world; put the fear of the Lord into their hearts, and lead them in the morning of their days to choose the good part which shall never be taken from them.

Teach us who are parents Thy law, that we may teach it to our offspring, and by our consistent and blameless walk may we commend to them the excellence of that religion which we are trying to teach them. We invoke Thy blessing upon all our neighbors. If any are sick, sustain them in their sufferings and restore them to health; if any are drawing near unto death, prepare them for their departure and give them a good hope of eternal life through Jesus Christ the Redeemer. If any are sorrowing under bereavement, send them comfort and sanctify their griefs. Make us ready to weep with those who weep as well as to rejoice with those who rejoice; and, at last, as those who in some humble measure have possessed the spirit of Christ on earth, may we be recognized as joint-heirs with Him of the heavenly inheritance, and to Thy name shall be the glory forever. AMEN.

VII.

GREAT art Thou, O Lord, and greatly to be praised. Every day would we bless Thee and praise Thy name forever and ever. Thou art gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and of great mercy. Thou art good to all, and Thy tender mercies are over all Thy works. Thy greatness is unsearchable. As we gaze upon it we tremble, and adore. Thy goodness and Thy mercy come to us in a thousand familiar forms,—in the sunbeam, in the pulse of health, in the bread which loads our table; and when we gaze upon these, we draw nigh—we trust—we rejoice. O Father, Thou hast made us glad through Thy works, make us still more glad through the knowledge and the love of Thee. Better than all the forms through which Thou hast revealed Thy loving-kindness, we would esteem that loving-kindness itself. Thou, Thyself, O God, art the portion of our inheritance and of our cup.

Let Thy presence go with us to the labors of this day; and help us to keep Thy will so constantly in our minds that in all our works we can feel that Thou art working in us and with us. We would thank Thee for the assurance that even here in this life, and in its lowly occupations, Thou dost permit us to have fellowship with Thee, and with Thy Son Jesus Christ. O keep us from doing anything this day which may interrupt this blessed fellowship. At home and abroad, in our business and in our pleasures, enable us to carry with us a sense of Thy presence, and to walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. May Thy grace be sufficient for us. We have no confidence in ourselves. Teach us, O Lord, Thy way and lead us in a plain path, because of our enemies, for they are many—within us and without us—and they

hate us with cruel hatred. Make us watchful against the corruptions of our own hearts; defend us from the seductions of the world; and shield us from the assaults of the evil one. As those who have been the recipients of Thy bounty, make us ready to communicate Thy gifts to others. Help us to be charitable, not only in our acts, but in our judgments; and to feel pity even for those whom we have to condemn. Inspire us all with the desire this day to live to some good purpose, and to cause our light to so shine before men that they, seeing our good works, may be led also to glorify our Father in heaven.

Have mercy, O Lord, upon the whole race of mankind. Give success to the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, which Thou hast ordained to be the wisdom and the power of God unto salvation. Fulfil Thy promises to our apostate world, and hasten the day when the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. Come quickly, Lord Jesus—even so—come quickly.

Grant unto us as a family Thy special guardianship and care. Bring us in safety to the end of the day. Prepare us for all that awaits us in Thy holy Providence. Succor us in our perils; aid us in our duties; and enable us so to live that if sudden death should overtake any of us, we may leave the world in the assurance that for us to die is gain. Hear us, O Lord, in these our morning supplications, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Redeemer. AMEN.

VIII.

OUR FATHER which art in Heaven, Creator and Preserver of all men, we would acknowledge Thee as the source of all those blessings which we, as a part of Thy great family, enjoy. Very good and

gracious hast Thou been to us, in not overlooking us among the many creatures dependent upon Thy care; and in continuing to us Thy mercies, notwithstanding our ingratitude and unprofitableness. We thank Thee for our being, and for granting us our birth in a Christian land and in a Christian home. We thank Thee for Thy blessed Word, which has made us acquainted with Thee, the only true God, and with Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent. We thank Thee for pious parents and friends, who have taught us by their instructions the way of salvation, and have revealed to us, by their example, the excellency of a godly life. We thank Thee, above all, if any of us can hope that we are Thy children, through the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Ghost, and that we have received power from our blessed Saviour to become the sons of God. O help us all to feel, as we begin this new day, that we are not our own, but that we belong to Him who made us and has redeemed us. Forbid that this sacred gift of life which Thou hast conferred upon us should be perverted or abused. Make every desire and motive and purpose within us right and pure as we go forth to the labors to which we are severally called. Search us, O God, and know our hearts; try us and know our thoughts; and see if there be any wicked way in us, and lead us in the way everlasting.

If it please Thee, O Father, make life pleasant to us this day. Deliver us from evil. Protect us from sickness and accident; and if any calamity should be appointed to us in Thy holy Providence, help us to meet it with resignation, and to receive it as the chastening of a Father. Let Thy grace be sufficient for us in every season of trial or temptation; and endue us with that faith in Thee which shall give us

the victory over the world, and enable us to rejoice even in tribulation. Thou hast been our helper hitherto—leave us not, nor forsake us, O Thou God of our salvation. Put Thine own Spirit within our hearts, O merciful Saviour, who, though Thou wast rich, didst, for our sakes, become poor, that we might be made rich; and teach us how, in our humble measure, to become imitators of Thee in going about doing good. Show us the work Thou wouldst have us to do; and make us willing to engage in it, even though it should require us to deny ourselves, or to mortify our fleshly affections and lusts. Let us not grow weary in well-doing, and as we advance in years, may we abound more and more in the work of the Lord.

And now, O Father, we leave ourselves, with all our interests, with Thee. Deal graciously with us, and with all our friends, neighbors and acquaintances. Bless the whole race of mankind. Bless especially the poor, the sick, the bereaved, the dying. Bless those who are clothed with authority, in this land and in all lands. O Thou who canst turn the hearts of kings as the rivers of water are turned, turn the hearts of all magistrates and rulers, so that they shall rule in righteousness, shall seek the happiness of their subjects, and shall use the sword only for the punishment of evil-doers. Let the glorious kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ be established over all the earth, and Thine shall be the praise forever. AMEN.

IX.

O THOU who wast the God of Abraham, who didst establish Thy covenant with him, to be a God unto him and his seed after him, we thank Thee that,

through the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, Thou hast called us as Thou didst call him, and hast made us who are "by nature sinners of the Gentiles," partakers of the blessings of Thy covenant. As the fathers trusted in Thee in times past, and Thou didst not put their hope to shame, so would we confide in Thee as the unchanging God, and believe that Thou art as ready to grant to us Thy saving help as Thou wast to grant it to them. Dwell Thou with us as Thou didst with them; and enable us to maintain such a close and constant communion with Thee that it can be said of us as it was said of them, they "walked with God." For the unspeakable privilege of calling Thee our Father and our God, we would evermore praise Thee. To us, in these last days and these ends of the earth,—to us, aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, Thou hast sent the messages of Thy grace, and permitted us to draw nigh, and claim, as Thy children, an interest in the benefits of Thy kingdom. Make all things work together for our good this day. Spread over us continually Thy protecting wing; be Thou our Shield as long as we shall live, and our exceeding great Reward when we die. Thou art our Portion, O Lord, and whatever privations or losses we may be required to suffer in the world we would still feel rich in possessing Thee. Let nothing separate us from Thy love, or divert us from Thy service. We have said that we would keep Thy words. Write Thy law upon our hearts that we may have it in perpetual remembrance. Turn away our eyes from beholding vanity, and quicken Thou us in Thy way.

Bestow upon us this day Thy blessing. Lead us in the way of Thy commandments, and help us to do justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with Thee.

From Thy kind hand we have received the many earthly comforts in which we rejoice this morning. All that we are and have has come to us from Thee, and to Thee we desire to consecrate every talent and every treasure that we possess. Give unto us the spiritual mind which shall dispose us always to choose what is right, and which shall bring our will into harmony with Thine.

O Thou good Shepherd, who dost go before Thy sheep when Thou dost put them forth on their various errands of duty, go before each one of us, we beseech Thee. Show us the way in which Thou wouldst have us to go, and lead us in the paths of righteousness for Thy name's sake. Deliver us, if it please Thee, from affliction and trouble; and grant us success in our worldly undertakings. In all our endeavors after the welfare of ourselves or others, enable us to show that we are seeking first, for them and ourselves, the kingdom of God and His righteousness. Sanctify these ties of love which bind us as a family together. Make them channels of grace, through which we, as the stewards of God, may be able to communicate spiritual good to one another. United in Christian faith, as well as in natural affection, may we all be found walking together in ways of piety on earth, that, at last, it may be our joy to dwell together in that blessed home which Jesus has gone to prepare for his people. And Thine shall be the glory of our salvation, world without end. AMEN.

X.

O THOU who art the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, who hast promised wisdom to those who lack when they ask it of Thee,

bestow upon us, we beseech Thee, this gift, as we stand at the threshold of a new day. We know, O Lord, that the way of man is not in himself, and that it is not in us who walk to direct our steps. We are but of yesterday and know nothing. Thou only canst foresee and foretell the thing that shall be. In our ignorance we humbly look to Thee to be our teacher and guide. Help us, as we enter upon the undertakings of this day, to inquire honestly for the right way. Implant within our hearts that fear of Thee which is the beginning of wisdom. In child-like reverence may we resign to Thee the right to choose the use we are to make of our time and our talents; and in the dread of Thy just displeasure, may we avoid every way which is contrary to Thine. Increase our faith, so that at all times we can acquiesce in Thy will; and especially in those seasons which seem adverse to us, enable us to maintain an unwavering trust in Thy rectitude and faithfulness. Keep us back, O Lord, from the presumption of making our wisdom the measure of Thine, or of requiring that Thy ways should conform to our ways, or Thy thoughts to our thoughts. Make us so truly wise, that we shall neither deceive ourselves, nor consent to be deceived by the false maxims or standards of the world. Thy word, O God, is truth; and by that word we would be taught and led. From it we would learn our spiritual poverty and weakness. We would take before Thee the position which it assigns to us, and, humbly confessing our guilt as sinners, would ask that Christ may be made unto us wisdom and righteousness, sanctification and redemption. Like the wise virgins, may we make it the policy of our lives to prepare for the coming of the Bridegroom, and through the watches of the night to keep our lamps trimmed and burning. Let

not the solicitations of the flesh or the seductions of the world beguile us into a false security, or persuade us to relax our diligence in making our calling and election sure. Forbid that we should rest upon past experiences or attainments in piety; and help us, day by day, as those supremely in earnest in securing the salvation of our souls, to press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Defend us from the temptations to which we shall this day be exposed. Let Thy pure Spirit, O Thou Captain of our salvation, dwell in us; and by Thy strength given to us in the hour of need, make us conquerors in every conflict with the enemy. Help us by our well-doing, our deeds of kindness, and our patient submission to provocation or suffering, to do something for Thy glory. In our home especially may we all so exhibit the spirit of that religion which we profess, that it shall be apparent to all that Christ is speaking and acting in each one of us. Let Thy blessing go with us as we go forth to the labors of the day, and with a new testimony for Thy goodness on our lips, may we be permitted to gather again around our family altar in the evening. We ask all for Jesus' sake. AMEN.

XI.

WE bow our knees to Thee, O Thou who art Most High forevermore, for Thou art exalted above the heavens and we are but lowly dwellers upon the earth, Thy footstool. We see not Thy form,—we hear not Thy voice, we feel not the touch of Thy hand, and yet, O God, we know that nothing is so near to us as Thou. In the faith which discerns Thy

presence even here in our humble habitation, we approach Thee as children come to a Father, to acknowledge Thy mercies, and to tell to Thee our troubles and our wants, It is meet that we should prostrate ourselves before Thee, not only by reason of Thy glorious majesty, but because of our unworthiness in Thy sight. Our iniquities have taken hold upon us, so that we are not able to look up. They are more than the hairs of our heads, therefore our hearts fail us. But Thou, with Thine own gracious hand, hast opened the door of access to Thee, and invited us, by a new and living way, to draw nigh to Thee. O we thank Thee that Thou hast given us the name of Jesus to plead as often as we appear before Thee; and dost permit us to hide our own guiltiness beneath the mantle of His righteousness, and to believe that, for the sake of Him in whom Thou art ever well pleased, Thou wilt also be well pleased in us. And so, though our conscious ill-desert would lead us to cry, "Depart from us, O Lord, for we are but sinful men," with our hands clasped in the hand of Jesus, our Divine Sponsor and Surety, we venture to come with boldness to the throne of Thy grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help us in our times of need.

Grant unto us, therefore, we humbly beseech Thee, such blessings as are needful to us this day. Deliver us from the evils to which we may be exposed; keep us from being inordinate in our desires; and confer upon us the measure of earthly comforts which it shall seem right to Thee to give us. Whatever our portion in life may be, help us to accept it as that which our Heavenly Father has been pleased to allot to us. Dispose us to appreciate thankfully the mercies which may come to us; and forbid that, by our petulance or discontent,—our envying of our neigh-

bor, or our unbelieving distrust of Thee, we should aggravate our troubles or add to that "sufficiency of evil" which Thou dost, in Thy wise Providence, mingle with our lot. Amidst the crosses and vexations of our home, help us to demean ourselves with patience, and to exhibit the meekness and gentleness which become the followers of Christ. And in the excitements and provocations which may arise in the prosecution of our worldly business, enable us to maintain a calm and quiet temper,—a sound conscience,—and a determination to avoid sin, whatever sacrifice of pride or interest may be required of us.

Guide us all in our several walks this day; and bring us together again at the hour of rest, prepared with fresh gratitude to record Thy goodness; and enable us at all times from the heart to pray "Thy kingdom come,—Thy will be done on earth as it is done in heaven." And Thine shall be the glory, world without end. AMEN.

XII.

O THOU who art great in counsel and mighty in work,—whose eyes are open upon all the ways of the sons of men,—we adore Thee for Thine infinite excellency; and praise Thee for the condescension which deigns to notice creatures as obscure and worthless as we are. We spend our years as a tale that is told. Like shadows we pass over the field, and the places we fill hardly know us now, and will soon know us no more forever. O Lord, what is man that Thou takest knowledge of him, or the son of man that Thou makest account of him? And yet, Thou dost follow us with a Father's ceaseless care. Thou hast prepared of Thy goodness for the poor,

and Thou makest Thy sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendest rain on the just and on the unjust. Let this be the theme of our glorying,—not that we can claim any strength, or wisdom, or riches or beauty of our own, but that God is pleased to regard us with His favor, to do us good, and to number us among His children. Thy greatness has become such gentleness towards us, that by that gentleness Thou hast made us great. Let the comforting thought go with us to the work of this day, that God in heaven thinketh upon us, and that Jesus Christ is not ashamed to call us brethren; and, as those rejoicing in this high relationship, may we strive to become followers of God as His dear children, and to tread in the footsteps of our Divine Elder Brother. Help us to adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things; to walk worthy of our high calling: and to glorify God in our bodies and in our spirits, which are God's. Of Thy fulness, O blessed Redeemer, may we receive grace for grace; for we know that as the branch cannot bear fruit of itself except it abide in the vine, no more can we, except we abide in Thee. O forbid that any of us should be found at last the unfruitful branch which must be cast into the fire; but day by day enable us, humbly in our sphere, to do and to suffer all Thy holy will, and to follow Thee in faithful service to the end, that we may receive Thy word of commendation when we go to give up our account,—“Well done, good and faithful servants, enter ye into the joy of your Lord.”

Our plans, our purposes, our hopes for this day we lay before Thee. Dispose our minds to choose the way that is right; and in all that we do, may we endeavor to show ourselves approved unto God. Strengthen us to resist the temptation where

we are inclined to do evil; and give us the fortitude which shall consent to suffer loss or pain rather than offend Thee. Enlighten our eyes that we may see the holiness of Thy law and the exceeding sinfulness of sin; and may Thy favor be to us better than any form of wicked indulgence, or any good which a corrupt world can offer us.

Let Thy kind providence watch over us in our home, and bless us in our going out and in our coming in. Teach us how to use our faculties in doing good to one another, and to all with whom we shall be associated; and so may this day, and all the days that remain to us, bring us nearer and nearer to Thee; we ask it all for Jesus' sake. AMEN.

XIII.

O THOU who dost set the solitary in families, and hast declared that it is not good for man to be alone, we thank Thee for the home which Thou hast given us, and for the sweet relationships which bind us together in that home. Above all, we thank Thee that Thou hast associated Thyself with our household, and dost permit us, parents and children alike—the old and the young together—to call Thee “Our Father which art in heaven.” In the exercise of this high privilege, we come to Thee this morning, to commit ourselves to Thy fatherly keeping and to ask from Thee fatherly counsel. In childlike faith, help us to leave the measure and the form in which our desires shall be gratified with Thee; and in all circumstances in which we shall find ourselves this day, may we recognize Thy presence and acquiesce in Thy holy will. If it please Thee, O Father, deal tenderly with us, for we are weak and fearful, and

we shrink from pain and adversity. We have but little strength with which to bear the burdens of life, and we tremble at the prospect of the many calamities which we know to be possible. Spare us, O Lord; make our path plain and smooth before our feet; grant us such comforts as are consistent with our real good; and enable us to bear our privations and disappointments with meekness and patience. As a household, may we be of one mind in endeavoring to do Thy will; and, walking together in the way of the Lord, may we have peace one with another, and show to the world the spectacle of a family dwelling together in unity. Draw us together in cordial sympathy and love; and, as members of one body, may we feel that the joy or pain of each is the joy or pain of all. Teach us the charity of the Gospel by the discipline of our domestic experience; and may the kindness which we practice within our doors be carried by us into all our intercourse with our neighbors. Help us to act towards every one so as to show by our deeds the same good-will which we express in our prayers; and the mercy which we ask from Thee may we, as we have opportunity, extend to all men.

Whatever may be our worldly wealth, dispose us in humility to reflect that all our store cometh of Thine hand and is all Thine own; and, as good stewards, enable us to use it for Thy glory and the benefit of our race. If our lot in life be a lowly one, and the rigors of poverty oppress us, lighten Thou our yoke. O Thou who, though Thou wast rich, didst for our sake become poor; and over the rugged path of tribulation, which Thou hast hallowed with Thy blessed feet, make us willing to enter into the kingdom of God. However few our talents and weak our influence, let this be our ambition, to let

our light so shine before men that Christ shall be honored in us, and to gain for ourselves a place at His right hand when He shall come in His glory to judge the world.

Watch over our frail bodies amidst the exposures of this day; deliver us from peril and sorrow; prepare us for the work Thou hast appointed us to do; and if death should come suddenly to any of us, may it find us at the post of duty and at the door of heaven. These, and all other mercies, we humbly ask for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Redeemer. AMEN.

XIV.

WE thank Thee, most merciful Father, for the rest we have enjoyed during the night, and for the many blessings which meet us this morning. Beyond all the arts we have employed in the securing of our home, and all the resources we have gathered within it, we would acknowledge that it is to Thy power and goodness we are indebted for our safety and happiness. Forbid, O Lord, that we should ever forget that, except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it; or that we should be tempted in the pride of our hearts to say, by the might of our hands we have gotten us our comforts and possessions. Make us as humble in assenting to Thy right to control our affairs as we are in confessing our dependence upon Thee. We are but the thing formed, and we would not say to Him who formed us, Why hast Thou made us thus? Thy kingdom ruleth over all. Let that kingdom be set up within our hearts, and may it be our joy to know that the Lord reigneth. Let all the affections and

faculties of our nature be consecrated to Thee; let every purpose and desire be subjected to the guidance of Thy Holy Spirit; and let every thought be brought into captivity to the obedience of Christ. Help us day by day to renew our vows of allegiance to Thee, and to avouch Thee as our God and King. Suffer us not to be diverted from our duty to Thee by the fear of man; nor to be seduced from our integrity by the favor of man. Keep us from every unwholesome social influence. If sinners entice us, let us not consent; and restrain us when we are tempted to go with the multitude to work iniquity. O let it be our privilege to know the blessedness of the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. From the power of our special infirmities, O Lord, deliver us. Help us to subdue the wrong desires which spring from the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life. May the benediction pronounced upon the pure in heart be ours, and may we so grow into the likeness of God here on earth that we shall at last be permitted to see Him in heaven.

Enable us this day to live in accordance with these our prayers; and to go forth to our various occupations resolved that we will strive to be and to do all that we have now asked Thee to help us be and do. Grant us Thine aid, O our Father, in our attempts to do right. As our day is, so may our strength be; and by Thy power keep us through faith unto salvation.

Bestow upon us now, we beseech Thee, that providential care which, by so many perils in the past, we have been taught that we need. Lead us in ways of pleasantness and in paths of peace; deliver us from evil, and spare us all to meet again in the even-

ing. Remember with us all who are dear to us ; and send a blessing to all who need our prayers, or who have said to us, pray for us ; and to Thy great name we will give the glory forever. AMEN.

XV.

WITH the light of the morning, O Lord, lift upon us the light of Thy countenance ; and, with the blessings granted to us in our home, grant us the joys of Thy salvation. Not as the beasts wake to go forth to seek their prey, or to graze upon the pasture of the field, would we return to life ; but as the children of God, made in His image, whose business is to glorify Him, and whose end is to enjoy Him forever. Consecrate to Thine own use, O Father, these powers of mind and body with which we are endowed ; and as laborers going forth to their Master's bidding, may we this day seek for and do the work Thou hast assigned to each one of us. In the humble sphere which we occupy, and in the homely tasks which belong to our lot, help us to feel still that we are the servants of God—doing our part in His great household here on earth as truly as the angels do in heaven. Make us more covetous of the honor which comes from God than we are of that which is conferred by social rank or station. Deliver us from the carnal mind, which would lead us to seek great things for ourselves ; and grant unto us the spiritual mind, which shall esteem the favor of God better than riches, and shall be willing to count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus our Lord. As the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, so may we be diligent in cultivating

the seeds of faith and piety, and patiently wait for the harvest which is to be revealed at the coming of the Lord. Strengthen our weak purposes, O Lord; and whilst we, with our feeble hands, are planting and watering, wilt Thou give the increase? Suffer not our lives to be utterly useless. Help us to appreciate the influence with which we are charged, and to exercise it carefully and wisely in our various spheres, so that we may be as the salt and the leaven in all the associations in which we are placed. May our example show to others the beauty of a life hid with Christ in God; and may our testimony in behalf of religion be so clear and unequivocal that, like living epistles, we may be seen and read of all men.

O Lord, look mercifully upon our little flock, and grant us Thy guardianship and care this day. We are so blind that we cannot see the dangers to which we are exposed, and so rash that we often rush into contests with enemies too strong for us. Very good hast Thou been to us in times past, in redeeming us from evil, in saving us from calamity, in succoring us in sickness and adversity, and in rescuing us from the hurtful effects of our own wilfulness and folly. Teach us, through these experiences, to be less confident in ourselves and more trustful in Thee. Provide for us the things which are needful for our comfort and safety; prepare us for any trial which Thou mayest be pleased to lay upon us; and whether it shall be good or evil which shall befall us, make it the means of spiritual benefit to our souls. Grant unto us, O Lord, these and all other mercies which Thou seest to be necessary for us, and let Thy Fatherly blessing rest upon our household this day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Redeemer.
AMEN.

XVI.

O LORD God of Israel, there is no god like Thee in the heaven, nor in the earth. Thou art the only living and true God, worthy of the reverence and worship of all who know Thee; and abiding—without variableness or shadow of turning—from everlasting to everlasting. In all generations Thou hast kept covenant with Thy people, and shown mercy to Thy servants who walk before Thee with all their hearts. The saints in all ages have trusted in Thee, and Thou didst deliver them. Our fathers trusted in Thee, and Thou didst not put their hope to shame. Help us to be followers of those who thus, through faith and patience, have inherited the promises. Enable us, at the beginning of this new day, to resolve in all sincerity that, let others choose as they will, as for us and our house, we will serve the Lord; and let grace be added to grace as our needs require, so that we may faithfully and consistently carry out this resolution and pay Thee the vows which our lips have uttered. We know, O Lord, how hard it is to live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present evil world; and we are not ignorant of the devices of the devil, who goeth about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. Too often have the instability of our own wills and the duplicity of our own hearts been revealed to us. Too often we have found that, when we were willing, as we assured ourselves, to do good, evil was present with us; and that, when we were professedly subscribing our covenant with Thee as our Master, we were secretly bowing the knee to some other lord. Save us, O God, from the treachery of our own souls; forbid that we should mock Thee with a divided

homage; purge our minds from all falseness in our dealings with Thee; and in all these conflicts between the flesh and Spirit, give Thou the victory to the better principle. Help us in all our uses of the world to avoid the idolatry which would put it in the place of God; and, instead of seeking its gifts and honors for their own sake, may we seek them chiefly as means whereby we may glorify Thee.

We thank Thee, O merciful Father, for the forbearance Thou hast exercised towards us in times past; for the patience in which Thou hast borne with our provocations; and for the compassion which has pitied our frailties and healed our backslidings. O may the remembrance of Thy goodness lead us to repentance, and inspire us with a stronger hatred of sin, and a warmer love to Thee. Though, like Peter, we have again and again denied Thee, Thou hast not cast us off; and, like Peter, restored by Thine Almighty grace, we would cry, "Lord, Thou knowest all things; Thou knowest that we love Thee." May the sense of our obligations to Christ our Saviour be always so fresh in our hearts that His yoke shall become easy and His burden light to us. Under the promptings of it may we keep His commandments with a cheerful obedience; may we embrace the whole brotherhood of His people in our affection; and may we consent gladly to spend and be spent in His service.

Grant us now Thy blessing as we return to the labors of the world. Make us successful in gaining a support for ourselves and those dependent upon us. Protect us from the evils to which we are always liable in this life of uncertainty and change. Enable us, under all circumstances, to adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour, and to rejoice in Him as our present

Portion, and our eternal Reward, and to Thy great name, Father, Son and Holy Ghost, shall be all the praise. AMEN.

XVII.

O THOU who hast been the dwelling-place of Thy people in all generations, and who didst establish Thy covenant with Thy servants of old, to be a God to them and to their seed after them, we, who live in these last days and in these ends of the earth, would thank Thee that we can claim an interest in the promises made to them, and can believe that Thou art as truly our God and Saviour as Thou wast theirs. Teach us how to realize Thy nearness to us, and to draw constant succor from the thought of Thy presence. Help us to begin this day with the sincere desire to please Thee in all that we shall do. We know, O Lord, that Thy law is holy and just and good, and that Thy ways are right ways; but too often our convictions are overborne by the lusts and passions within us, or by the appeals which the world addresses to our self-love or our interest. We are but feeble children, incapable of walking in our own strength; and, therefore, we would, at the outset of the day's toils and temptations, lay our hands in Thine and beseech Thee to lead us. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. In every place may we remember that Thou God seest us. Keep us under the power of a sound conscience, and of those motives which are supplied by faith in Jesus Christ; that we may be able to deny self in its corrupt suggestions, and resist every social influence which would lead us into a violation of our duty to Thee. Bring our minds into such

harmony with Thy will, that the way of Thy commandments shall be heartily chosen by us, and our services and sacrifices shall be willingly rendered to Thee as a tribute of love.

Grant unto us, O merciful Father, those special blessings which our circumstances as a family require. Thou hast assured us that our way is never hid from Thee, and Thy promises are so exceedingly great and precious that no need that we can suffer has been overlooked, and no danger that threatens us has been unprovided for. According to Thy promises deal with us this day. If it seem right to Thee, grant us exemption from trouble, and success in our worldly callings. Fulfil our desires as parents in regard to our children. May it be our privilege to see them growing not only in health and intelligence, but in virtue and piety. O Holy Spirit, aid our feeble efforts to teach them the way of truth and righteousness, and dispose them to heed our counsels so that we may have the joy of seeing them remembering their Creator in the days of their youth, and consecrating themselves in the morning of life to the service of the blessed Saviour. With all our strivings for their good, help us to keep foremost in our view the gaining for them the true riches which come from Thy favor, and the true wisdom which shall fit them for the life to come as well as for the life which now is. Guard them, O Thou good Shepherd, from the false ways of the world, from the errors incident to their immature age; from the habits and practices of an ungodly society, and from the snares which the enemy of their souls may lay in their paths.

Bless the whole family of mankind. Overrule the affairs of the nations for the maintenance of the truths of religion and the advancement of the kingdom of Christ. From each passing generation, may

more and more be added to the Church of such as shall be saved. May each new generation be wiser and better than their fathers; and as knowledge increases on the earth, may it be sanctified, so that all men shall acknowledge Thee as God—who art in all, and through all, and over all, blessed forevermore. AMEN.

XVIII.

WE acknowledge Thy goodness to us, O Lord, in sparing us to see the light of this new day. Under Thy protecting wings we have slept in safety; at Thy bidding we return to life and activity. We know that during these hours of darkness the angel of death has visited many homes, and borne many who yesterday were dwellers on the earth like us, to the mysterious eternity whither all our paths are tending. They are taken and we are left. Thou hast made us to differ; and as we meet again—a household band—around Thine altar, we would try to feel that by an act of special grace Thou hast given us to one another again, and hast laid us under a new charge to render Thee our united love and service. Help us with one heart and one mind to make our family-life a religious one, and by our association together, to aid one another in our endeavors to please and honor Thee. May Thy law be written so distinctly upon the door-posts of our house, that in all our going out and coming in we shall take knowledge of it. Teach us how to enjoy with temperance the blessings Thou hast given us; keep us from envying those who may be better off than ourselves; assist us in subduing our natural ambition and pride; enable us to avoid all unbecoming conformity to the customs and fashions of

the world; and make us ready to behold a neighbor in every fellow-being whom we can help. Restrain us from the presumptuousness of spirit which would say, "to-day or to-morrow we will go into such a city, and buy and sell, and get gain," and incline us always so to remember our ignorance and frailty as to say, "if the Lord will we shall live and do this or that."

In all our plans and undertakings this day we humbly beg that the Holy Spirit may be our guide. We thank Thee, O Father, that amongst the provisions of Thy gracious covenant Thou hast engaged to give to Thy people the aids of this Divine Teacher and Comforter. We are sure we need these aids. We are sure that our own powers are utterly inadequate to lead us successfully through the perplexities of life. We feel ourselves to be groping in the dark; and in our efforts to find the right way we are driven to confess that we need a better light than our own. O Holy Spirit, shed, through Thy gracious offices, the light of the morning upon our benighted minds, and make clear to us, at all times, the path in which we should walk. Turn away our eyes from beholding vanity and quicken us in Thy way. Suffer us not to be misled by our own desires, or by the influence of evil communications,—into any neglect or violation of the law of God; and keep the love of Christ so predominant in our hearts, that it shall enable us to meet any loss and bear any burden which may be required in order to show our fidelity to Him. Excite within us an unfeigned desire to know and to do the will of our Father in heaven; purge our souls from any corrupt affections; bring them into entire conformity to the mind of Christ; and help us with singleness of eye to walk in the footsteps of our Divine Master.

Bestow upon us such things as are necessary to our

worldly comfort and avert from us the evils to which we, in common with others, are liable. Let Thy presence go with us as we now go forth to the labors of the day; dispose us, in our domestic intercourse, to be kindly-affectioned and helpful towards one another, and in all our dealings with our fellow-men, to be just and charitable; and whatsoever we do, in word or deed, enable us to do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, to whom, with the Father and the Holy Ghost, the one God of our faith and our salvation, we would ascribe present and everlasting glory. AMEN.

XIX.

THOU, O Lord, in whom we live, hast called us back to life once more; and recognizing the doctrine of Thy word, that they only truly live who live unto the Lord, we have come to place ourselves under Thy care and direction, and to pray that we may be enabled to walk this day in Thy ways. We thank Thee that the pulse of health still beats in our veins, that our eyes still look upon the light of the sun, that our ears still drink in the voices of love, and that our souls can still rise to the contemplation and worship of Thee. Help us, O God, to consecrate all our powers to Thee and to make our lives in our lowly sphere on earth in some measure like those of the angels in heaven, who delight to do Thy pleasure. From innumerable forms of sorrow which have visited others of our race, Thou hast delivered us; and however limited our store of blessings may sometimes have seemed to us, we know that our lot in life is measurably better than that of multitudes of our fellow-men. Thou hast favored us with

benefits which Thou hast denied them, and shielded us from calamities which have afflicted them. With profound gratitude we would accept the portion of good things Thou hast allotted to us; and would pray for grace to enable us to make such a use of our gifts and talents as may glorify Thee. Help us to keep in mind the fact that as the followers of Jesus, we are not our own, but belong to Him who loved us and gave Himself for us. Teach us habitually to measure our obligations to Christ by the greatness of His services for us; and while we rejoice in believing that we have all things in Him, may we gladly render all things to Him. With this desire and purpose in our hearts we would begin this day by asking that Thy Holy Spirit may so aid our feeble minds and wills that we shall be able to maintain a blameless walk before Thee, and resist successfully every temptation which would lead us into error or sin. Dispose us to be humble in our estimate of our own spiritual competency, and to be strong and courageous when we remember the strength we have in Thee. Thou hast determined our calling in the world. Enable us to accept it heartily and to fulfil it faithfully, as the part of the service of Thy household which Thou hast assigned to us. Endue us with the holy ambition which shall seek in every position and occupation to do something for the honor of God; and so sanctify our motives and aims that we can truly say, to us to live is Christ; and that we may be assured that whenever death shall terminate our labors, for us to die will be gain.

Defend us this day from calamity in every form; and if it be consistent with Thy holy will, let everything conspire to promote our happiness. Make us ready as members of a family to bear one another's

burdens; to be patient towards one another's needs and failings; and to do good to one another, and to all with whom we may be brought in contact. As living branches of Jesus Christ, the true vine, help us to be fruitful in those works of piety and charity by which our Father in heaven shall be glorified; and dwelling together in the unity of the Spirit and in the bonds of peace, may we find in our fellowship on earth a foretaste of the blessed communion of the saints in heaven.

Let grace, mercy and peace be multiplied abundantly unto all whom we love, and all who love our Lord Jesus Christ; and let Thy blessing rest upon our neighborhood, our country and the world. And unto Thy great name shall be the glory forever.
AMEN.

XX.

GRANT us Thy blessing, O Lord, as we stand at the threshold of this new day. To us it is as a sealed book; we know not what it shall bring forth. But it is enough for us to know that Thou orderest our lot, and that our times and seasons are all in Thy hands. Thy counsel includes all that concerns us; and Thy counsel is a counsel of righteousness and peace towards all who love and serve Thee. We would put our trust in the Living God, and abide under the shadow of the Almighty. Be our guide, protector and benefactor this day. Go with us into every place where we may have to go; direct us in everything we may have to do. Help us to take every step in the untrodden path which lies before us in the faith which beholds an unfailing source of strength and wisdom in God. Thou wast nigh unto

Thy people of old. Thou didst establish Thy covenant with them; Thou didst fulfil unto them all Thy word; and through all their troubles and perils didst bring them out into a wealthy place. Art Thou not our God and our Father, though Abraham be ignorant of us and Israel acknowledge us not? Art Thou not the same, yesterday, to-day, and forever? Thou hast reigned hitherto, O God, and the nations have rejoiced in Thy smile, and trembled at Thy frown. Thou art reigning still, and we would reverently place the affairs of our little home-world under Thy sway. Set up Thy kingdom in our hearts; make our habitation Thy dwelling-place; and help us to perform all the offices of domestic love in such a religious spirit as shall show that in serving one another we are still serving Thee. Make us willing to endure whatever cost or sacrifice may be required of us this day, in testimony of our fidelity to our Divine Master. From this altar where we kneel, we look out into the world into which we must in a few moments pass; and we know that it is a world full of trials, which may overtax our wisdom or patience, and of temptations which may beguile us into the neglect or violation of duty. O Thou Shepherd of the sheep, who goest before Thy flock in every way into which Thou dost, by Thy Providence, put them forth, help us in all our wanderings this day to maintain fellowship with Thee; and, amidst all the clamor of strange voices which may assail us, to recognize and obey Thy voice, saying to us "this is the way, walk ye therein."

O merciful God! look down upon us as we bend before Thee, and hear us, as in these common devotions we pray for one another. We are one, as a family. Thou hast bound our souls together in the unity of the household life. O, bind us all together in the embrace of Thy love; and grant that there

may be one faith, one Lord, one baptism among us all. Make, we beseech Thee, these ties of affection which link us in kinship and in reciprocal service, the channels through which Thy grace shall be poured down upon us all; and may it be our joy to find that God, in giving us to one another, has given Himself to us. All our friends, with the neighbors among whom we dwell, and the race to which we belong, we would, in like manner, commend to Thy favor. Give success to the Gospel wherever it is preached. Let Christ be so enthroned in the hearts of all who profess to teach His religion, that it shall be their supreme desire and endeavor to enthrone Him in the hearts of those whom they teach. It was the power of Thy word which at the first brought light out of darkness. O make the power of that Word effectual now in dissipating the darkness of unbelieving men and nations, and let the day arrive when every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Go with us now, as we go forth to our several employments. Shield us from harm during the hours of our separation. Fulfil unto us the desires of our hearts, so far as shall seem good in Thy sight; and whatever may befall us, sustain us with the assurance that Thou art our Friend and Portion; and Thine shall be the praise, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Redeemer. AMEN.

XXI.

O THOU whose ear is never heavy that it cannot hear, and whose hand is never shortened that it cannot save, deign once more to hear the cry of Thy children, and stretch forth Thine hand this day to

succor and save us. The morning which restores us to life reminds us anew of our dependence upon Thee. We are in Thy hands, O Lord, waking or sleeping; and in all our scheming and toiling we would remember Thy words, "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it; except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain." Let the thought of God mingle with all our thoughts, and the fear of Him give wisdom to all our counsels this day. Encompassed as we shall be with the exactions of this visible world, and beset by the solicitations of sense and passion, enable us, we beseech Thee, to maintain a spiritual mind; to apprehend and feel the powers of the world to come; to walk by faith as well as by sight; and to keep all earthly pursuits in subordination to the great end of glorifying Thee and securing the life which is eternal. Dispose us at all times to interpret Thy ways and works by Thy Word; and especially through Christ, the incarnate Word, may we learn the Father and the gracious meaning of all that the Father does or permits concerning us. Shall we ever doubt the love of Him who so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life? O enlarge our spiritual perceptions that we may see the fulness of this unspeakable gift, and may ever rest in the confidence that with it Thou wilt freely give us all things that we need. If, in humble hope, we can claim a place in the Father's house as the "sons of God," invigorate, embolden our faith, so that we may add the title, "heir," to that of "son"; and rejoice in this, that under all circumstances, whether of prosperity or adversity, we are "heirs of God and joint-heirs with Jesus Christ." Dear Saviour, forbid that we should ever be so rich as to

feel that we are poor without Thee; or so poor as to forget that we are infinitely rich in possessing Thee.

Graciously assist us, O Lord, in the duties we shall this day be called upon to perform. Help us to keep Thy commandments and abide in Thy love. Restrain our desires, that they may not go after forbidden things. Endue us with that sensitiveness of conscience which shall make us esteem sin a worse evil than suffering, and shall make us ready to forego any indulgence which would cost us the loss of Thy favor. Thou requirest truth in the inward parts; make us, therefore, to be upright and sincere, without guile and without hypocrisy. If we should wander from Thee, mercifully recover us; if we fall, lift us up. If Thy chastisements should be laid upon us, enable us to see the hand that sends them and meekly to learn the lessons Thou wouldst teach us by them.

Bless every member of our family. Thou, blessed Saviour, didst invite even little children to Thine arms, and didst give them a place in Thy prayers. Embrace, we beseech Thee, the living ones of our home in Thy loving care. Give them the new birth which shall admit them into Thy kingdom, and the new heart which shall convert them into the children of God. Help those of us whom Thou hast set over the household to be faithful in watching over our charge; and by example, as well as precept, and by our consistent walk, as well as by our patient instruction, may we, through Thy blessing, be successful in winning all who are under our roof to the love and service of the Redeemer. Go with us now to the labors of the day; shield us from harm, deliver us from temptation, and permit us to meet again in peace at the close of the day. We ask all for Jesus' sake. AMEN.

XXII.

O THOU who art the fountain of life, it is by Thy inspiration that we appear before Thee this morning as occupants of this living world. We could not tell—we did not know, when we parted for the night that we should ever meet again; but Thou hast sustained us; Thou hast placed underneath us Thine everlasting arms; and by Thy command the death-angel has passed by our doors. O God, help us to feel how near to us Thou hast been; Thou compassest our path; Thou knowest our down-sitting and our up-rising; Thou upholdest our goings; Thou art touching us at every moment and embracing us on every side. Through Thy presence with us we have gone safely through all the days of the past. In that presence we confide for guidance and protection through all the vicissitudes of the future. Suffer us not to be blind to the resources we have in Thee. Put within us the faith of the little child; and may our weakness be made strong to do the work given us to do, and to endure the trials given us to bear, through the strength of our omnipotent Father's arm. And now we ask Thy help for the day that is before us. Keep us from forgetting Thee as we go out into a world where Thou art to so large an extent denied. May our faith reveal itself in all our works; and may it be apparent to all men that our supreme desire is to show ourselves approved unto God. Enable us to keep in exercise the spiritual mind that recognizes our relations to Thee at all times, and that shall make us quick to discern Thy voice amidst all the conflicting voices of the world. May Thy law be so written upon our hearts that it shall continually speak to us through our memories, and

guide us by our consciences. Deal mercifully with us; and, so far as may be consistent with Thy will, spare us those afflictions to which we know we are liable in common with all others. It is our joy to believe that Thou doest Thy will in the army of heaven and amongst the inhabitants of the earth, and we know that Thy will is always just and good. We desire to say from the heart, Thy will be done; and we would check ourselves, even in our prayers, lest we presume to put our will above Thine. We offer our petitions to Thee, O God, in great humility, for we know not what to pray for as we ought. Grant us what we ask when we ask for what is right; and withhold from us our requests when we ask for what is wrong. O bring our souls so completely under the motives of redemption—under the constraining power of Christ's love to us—that we shall learn at last that our personal gratification is not the end of our being, and that even the cross must be borne when it is necessary to test our fidelity to Thee.

Once more we invoke Thy blessing upon our household. For the absent as well as the present we pray, rejoicing that our Father's hand can reach them when ours cannot. Remember any of our flock or of our kindred who may be sick, and mercifully restore them. Sustain the aged in their infirmities. Let Thy presence with them take away the sense of loneliness; and with a good hope of eternal life brightening their declining hours, may they patiently wait for the coming of the Lord. Our children, dear Saviour, we bring to Thee. Let Thy benediction rest upon each one of them, and through Thy gracious power may they be born into the kingdom of God in the morning of their days. If the evil spirit has entered into any of

them, O cast him out; restore the prodigal to his right mind; and grant us the joy of seeing the child that was dead alive again. Show Thy favor to the community to which we belong and to the nation beneath whose government we live. Give us fruitful seasons; make the elements ministers of mercy, and not of judgment; supply the wants of the poor; incline the hearts of men to be benevolent and sympathetic; enable us this day to imitate our blessed Saviour in doing good as we have the opportunity; and if death should come suddenly to any of us, mercifully receive our spirits unto Thyself, through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. AMEN.

XXIII.

TO Thee, O Lord, would we direct our first thoughts as we begin this new day. We would realize that our first need is Thy favor and Thy blessing. We are afraid to take the first step in the onward march of life unless Thou go with us. While we shall exercise our best wisdom and strength in the choice and execution of our purposes, we would still look to Thy wisdom to guide us, and to Thy strength to make us successful. May the religion which we profess with our lips go into all our actions and give form and direction to all our undertakings this day. Help us to take counsel of God in all our schemes. Help us to feel that we need the Lord to be our dwelling-place more than this frail structure which we call our home. Help us to esteem the light of Thy countenance more precious than the light of the sun. Help us to hunger after Thy word and the knowledge of Thy truth more than we hunger after our daily bread. Help us to be more

covetous of those graces which shall make us rich toward God, than of those possessions which shall make us rich in this world's wealth. O Lord, pity us. We are ignorant; give us the right understanding of things, so that we may know good from evil. We are weak and incompetent. We are swayed by passions, blinded by conceit and prejudice, and often carried headlong by our impetuous desires. The good that we would, we do not; the evil that we would not, that we do. O God, strengthen within us the better law of the mind, and suffer us not to be overcome by the law of sin which is in our members. Enable us to walk more closely with Thee than we have done in days gone by. We have wandered—we have fallen often in our previous course; but our eyes still seek the path we have left. Lord, we cannot go away from Thee. Thou, and Thou only, hast the words of eternal life. Though in our heedlessness and waywardness we have so often denied Thee, we must still say, "Thou knowest all things—Thou knowest that we love Thee." Though the consciousness of our infirmity and the remembrance of our unfaithfulness would sometimes almost swallow us up, we cry out of the depths, "Lord, save us, we perish;" and looking unto Jesus, we feel the drawings of Thy love lifting us up from despair.

We thank thee for the pleasant circumstances under which we meet this morning. We thank Thee if we can say we are all in the enjoyment of health. We thank Thee that we have bread to eat and raiment to wear. If any are sick, we thank Thee that their sickness has not been unto death; and that they are still with us to be watched over and prayed for. Lord, remember them in Thy mercy, and speedily remove their disorders, and let them

live to join with us in praising Thy name for Thy great goodness to them and to us. We thank Thee for the friends Thou hast given us; and in every touch of their hands which soothes us, we would feel the touch of God's hand. We thank Thee for the dear ones who have dropped from our side on our journey through life, and for the hope that the gospel gives us, that these broken love-links shall be knit again in heaven. We thank Thee for our prosperity, and all our gettings we would regard as Thy gifts. We thank Thee that tribulations, if they have darkened our lot, do not bear to us the darkness of our Father's frown; but through His grace can be overruled for our good, and converted into the discipline of love which shall prepare us for His presence and kingdom. With our hearts full of gratitude and trustfulness and love, may we go forth to the labors of the day. Watch tenderly over each member of our little band; what our hands find to do in our various spheres of service for one another and for all men, help us to do it with our might; and with some sheaves in our hands as tokens of our fidelity to Thee, may we return at night to lay our evening sacrifices upon Thine altar. We ask all for Jesus' sake. AMEN.

XXIV.

O THOU who art unsearchable in Thy greatness, we would worship and adore Thee. O Thou who art inexhaustible in Thy goodness, we would praise and bless Thee. Thou art the fountain of each day's mercies. Morning by morning they descend upon us like the dew. Thou hast gifts to bestow for every season of the year—for every stage

of life—for every change of scene or circumstance. So wisely hast Thou ordered the bestowment of Thy bounties that, though they come to us with a regularity that never fails, they come to us with the freshness of things always new. Our joys become brighter by reason of the contrasts through which they are presented to us. Privations give a livelier relish to our comforts; hunger sweetens the homely loaf upon our table; and the darkness of the night prepares the way for the splendor of the sunrise. Help us to see that God is meeting us, this morning, in the thousand tokens of His beneficence; and let the gladness which returning life has poured into our hearts be turned into devout acknowledgments of the loving kindness of our Heavenly Father. If, as we have looked into each other's faces to-day, with the solicitude which is always trembling for the welfare of those we love, we have received the response "All is well," we would lift our souls in thankfulness to Thee. Thou, O God, hast made it well with us all; and to Thy name be the praise. Continue Thy favor to us through the day. As Thou knowest all things, Thou knowest what is best for us. If it seem good to Thee, grant us Thy favor in the form of that safety and prosperity which we naturally desire. But if it should please Thee to send us trouble or disappointment, enable us to see Thy favor even in the chastisements which befall us; and to sustain ourselves by the assurance that our tribulations cannot separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus. While exercising all proper diligence in our worldly business, may we be, at the same time, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. May the faith which we hold in our hearts show itself by consistent works; and the fruits of godliness abounding in our lives attest the

genuineness of our union with Christ as branches of the true vine. As our blessed Master made himself of no reputation and humbled himself, even to the taking on the form of a servant, so may we be humble, consecrated in spirit, seeking not our own glory, but the glory of God. May the pride which is constantly asserting the rights of self be crucified by the contemplation of the cross of Jesus; and the sordid cravings which are constantly going out after worldly ease and indulgence be exchanged for the self-forgetting zeal which asks at every step, "Lord, what wilt Thou have us to do?" Open our eyes that we may see Thee, and discover the intimations of Thy will in the little things of our experience. It is but a little space in the world Thou hast given us to occupy; but Thou dost use the weak things of the world to confound the mighty, and out of the mouths of babes and sucklings dost Thou ordain strength. Help us to believe that Thou art with us in our lowly spheres of labor; that Thou dost not despise the two mites which we, in our poverty, bring to Thee; and that even the homely occupations which degrade us in the eyes of the world are acknowledged as honorable by Thee. In all our discouragements teach us how to encourage ourselves in the Lord; and in all our dark hours and seasons of peril, enable us to hear the voice of Jesus saying, "It is I, be not afraid."

We now commit our way unto Thee for the day. Lead us in a plain path, for our enemies, within and without us, are many, and are busy with their devices. If it seem right to Thee, fulfil unto us our desires, and enable us to accomplish our purposes. In our transactions with our fellow-men, dispose us to love our neighbor as we love ourselves; and forbid that we should, under any provo-

cation, seek to avenge ourselves, or to render railing for railing or evil for evil. But building ourselves up in our most holy faith, and praying in the Holy Ghost, may we keep ourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. Hear, O God, our prayer, and to Thy name, the only wise God, our Saviour, shall glory and majesty, dominion and power, be ascribed, both now and forever. AMEN.

XXV.

O THOU who makest the light to shine out of darkness, we thank Thee that Thou hast permitted us to see the dawn of another day. Over our weary eyes Thou didst spread the curtains of the night. Thou hast renewed our exhausted powers by the balm of sleep; and now, Thou hast awakened us to join with all Thy works in praising Thee for Thy goodness. We bless Thee for the revelations of Thy glory which are made to us through the heavens and the earth; and for the capacities of mind and body by which we are enabled to see and enjoy the spectacle of Thy handiwork. Help us, O Lord, to discover Thy presence and Thy working in the world within us, as well as the world without. Help us to hear Thy voice speaking to us in the utterances of conscience. Help us to recognize Thy Spirit in every clear conviction of duty, and in every good disposition or impulse by which we are moved. Help us to feel the restraining touch of Thy hand in every check which is laid upon our indulgences in sin, and in every disclosure which is made to us of the guilt and folly of a worldly life. Help us to discern the

drawing of Thy love in every affecting view we have of Christ and His cross, and in every persuasion which leads us to arise and return to our Father's house. Forbid that we should this day, by our unbelief or our insensibility, make Thee, O God, afar off; but rather help us in all things to bring Thee near, and to realize that Thou art over us and within us as the light of the sun is around our path. Enable us each one this day to shine as a light in the world, and through the clear testimony which we shall give to the power of Thy grace within our hearts, may others seeing our good works be led to glorify Thee, our Father in Heaven. In the humble and consistent following of Jesus, the true Light, may we walk as children of the light and be kept from all fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness. We are reminded by a thousand recollections, of our short-sightedness and of our inability to guide ourselves. We have been rebuked again and again for the self-confidence which has presumed to choose our own way. Lord, we trust we do now, in all sincerity, put our hands in Thine and ask Thee to guide us. In Thy wisdom and mercy direct our steps. We ask of Thee, O Father, the things which seem to us good. Thou knowest whether they are good or not. If Thou shouldest see fit to deny them to us, we pray that the faith which has encouraged us to pray for them may enable us to see in the denial of them the answer to our prayers which it was best that we should have. Spread for us, day by day, our table; bless us in our basket and our store; give us such a return for our labor that we shall always have a sufficiency in our garner for the wants of our household; continue to us the boon of health; preserve unbroken the ties of love which bind us together as a family; dis-

pose us to resign cheerfully the great things we cannot have, and make us ready with lively gratitude to see and acknowledge Thy goodness in the little things which it has pleased Thee to attach to our place and condition in life. Let not our hearts be troubled or intimidated by the trials which may befall us in the future; and suffer not our souls to be confounded by those strange calamities which seem to say to the natural mind, God has forsaken us. In the darkest hour help us to cling most closely to Thee. As the fashion of this world changes, enable us to hold fast more firmly to the unchanging God; and when, at last, heart and flesh must fail us, be Thou the strength of our hearts and our portion forever. So, O Lord, let Thy light cheer us through all the vicissitudes of our way; and in joy or sorrow alike may we be enabled to maintain our steadfastness as Christians, and to glorify Thee before the eyes of our generation.

Bless, with us, our friends and kindred everywhere. Protect any who may be beyond the reach of our care; fulfil the desires of our hearts toward all whom we love; and make us all one in the possession of the precious faith of Thine elect, and in the hope of eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom be glory forever. AMEN.

XXVI.

WE bless Thee, O merciful Father, that this morning finds us all alive and well; that the security of our home has been undisturbed; that our ordinary comforts have been continued to us; and that, with renovated powers, we are permitted to return to the business of life. "Thou hast given us the

shield of Thy salvation, and Thy gentleness hath made us great." Thou hast taught us, O Lord, that Thou dost care for us, that we may more wisely care for ourselves. Not as the brutes, which know Thee not, would we lie down and rise up, but as God's rational children, who can appreciate their high relationship, and see, in their daily callings, the work He has given them to do. Forbid that we should prostitute the being Thou hast given us to any evil uses. Forbid that we should, by cherishing any impure lust, or engaging in any vicious practice, deform the nature which Thou hast endowed us. Help us to regard all our powers of mind and body as vessels sacred to the Lord; and suffer us not to touch them with an unclean hand, or profane them by making them the ministers of sin. Dwell in us continually by Thy Holy Spirit, so that we may be able, under Thy prompting, to keep the way of uprightness and exemplify the character of temples of the living God. We tremble when we reflect upon the responsibilities which accompany the lives Thou hast conferred upon us—when we remember that we are encompassed and penetrated by Thy holy law as by an atmosphere—and when we are forewarned of Thee, that for all these deeds done in the body we shall be called into judgment. O Lord, help us; O Lord, pity our infirmities. Let Thy grace abound towards us, for who is sufficient for these things? Let Thy wisdom instruct our ignorance, and Thy strength be perfected in our weakness. Purify, we beseech Thee, the fountains of our nature; make the tree good, that the fruit may be good; give us the righteous principle and temper, that we may work the works of righteousness; and implant within us the love of God, that we may, from the heart, do the will of God. In our labors

this day, for the interests of the body and for the improvement of our worldly estate, let us not overlook the interests of the soul, nor put the things which are seen and temporal above those which are unseen and eternal. Forbid that the Master of the house, when he cometh, should find any of us sleeping. If we should be called suddenly away from our stewardship to-day, may the summons find us steadfastly treading the strait and narrow way—walking with God—with our hands locked in the hand of Jesus.

We pray for the universal coming of Thy kingdom; for the overthrow of all false systems of religion; for the deliverance of those whom Satan has taken captive at his will; and for the salvation of perishing souls from death. The wickedness of man is still great in the earth, and everywhere men are making void Thy law. O Lord, withhold Thy judgments from us, and let Thy mercy preserve, when Thy wrath might so justly destroy, our guilty race. Regard the cries of Thy saints whose souls are vexed by this abounding iniquity; and, in answer to their prayers, and through Thy blessing upon their efforts, may the traces of evil be obliterated; may vice and crime disappear; may human governments be purged of their abuses, and human laws be framed and executed in harmony with Thy perfect law; and may the whole creation be redeemed from its bondage to corruption. Bless us, and bless all the families with whom we are associated in this neighborhood or community, with health and food and all the comforts of this life; favor the endeavors of all who are engaged in good and honest callings; send us the sunshine and the rain, and all those natural influences upon which our success is dependent, in due season and measure;

let it not be necessary to scourge us with any private or public calamity; lead us, as far as may be best for us, through pleasant places while we live, and save us when we die; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Redeemer. AMEN.

XXVII.

WE adore Thee, O Thou blessed God, because Thou art infinitely good in Thyself, and because Thou art ceaselessly doing good in Thy providence. Thou art the High and Holy One who inhabitest eternity; and Thou art the beneficent Father who art strewing the earth with Thy mercies. We rejoice that the world and all that is in it is in Thy hands. We begin this new day of our lives by acknowledging Thee; and we would keep Thee in our thoughts all the day long. We would exalt Thee in our conceptions and in our affections, until we can say, "whom have we in heaven but Thee, and there is none upon the earth that we desire beside Thee." Dear Saviour, Thou hast revealed to us the brightness of the Father's glory. Thou art the express image of His person. Thou hast taught us to see the Father, and to know the Father, through the Son. O, our Father, in the light of that unspeakable love which Thou hast revealed to us in Christ, we would measure and interpret all the ordinary manifestations of Thy love; and we pray that, with senses quickened by the view of Christ, we may hear Thy voice saying to us, "my child, give me thine heart," in every blessing which attends our lot; and see Thee opening the door and stretching forth Thy hand to the returning prodigal in every act of Thy bounty. Open our eyes that we may see things in

their spiritual aspects and bearings. In our intercourse with the world, help us to walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit; and in all the departments of secular life in which we are called to act, enable us to show that we are seeking,—and seeking first,—the kingdom of God and His righteousness.

We implore Thee, O Lord, to watch kindly over all our interests this day. Thou knowest what solicitude we entertain for one another and what services we would render to one another, if we could. We ask Thee to interpose for our succor; to assume the burden of our solitudes; and to perform the services we cannot perform of ourselves. The needs of the infant in the cradle,—of the reckless child,—of the youth just stepping upon the dangerous battle-fields of life,—of the aged patriarch with dim eye and trembling hand,—of the anxious mother burdened with her household charge,—and of the man groaning under the drudgery of his daily toil for the support of wife and little ones—all Thou dost tenderly regard, and upon all we invoke Thy Fatherly blessing. We pray for the country in which we live, that it may please Thee to continue to us all our privileges as a nation; to give us good men to administer the government; to defeat the designs of the malignant and corrupt; to maintain peace and goodwill among the different sections of our land; to favor the efforts of all who are trying to cultivate sound morals and to promote works of beneficence; and to leaven the whole mass of our population with the spirit and power of the true religion. We pray for the church of God, that it may be kept free, in all its parts and members, from human inventions and worldly idolatries, and may truly reflect in its doctrine, order and policy, the mind of Christ, that it may receive, in increased measure, the baptism of the

Holy Ghost; that it may maintain amidst all its outward diversities, the unity of the Spirit in the bonds of peace; and that with harmony of counsel and supreme devotion to the interests of Thy kingdom, it may combine its energies in its great work of converting the world to Christ. We pray for the whole race of man,—for the heathen in the ends of the earth,—for those degraded tribes who would naturally be to us objects of loathing,—for the millions who are wandering in error, like sheep having no shepherd,—that to them all the Gospel may be sent; and that through the power of the Gospel the leper may be cleansed, the blind may see the light, the dead may be raised to life, and the whole world be brought to share in the blessings of the religion of the Lord Jesus Christ. And now, O Lord, we commend ourselves to Thy guidance and care for this day. Help us to make it a good day—a useful day—a day abounding in the work of the Lord. Bless, with us, our dear ones everywhere, and let grace, mercy and peace be multiplied unto them all, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. AMEN.

PRAYERS
FOR WEEK-DAY EVENINGS.

Evening Prayers.

I.

O GOD, the God of the spirits of all flesh, we thank Thee that Thou hast kept our souls in life this day, and hast brought us again to the hour of rest. As a father pitieth his children, so Thou, O Lord, hast pitied us; Thy mercies are renewed to us every morning and evening; Thou makest our cup to run over. We praise Thy name for the innumerable comforts and blessings we have enjoyed; and here at Thy footstool, in the faith of little children, we would trace back everything which has contributed to our good to Thy hand as the source from which it has come. With hearts encouraged by the goodness Thou hast shown to us through the day, we commit ourselves to Thy keeping for the night. Spread over us Thy protecting wings. Grant unto these frail bodies the repose they need. Suffer no evil to befall us, and no plague to come nigh our dwelling during these hours of unconsciousness and helplessness which are before us. Fill our minds with the peace of God which passeth all understanding; and, with the composure of those who feel that, living or dying, they are the Lord's, may we resign ourselves to that sleep which so sensibly reminds us of the sleep from which we shall never awake.

Forgive, O Lord, the sins which any of us may have committed against Thee; for "there is no man

living who sinneth not." If we have this day, in thought, word, or deed, violated Thy holy law; if we have forgotten Thee in our devotion to our worldly pursuits; if, in our heedlessness or passionateness, we have been betrayed into any wrong tempers or acts; if, in any way, we have been unduly conformed to the spirit and practice of the world, so as to bring reproach upon the worthy name of the Divine Master whom we profess to follow, we entreat Thee now, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our great Redeemer, to cleanse us from all our iniquities and to grant unto us the assurance of Thy pardoning mercy, before we go to our rest.

Help us to remember, as day after day passes away, that our life is a pilgrimage, and that we are but sojourners on the earth, as all our fathers were; and as those to whom the Bridegroom may come at any moment, make us watchful and diligent in having our preparation for His appearing complete.

Be near, O merciful Father, to those of our friends who may be far from us, to comfort and bless them. Pity the sufferers who shall lie this night upon beds of pain, and bring them relief, or enable them to bear patiently their tribulations. Raise up friends for the homeless and the outcast. Give success to every endeavor which Thy people are making to reclaim the evil-doer; and, through the power of Thy truth and the presence of Thy Spirit, cause the dark places of the earth to be enlightened, and the shadows of sin and woe which now rest upon the world to disappear before the coming of the Sun of Righteousness.

Hear this our evening prayer; and let grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord be multiplied abundantly unto us all. AMEN.

II.

ALMIGHTY God, our Heavenly Father, by whose care we have been preserved, and by whose bounty we have been fed through another day, accept now, we beseech Thee, our evening sacrifice of praise. As Thou hast so kindly fulfilled our requests addressed to Thee in the morning, so continue to us Thy loving kindness during the night. Protect Thou these bodily frames while our own vigilance is withdrawn from them; and help us to make this act of seeking rest, by which we express our natural weakness, an occasion for expressing our faith in Thee. If, amidst the occupations of the day, we have forgotten Thee, and fancied we were walking in our own strength, we would be reminded, by the gathering darkness, of our folly, and confess that it is in Thee that we live and move and have our being. From a thousand perils Thou hast delivered us in times past. One and another of our companions has dropped from our side; and yet we are left. Other homes are sad to-night by reason of the absence of loved ones whose chairs at the fireside are vacant forever: but Thou hast kept our feet from falling, our eyes from tears, and our souls from death. Truly Thou hast been good to us, and Thy mercy endureth forever. Spare us, O Lord, if it please Thee, a little longer to one another; and help us so to redeem the time that remains to us that we may use it in promoting one another's welfare, and advancing Thy glory in the world.

If we have done anything good this day, we thank Thee for the disposition and the ability to do it. If in any thing we have done wrong; if we have given way to evil tempers; if we have been covetous or immoderate in our devotion to business; if we have

been envious, or uncharitable, or impatient, or fretful, we entreat Thee now, for Christ's sake, to forgive us. O Thou merciful Saviour, who hast said, "If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me," we bring to Thee these hands, these feet, these hearts, with all the defilement which may cling to them, and beg Thee to wash them clean. We bear our guilt to the foot of Thy cross, and pray that the sacrifice for human sin which Thou hast offered there may avail for our redemption. According to Thine own gracious invitation, we bring our burdened consciences to Thee that Thou mayest give us rest.

Extend Thy compassion to all who are in distress, to the chambers of sickness, the abodes of poverty, and even the haunts of vice. Pity the widow in her loneliness, and hear the orphan's cry. Be the friend of the friendless and the outcast. May Thy special blessing rest this night upon the habitations of our kindred everywhere, and may grace, mercy, and peace be multiplied unto all who love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Lord, into Thy hands we commit ourselves, with all our interests, for time and eternity; and pray that, if sudden death should overtake any of us during our sleep, we may awake in Thy likeness and enter into Thy heavenly rest. We ask all for Christ's sake. AMEN.

III.

WE thank Thee, most merciful God, for the many tokens of Thy favor bestowed upon us this day. Truly as a father pitieth his children, the Lord hath pitied us. The cry of the poor and needy

Thou hast not despised; and the prayers of the morning have been answered in a hundred blessings from Thy bountiful hand. Not unto us, not unto our own wisdom or strength, would we ascribe our safety and success, but unto Thy name, O Lord. With renewed confidence in the promises of Thy word, and with an humble sense of our continued dependence upon Thee, we would come to Thee with our evening petitions.

Spread over us Thy protecting wings during the watches of the night. Grant to the weary bodies the repose they need, and keep our minds from disquietude and alarm. Defend our persons and our dwelling from sickness, from accident, from the violence of evil men, and from every calamity; and through Thy blessing may our slumber yield us such refreshment as shall fit us to engage with increased alacrity in Thy service when we awake. Forgive us for the faults which we have committed this day. In the light of Thy Law, which we know to be holy and just and good, we dare not—we would not lay claim to any righteousness of our own by which we can be justified in Thy sight. For anything good that has been in us, or has been wrought by us, we thankfully ascribe all the praise to that Holy Spirit who has kept and strengthened us; and if in anything we have done wrong, we would now honestly confess it, sincerely deplore it, and humbly beg that it may, for Jesus' sake, be blotted out from the book of Thy remembrance. Grant unto us all the mercy Thou hast promised to those who truly repent and believe in Thy Son; and, with the sweet assurance that our sins are pardoned, and that Thou art at peace with us, may we separate for the night.

Let Thy fatherly blessing rest upon the friends

and families with whom we are connected. If any of our little band are absent from us to-night, we commend them to Thy guardianship and care. Remember in Thy mercy those in this community who are sick or in trouble. Comfort the hearts of the bereaved and sanctify the sorrows of the desolate and afflicted. Teach the laboring and heavy-laden everywhere to turn away from their false dependences, and to come to Jesus for the rest which the world cannot give them. Fit us all, through the dark experiences of this life, for the dawning of the day when we shall awake in Thy likeness and be eternally satisfied. We ask all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, we would ascribe all honor and glory, world without end. AMEN.

IV:

O THOU who dost permit us to call Thee Our Father in Heaven, and hast invited us to come to Thee with our cares and our wants, as children come to an earthly parent, accept now, we beseech Thee, the sacrifice of praise which we bring to Thee at the close of another day; and grant unto us Thy protecting care during the night which is before us. We would try with unfeigned faith to feel and acknowledge our dependence upon Thee for all the good that we can attain to in this life, or in the life to come. As we look back over all the comforts we have enjoyed—the successes we have accomplished—or the deliverances we have experienced this day, we would ascribe them all to Thee, and thank Thee that Thou hast thus deigned to notice and to bless us. We pray Thee to fill our hearts with such a sense of Thine

amazing love, in giving Thy only begotten Son to be our Saviour, that we shall be able to see Thy love pervading all things which befall us, even where these things are such as we would not ourselves have chosen. Help us to carry with us into all the changing experiences of life the sustaining thought, that as Christ is ours, so all things must be ours. And so, when Thy ways are strange to us, may we still rejoice in them as the ways which God has chosen for us, and wait patiently for the revelation of the mercy which lies hidden in all His denials and chastisements.

Forgive, we beseech Thee, the faults into which we may have been betrayed this day. So prone are we to err, that these faults sometimes seem to us as numerous as the hairs of our heads; and coming into Thy presence, we can only smite upon our breasts and cry, "God be merciful to us sinners." Grant unto us now Thy pardoning mercy; and whilst in sincerity we ask it, may we in faith believe that through Christ we receive it; and so be enabled, with our consciences at rest and our souls in fellowship with Thee, to lay our heads upon our pillows in the assurance that Thou art our loving Guardian and Friend. Keep us from harm while we sleep. Watch over this mysterious principle of life from which, during these hours of coming unconsciousness, our own vigilance must be withdrawn. Refresh the exhausted powers of nature, and raise us up again in the morning strengthened and furnished for the duties which may lie before us.

Pity, O Lord, the world which lies in wickedness, and which, by reason of its wickedness, continues to groan and travail in pain together until now. Pity the wretched victims of vice in this community, who are wandering from the Father's house and are perishing with want and hunger. Help every effort

which Thy servants are making to enlighten the ignorant and reclaim the abandoned; and hasten the day when our land shall no more be defiled with deeds of darkness, and the spirit which now worketh in the children of disobedience shall give place to the Spirit of Christ and His Gospel.

Remember, in Thy goodness, all in other places who are dear to us. Grant them aid according to their necessities; guide them and us by Thy counsels as long as we shall live; and minister to us all at last an entrance abundantly into Thine everlasting kingdom, through Jesus Christ, our only Lord and Redeemer. AMEN.

V.

O LORD, what shall we render unto Thee for all the benefits conferred upon us this day? Goodness and mercy have followed us through all its hours; Thou hast blessed the out-going of the morning and the evening with Thy continued loving-kindness. Not as orphans, solitary and friendless,—not as creatures of chance, with no intelligent benefactor to love and care for them,—but as children guided by a Father's hand, and watched over by a Father's eye, have we made our journey step by step through life. We thank Thee that we are permitted to see Thee, not only as present in Thy works, but as presiding over Thy works and doing Thy will in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth. We would be grateful; we would magnify Thy benevolence and grace; but we would be humble while we recount Thy mercies. For what are we, O Lord, that Thou shouldst be mindful of us? And why is it that we who are so

undeserving should have received good at the hand of God, and not evil? Thou hast not dealt with us after our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. We confess with sorrow and shame that our love to Thee has been inconstant; that our obedience has been imperfect; and that our shortcomings and faults have been without number. How often this day the dullness of our carnal nature has made us heedless of the teachings of Thy word and the movings of Thy Spirit! How often have our treacherous ears listened to the voices of the world instead of the voice of Jesus our Master! With self-abasement we bow the knee to-night, and deplore the sins of thought, word and deed into which we have been beguiled since we pledged to Thee the vows of the morning. We pray Thee, for Christ's sake, to forgive what we have done amiss, and by Thy grace enable us to do so no more. We would humbly implore Thee, in this hour of contrition, to bestow upon us, not only the peace which comes from pardoned sin, but the illumination, the sensibility, which shall make us feel more the hatefulness of sin and desire more ardently to be made complete in holiness.

Grant us healthful repose this night. Into Thy hands we commit ourselves and all whom we love. Spare us, if it please Thee, a little longer on the earth; and dispose us, with an increasing singleness of purpose, to devote each new day to Thee. Suffer not death to invade our home or break any of these fond ties which bind us as a family together; make us faithful in discharging our duties in our various relations; bless the children of the household and incline them in their early years to consecrate themselves to Thy service; unite us together by the bonds of a common Christian faith; and

when the earthly house of our tabernacle must be dissolved, may we have the comfort of knowing that we shall all be gathered together again in the Father's house above. Trusting in Jesus, may we be prepared to lie down in death as tranquilly as we now go to the slumbers of the night. All we ask is in the name of the great Redeemer, to whom, with the Father and the Holy Ghost, be endless glory now and forever. AMEN.

VI.

() THOU who hast promised rest unto all that labor and are heavy laden, we recognize the fulfilment of Thy gracious promise, even in the provision Thou hast made for our bodily rest. As the rising sun required us to take up the burdens allotted to us in Thy Providence, so the gathering darkness has brought us Thy kind permission to lay down these burdens. And through all the day Thou hast strengthened us and guided us by Thy hand. We thank Thee for the ability to do this day's duties. Great has been Thy faithfulness to us, O Lord, in granting us the soundness of mind and of body we asked of Thee in the morning; and now, with our faith confirmed by all our experience of Thy goodness in the past, we would ask from Thee a continuance of Thy compassion and care this night. Protect us during the defenceless hours of sleep. Let Thine Almighty arms be round about our persons and our home; and beneath the shadow of Thy wings may we repose in safety and peace.

Help us to be truly penitent for what we have done wrong this day. Make us honest in judging ourselves; keep us from self-deception; suffer us not

to be misled by the applause of our fellow-men; but as those who are accountable to God, and who remember that in Thy sight the best of men are but unprofitable servants, may we ever be ready to take the attitude of sinners, and to depend for our acceptance with Thee alone upon the merits of our Lord Jesus Christ. Reveal to us more and more the fulness of grace there is in Him, and as often as our sins rise up to condemn us, encourage us to confess them to Thee, with a contrite heart, and in the assurance that, if we so confess them, Thou art faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Day by day we would return to the fountain Thou hast opened for sin and uncleanness, and humbly ask that the blood of Christ, our Divine Redeemer, may wash us from our pollution. Lift upon us now, O merciful God, the light of Thy reconciled countenance; and in the sweet confidence that Thou art at peace with us, enable us to sink into the slumber of the night. Make us mindful to forgive others as we hope to be forgiven of Thee. If any one has wronged us this day, help us to refrain from cherishing resentment, and from desiring to render evil for evil. If any one has shown us kindness we accept it as the kindness of God, and pray for His blessing upon our benefactor.

Make us more anxious, the longer we live, to abound in the work of the Lord; and following more and more closely in the footsteps of Jesus, may our path become like that of the shining light, which shineth more and more unto the perfect day. Help us to keep in mind the shortness of life and the rapidity with which it is passing away, and as the opportunities are measured out to us in these successive periods of labor and rest, make us dili-

gent in improving them as good stewards of God, for His glory and the good of our fellow-men. And so when our last night shall come, may it be our comfort to know that, in some humble measure, we have fought a good fight, we have finished our course, we have kept the faith, and that henceforth there is laid up for us a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give us at that day. And Thine shall be the glory forever. AMEN.

VII.

UNTO Thee lift we up our eyes, O Thou that dwellest in the heavens. Behold, as the eyes of servants look unto the hand of their masters, and as the eyes of a maiden unto the hand of her mistress, so our eyes wait upon the Lord our God, until that He have mercy upon us. Verily, God hath heard us; He hath attended unto the voice of our prayer. Thy loving-kindness has followed us all through this day, and Thou hast made the outgoing of the morning and the evening to rejoice for us. Bless the Lord! O our souls, and all that is within us, bless His holy name. Continue to us, we beseech Thee, Thy protection and care. Still place underneath us Thine everlasting arms; and grant us this night the repose and the refreshment our exhausted powers need. We are reminded, as each successive day closes, that our life is a pilgrimage, and that we are strangers with Thee and sojourners, as all our fathers were. O, keep us from the power of that carnal mind which is satisfied with the things of time and sense. Help us, day by day, to follow Christ so closely that we may be assured that we are always drawing nearer to the place in the Father's house of many mansions which

Christ has gone to prepare for those that love Him. Bring us more and more under the power of Thy Holy Spirit, that we may be disposed and enabled to set our affections on things above, and not on things on the earth. In the light of Thy holy Word, enable us wisely to estimate the worth of worldly wealth, and to discern the lessons of sorrow and the uses of adversity. Make us as anxious to employ Thy gifts aright as we are to possess and enjoy them; and at last, when our earthly riches shall be left behind, may it be found that we have made friends of the "mammon of unrighteousness," which shall receive us into "everlasting habitations."

So long as we abide in this house of our pilgrimage, wilt Thou provide for our wants. Give us the portion of good things which it is right and safe for us to have. Restrain us from cherishing ambitious or covetous desires; make us patient under our privations and temperate in our indulgences; and so fasten our faith and our hope upon Thee, the Creator, that in want or abundance, in sickness or in health, in success or disappointment, we can alike rejoice in Thee, as our Treasure and Inheritance.

O God, the God of our mercies, we come to Thee to-night as children to a father, to lay our helplessness in Thy almighty hands. In Thy sight the oldest of us is but a little child. It is the child's weakness,—the child's boldness,—the child's trust,—we would bring to Thee. Thou dost permit us to ask from Thee just such things as we parents are so ready to give to our children. To the Father's heart we lift our prayer, and beg now that Thy gracious benediction may rest upon us all. Separated as we shall be during the hours of the night, we would feel ourselves still united within the embrace of Thy love.

Remember with us the absent ones, who are dear to us. Send sleep to the beds of the suffering and the sad; and to all who are struggling in the darkness and the storm this night may Jesus come, as He came to His disciples, with the comforting message, "Be of good cheer; it is I." And to Thy name, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, shall be ascribed the glory forever. AMEN.

VIII.

ONCE more, O Lord, we come into Thy presence to bring our evening tribute of praise. Thou requirest of us the worship of the spirit; O help us to render it to Thee! We would come to Thee in faith, believing that Thou art, and that Thou art the rewarder of all those who diligently seek Thee. We would come with our faith looking up to Jesus—the Lamb of Calvary—as the one Mediator, through whom we sinners are admitted to Thy favor. We would come in sincerity, offering Thee the homage of the heart, and not merely that of the lips. We would come in simplicity of mind, truly believing what we say, and desiring what we ask in these our prayers. We would come in humility, remembering that Thou art in heaven and we upon the earth, and confessing that when we have done all, we have done nothing whereby Thou canst be profitted by us. It is because Thou art good, O Father, and not because of any goodness in us, that we are emboldened to appear before Thee. Have mercy upon us, we beseech Thee, O God, and remember not our offences against us. Have mercy upon us for the sake of Him who, though He knew no sin, became sin for us, that we might be made

the righteousness of God in Him, and who has assured us that whatsoever we ask in His name the Father will grant. Grant us now, therefore, we entreat Thee, the pardon of our sins. Send a message of peace to our troubled consciences through the peace-speaking blood of Jesus; and, resting our confidence upon the perfect work of our Divine Redeemer, may we be enabled to appropriate the promised grace of the Gospel, and go to our rest with the peace of God keeping our hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

We thankfully acknowledge the innumerable blessings which Thou hast vouchsafed to us this day. Beyond and above all second causes—all natural agencies—we would see Thy hand working in all the events of life, and Thy will accomplishing its sovereign purposes in all the changes which befall us. In little things as well as in great things, O Lord, we would recognize Thy presence and power; and feeling that Thy goodness is touching us in everything which ministers to our comfort or enjoyment, we would taste that goodness in every cup of cold water, in every morsel of bread, in every word or look of human love, which has this day cheered our lives.

Be pleased, O Lord, to continue Thy mercy to us and to all men. Make the powers of nature Thine instruments to do us good. Still grant us seed time and harvest; cause the earth to yield its increase; and so help us in the labors of our hands that there may always be in our garner a sufficiency for all our wants.

Be our guardian during the hours of sleep. Let not death enter our door, or any calamity befall us; and may the angel of the Lord encamp round about us and watch our slumbers. Look in Thy mercy

upon the homes of poverty and sorrow here and everywhere. Send relief to Thy children who are suffering either in mind, body, or estate; and through Thy sanctifying grace may the night of their weeping be followed by a morning of joy. To those who are mourning in Zion, who walk in spiritual darkness and see no light, send some token of Thy favor which shall dispel their gloom and cause them to exchange the spirit of heaviness for the garments of praise. To Thine aged servants, from whose path the sunshine of earth has faded, grant comforting visions of the heavenly glory and the eternal rest; and enable us all to keep in mind the approach of death, and so to redeem the time which remains to us that we shall be ready for the unknown hour when the Son of Man shall come. We ask all for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Redeemer. AMEN.

IX.

ALMIGHTY God, maker and disposer of all things, from whose sight darkness cannot hide us, we come to commend ourselves to Thy keeping for the night which is before us. In the covert of Thy wings we would trust. O Thou who hast fed us all our lives long, the Angel who hast redeemed us from all evil, grant us Thy protection in time to come, as Thou hast done in days that are past. If God be for us, we know that nothing can be against us; if God be not for us, where shall we find succor or refuge? Thy tender mercies are over all Thy works. Thou clothest the grass of the field, and feedest the ravens when they cry unto Thee. Wilt Thou not remember us, O Lord, whom Thou hast

made capable of knowing Thee, and to whom Thou hast revealed Thyself as a Father in heaven? Though we belong to a fallen race, and, by our own personal sins, have forfeited a thousand times our right to be called Thy children, Thou hast not cast us away from Thy presence, nor taken Thy Holy Spirit from us. In Jesus Thou hast preserved to us our birth-right. In Him Thou hast gathered anew a family for Thyself, and hast made Him the first-born among many brethren. 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. O make us all, through union with Christ, members of Thy redeemed family; and help us to abide in fellowship with Thee, that we may be assured that in this life all things shall work together for our good; and that in the life to come we shall be permitted to see Thy face in peace, and to enjoy at Thy right hand pleasures for evermore.

Restrain these treacherous hearts of ours from wandering from Thee. Thou art faithful, O Lord, to us, even when we are unfaithful to Thee; and we would believe that even our troubles and trials have been allotted to us by Thee, in the wise love which chastens us for our profit, that we may be made partakers of Thy holiness. May all our tribulations bring us unto a more conscious communion with Thee; and while humbled under the thought that our faults so often call for Thy Fatherly rebukes, may we be enabled to interpret these rebukes as an evidence of the steadfastness of Thine electing grace, and as an admonition to recall our wayward affections from the false things which had enticed them.

Blessed be Thy name, O Lord, for these sweet ties of earthly love which bind us as a household together. Blessed be Thy name, that these ties have

remained this day unbroken. In all the joys we find in home and domestic intercourse we would recognize Thy goodness, and feel that these are but streams that issue from the fountain of joy which we possess in Thee. As we part to-night, breathing our good wishes to one another, be Thou, O merciful Father, in our midst; and let Thy gracious benediction rest upon each one of our group, and upon all the absent loved ones whom we cannot see or help. Let grace, mercy, and peace be multiplied abundantly unto us all, and all for whom we should pray, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Redeemer. AMEN.

X.

O THOU who art the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and who art become, through Him, our God and our Father, look upon us with Thy favor, we beseech Thee, as we bring to Thee, once more, our evening sacrifice. Poor and needy as we are, Thou hast thought upon us all the day; and though we have forgotten Thee, Thou hast not forgotten us. Here at Thy footstool we would remember Thy goodness, and recall those thoughts of ours which through the occupations of the day have wandered from Thee, and fix them devoutly on Thee. We would say of the Lord, He is the Rock of our strength, our Shield, our Refuge, the House of our defence. Thou needest not anything that we can give, for what have we, O Lord, that we have not received from Thee? Thou art the Sum and the Foundation of all good, and it is from Thee that all the good we have enjoyed has been derived. Behind each form of earthly happiness we

would see God; and in the simplicity of faith would believe that in every blessing He bestows, He is pouring upon us a part of His own blessedness. We thank Thee that thus, through a thousand channels, Thou art revealing to us Thy nearness and Thy sympathy. But chiefly we would thank Thee for the revelation of Thy love, which Thou hast made in the gift of Jesus Christ, Thine only begotten Son, for our redemption. For this unspeakable gift—this gift of Thyself in the person of Him who was “God manifest in the flesh,” in whom dwelt “the fulness of the Godhead bodily,”—we would evermore praise and adore Thee. O, if any of us, members of this little circle, are permitted to enjoy the hope that this God, through our reception of the Son, has become our God, we would magnify the grace that has made us possessors of this glorious hope. And if any of our members are yet strangers to it, we would implore Thee, O merciful Saviour, so to reveal to them the glory of God as it shines in Thy face, that they too, through the knowledge of the Son, may find the Father also. O cast out from every heart the spirit of unbelief: open every eye to see the beauty of Immanuel—“God with us;”—unstop every deaf ear which now refuses to hear the voice of Jesus saying, “Behold, I stand at the door and knock; and if any man hear my voice and open the door, I will come in unto him and will sup with him, and he with me.” O Thou who art the Bread which came down from heaven to give life to the world, forbid that any of us, through our infatuated pursuits of earthly good, should neglect the great salvation, and go into eternity without God and without hope.

Accept, our Father, our thanks for the preservation of our lives and the continuance of our domestic

comforts this day. Into Thy hands we commit ourselves and all whom we love, this night. Give us healthful repose, and suffer nothing to hurt or disturb us. Bless all those among whom we dwell. Grant recovery to the sick, relief to the destitute, and consolation to the mourner. Continue to us the privileges we enjoy under this favored government; and confer upon our rulers such gifts as shall qualify them to administer the government to Thy glory and the good of this people. Let Thy benediction rest upon every enterprise which aims at the suppression of vice, and the advancement of true religion; and multiply laborers in the great harvest-field of the world, until there shall no community be left on earth to perish for lack of knowledge. Hear us in these our unworthy petitions and answer us in Thy mercy through Jesus Christ. AMEN.

XI.

O THOU who wast the Shepherd of Israel, and didst lead Thy people of old as a flock, we thank Thee that we are permitted still to believe that we are the people of Thy pasture and the sheep of Thy hand. Though by our very nature wanderers from Thy fold, Thou hast reclaimed us and given us a part in the heritage of Thy children. Though Abraham be ignorant of us and Israel acknowledge us not, Thou hast become our Father, through Jesus Christ, the Seed of Abraham, in whom all the nations of the earth have been blessed. Thou art the same yesterday, to-day and forever; and as Thou didst guide Thine ancient people by visible tokens in all their wanderings, so, we believe, Thou art guiding us, with an invisible hand, through all the daily

vicissitudes of our earthly pilgrimage. We bless Thee as the author of all the good we have experienced this day; and though it may be that we have not achieved all of success that we desired, and may be carrying to our beds cares and disappointments which we would gladly have escaped, still, we bless Thee that it is as well with us as it is. Pensioners upon Thy bounty, O Lord, we have always been; and pensioners we would feel ourselves still to be. Forbid that we should so forget our true position as to lose sight of the many mercies we enjoy; or presume to complain because Thou art pleased to withhold from us the things we desire to have. O put the Spirit of Jesus in our hearts, and help us, in view of every bitter cup which may be set before us, to say, "not our will, but Thine, O God, be done."

Thy promised aid has been with us in all the days of the past; our bread and our water have never failed; when we have been brought low Thou hast lifted us up; when we have been in darkness Thou hast sent us light; and we are sure, our Father, that Thou wilt never forsake us. Enlarge our faith by all the discipline we undergo, so that even our losses and sorrows shall make us more sensible of Thy blessed presence with us as our portion and strength. Enable us, each one, to-night to cast the burdens of our hearts upon Thee. Trusting in the Lord, may we find the rest which nature needs, and fear no evil, since Thou, our Shepherd, art with us in the dark. Make us, the guardians of this little flock, successful in our efforts to provide for their wants and to lead them into the paths of virtue and piety. Impress upon their minds the lessons we are striving to teach them; and send Thy good Spirit into the hearts of our children, that they, whom we have brought into the world, may be born of God, and be made fellow-

heirs with us of eternal life. If any of our household are absent from us to-night, we commend them to Thy keeping, and pray that Thou wilt extend to them better care and comfort than we could give them if they were under our roof. Let the lives of all who are dear to us be precious in Thy sight; and spare us as a family, that we may continue for years to come to be ministers to one another of Thy goodness. Pardon, we beseech Thee, the sin that we may have committed this day, and sprinkled with atoning blood, may we have peace with Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

XII.

WE praise Thee, O Thou Father of mercies and God of all grace, for Thy loving-kindness to us this day, and for the bountiful provision Thou hast made for our comfort in this our home. We could not tell in the morning what the day should bring forth; we can look back over it now, and testify that it has been filled with the tokens of thy goodness. So fearfully and wonderfully are we made that we are mysteries to ourselves, and cannot understand even the conditions of our own well-being. Thou, O Lord, knowest us altogether. Thy wisdom has constructed our bodily frames and Thy Spirit has made us living souls; and Thou dost hold both soul and body in life. For freedom from suffering and disease, for the power of thought, the affection of love, the gift of speech, and for all the endowments by which we have this day been enabled to do our part in the world, and take our share in the enjoyments of life, we devoutly thank Thee. To every need of our nature Thou hast in Thy beneficence adapted

some grateful supply. To our hunger Thou hast given daily food. To our desire for companionship Thou hast given kindred and friends. To our sense of beauty, Thou hast given the charms of earth and sky, the changing aspects of the seasons, and the sweet faces of those we love. To every period of life Thou hast allotted its special joys and alleviations. Along every pathway, however dreary, Thou hast set some bubbling spring for the thirsty traveler, and some fragrant flower to smile upon his way. For these, and all other sources of happiness which have been granted unto us this day, we bless Thee. But chiefly would we praise Thee that Thou hast revealed to us a better life to come; and hast promised us in the Gospel a home that shall never be dissolved, and an inheritance that shall never fade away. Help us, amidst all the fascinations of this world, to keep our faith and hope resting upon "the glory which is to be revealed;" and from the perishing pleasures of earth may we ever turn to the heavenly country where there shall be no night, no sorrow and no death. O suffer us not to miss the strait and narrow way that leads to this blessed destination; and amidst the many voices which are seeking to draw us into the paths of destruction, dispose us to listen only to that better voice which says "I am the way, the truth and the life." Blessed Teacher, keep us at Thy feet like Mary of old, and from Thy lips may we receive the words of eternal life.

Pardon now, we beseech Thee, whatever Thy pure and holy eyes have seen amiss in our conduct this day. We are so far from perfect even in our best states that we dare not call ourselves anything but sinners. Our hearts condemn us, and Thou art greater than our hearts and knowest all things. If Thou, O Lord, wert strict to mark our iniquities, who

of us could stand before Thee? Jesus is our Pass-over, whose blood was shed for us; and with His blood sprinkled upon our hearts and consciences, we humbly pray that we may lie down to-night in the confidence that the angel of mercy, and not of wrath, will keep watch over our slumbers. As we, with parental care draw the curtains around the sleeping forms of our little ones, so, O Father, do Thou fold us all in the arms of Thy love; and bring us all together in the morning, refreshed by our sleep, girded with strength for new duties, and furnished with new supplies of grace for the exigencies of another day; and to Thy great name, Father, Son and Holy Ghost, shall the praise be ascribed forever. AMEN.

XIII.

BLESSED be Thy name, O Lord, our God, for all the mercies vouchsafed to us this day. It is a good thing to give thanks 'unto Thee and to sing praises unto Thy name, O Most High; to show forth Thy loving-kindness in the morning and Thy faithfulness every night. All Thy works in all places of Thy dominion are praising Thee; for in Thy wisdom Thou hast made them all, and all are Thy ministers to do Thy will. We, Thy creatures whom Thou hast made capable of knowing Thee, would join in the universal anthem, and ascribe unto Thee the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty; for all that is in the heaven and the earth is Thine, and Thou art exalted as head over all. Great is Thy faithfulness, and Thy tender mercies fail not. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night showeth knowledge of Thy goodness as well as of Thy glory. To Thee we owe the pre-

servation of our lives, and the privilege of meeting again in health and comfort. A thousand arrows are flying around us every day, and one and another of our companions is continually falling at our side; and yet Thou has not permitted the destroyer to come nigh us, and not a hair of our head has perished. Though we see not the Divine hand which has protected us, we would believe that it has been concerned in guiding and upholding us all the day, and that our safety is due, not to our prudence or forethought, but to Thy overruling Providence. Help us to carry with us habitually this sense of our dependence upon Thee; and let not the pride that would persuade us that we are sufficient unto ourselves, rob us of the great peace which they have whose minds are stayed on Thee.

Hear now, O Lord, our evening prayer. Keep us in safety while we sleep. Send Thine angel to encamp around our dwelling. Let no enemy approach us and no plague come nigh us. Let the darkness be to us as the pavilion of the Almighty; and may Thy presence with us give peace to our natural force, so may we remember that day by day we need the renewing influences of Thy grace to keep us in spiritual health; and as morning after morning we are permitted to return with renovated powers to the labors of life, may we with fresh zeal gird up our loins for the conflict with sin, and for the performance of duty. Abide with us, blessed Saviour, for it may be that with some of us the day is far spent and the night is at hand. Make us faithful in serving Thee while the day lasts; and when the night shall come let Thy gentle voice bid us enter into rest.

Forgive us, O Lord, if in thought, word or deed we have offended against Thee this day; help us to

show the sincerity of our repentance by our efforts to overcome our evil habits and propensities; and dispose us with a true hatred of sin for its own sake—to strive after holiness, without which no man can see the Lord. Look with Thy favor upon all the households in which we are specially interested; unite all whom we love in the bonds of a common faith; and bring us all at last to the home which Thou hast prepared for Thy children. And Thine shall be the praise of our salvation. AMEN.

XIV.

HELP us, O Lord, in true faith, to bring our offering of praise to Thee. Not in form merely, but in spirit and in truth we would worship Thee. As Thou hast been the dwelling-place of Thy people in all generations, so Thou hast been ours this day; and under Thy sheltering care we have enjoyed peace and safety. As the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so Thou hast been round about our habitation. O, we thank Thee that in the world there is something better to us than the world; that we are encouraged by Thy word and enabled by Thy Spirit to see God in all things; and to feel His hand touching us through all the forces of nature, and working for us in all the movements of Providence. Thou hast not left us in orphanage to wander through life ignorant of our origin or our destination—without an eye to pity or a heart to love us,—but hast revealed Thyself to us as a Father, looking upon us with parental tenderness, regarding us even in our alienation as children lost, but not disowned, and more ready to bestow upon us the gifts of Thy grace than earthly parents are to give

good things to their children. The fashion of this world passeth away; the human arms upon which we lean fail us; but Thy mercy is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear Thee. Thou abidest when our earthly friends leave us, and when father and mother forsake us, Thou dost take us up. Through the very bereavements which we recall, Thou hast drawn more nearly to us. Through the very memories of our sainted dead, Thou hast bound our hearts in stronger love to Thee; for Thou, O Saviour, hast received our lost ones, and those for whom we are mourning are rejoicing with Thee. Now that silence has fallen on the world, and the veil of darkness has shut out from our view the busy theatre in which we have been acting all the day, help us, O Lord, to lift our thoughts to the things which are unseen and eternal, and with quickened spiritual faculties to commune with Thee on our beds, and meditate on Thee in the night-watches. Grant unto us not only the rest of the body, but that deeper rest which the soul finds in Thy covenanted love. In the sweet assurance that we are at peace with Thee through the mediation of Thy dear Son, and in the confidence that nothing shall be able to separate us from Thy love which is in Christ Jesus, may we commit ourselves to Thy keeping for the night with the security of children reposing in a parent's arms. If the recollection of any transgression in thought or temper or act into which we have fallen this day is burdening our minds, O enable us to sorrow for it with godly sorrow. With deep humiliation we would confess the evil which dwells within us, and mourn over our proneness to depart from Thy law. To the unfailing fountain of Thy blood we would bring our defilement, and pray Thee to wash us, that we may be clean. We ask not only

that we may be justified through Thy righteousness, but that we may be sanctified by Thine indwelling Spirit.

Bestow upon us Thy blessing as we retire to our rest, and raise us up in the morning with minds and bodies refreshed for Thy service. Do good to those to whom we would do good if we could; and be Thou mercifully present with those who are absent from us. Send healing to the sick, and comfort to the sorrowing. Revive the Church of God here and everywhere with new life and zeal. Multiply its graces and its good works. Let everything which now mars its purity or efficiency be taken away from it; and may the Spirit of Christ so reign in the hearts of all who profess to love Him that the spirit of party-jealousy and of worldly ambition shall be extinguished, and all shall be united in genuine brotherhood; and to Thy name shall the glory be ascribed through Jesus Christ. AMEN.

XV.

O THOU who hast invited us in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, to make known our requests unto Thee, behold us as we come once more, a little household band, to lift our evening cry to Thee. Thine ear is never heavy that it cannot hear, nor Thine arm shortened that it cannot save. Though our lives are undergoing perpetual waste, Thou art perpetually replenishing them from the resources which are in Thee. We acknowledge Thy goodness in upholding us in the labors in which we have been engaged this day; and in granting us this season of rest, in which we may lay aside the cares and trials which pursue us through the

day. Help us to see Thy hand in everything which has befallen us. May the memory of our blessings be sweetened by the thought that they are all the tokens of Thy loving-kindness; and the painfulness of our sorrows be soothed by the reflection that they have been allotted to us in Thy wisdom. Enable us to see in Thee the light which shall irradiate every dark thing in Thy Providence; and may our love to Thee be so pure and so strong that it shall teach our faith to accept God himself as the all-sufficient reason for all that God does or permits. Keep us so constantly mindful of our littleness that we shall never presume to measure Thy ways by our standards, or arraign Thy policy at the bar of our judgment. Inspire us with the confidence that, through Jesus Christ, Thou art our Father and our Friend; and then give us courage to rest in the conviction that if God be for us, nothing can be against us. The cares and anxieties which may be troubling our minds to-night we would cast upon Thee. Wilt Thou, O Lord, keep us in safety during the defenceless hours of sleep? Wilt Thou preside over all our counsels for the future? Wilt Thou choose our paths for us, and dispose us to be contented with Thy choice? As we trust Thee to keep us now under the shadows of the night, so may we trust Thee to keep us in all the mysterious passages which may await us in life. While we are spared together as a family, help us to seek one another's good—to serve one another in our various relations as the ministers of God—and to become, through Thy blessing, instruments in conveying to one another the kindness of God.

We pray for others as we pray for ourselves. Do good in Thy good pleasure to all in whose welfare we are specially interested; send comfort to any of our friends who may be in affliction; reclaim any of

our household who may be wandering in the paths of vice and sin; and make all who are knit to us by the ties of kinship or love partakers with us of the precious faith of Thine elect. Bless the whole race of man. May the heathen be given to Thy Son for His inheritance, and the utmost parts of the earth for his possession; and, through Christ and the dispensation of the Holy Spirit, may all the families of the earth be blessed.

Hear us, O Lord, in these our humble supplications. Receive our thank-offering for the mercies of the day. Forgive all that Thy pure eyes have seen amiss in us; and grant us grace to be faithful in following Jesus to the end, that at last we may be prepared for the rest that remaineth for Thy people in heaven; and Thine shall be the glory of our salvation. AMEN.

XVI.

ALmighty and most merciful God, by whose hand we have been guided and guarded this day, accept now the humble thank-offering which we have come to lay upon Thine altar. We recognize Thy fatherly care in our preservation, and Thy fatherly bounty in the supply of all our wants. Like Israel of old, Thou hast led us all our lives, by the pillar of cloud by day, and the pillar of fire by night. Whatever have been the intermediate agencies through which our blessings have come, we would see the never-failing stream of Thy goodness flowing down to us through them all. We betake ourselves to Thy protection this night, as to the shadow of a great rock in a weary land. As Thou hast given us ability to do the work of the day, so grant us now quiet and refreshing repose. Help us to confide in

Thy promises as truly as we do in those natural defences by which we seek to fortify our homes; and, softer than the pillows upon which we rest our heads, may we feel the presence of Thine everlasting arms underneath us. O we thank Thee that our home is not a godless one. We thank Thee that the blessed Saviour has deigned, as we trust, to come in and dwell with us, as in the days of His flesh he sojourned in the home of Mary and Martha of Bethany. We pray that the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, who abides with Thy people forever, may convert each one of our hearts into a habitation of God; and may so preside over all our counsels and plans, that the law of Christ shall become the law of our household, and the natural love which binds us together shall be sanctified and made immortal through our union with Him. Whatever troubles may be prevailing in the world without, or whatever clouds may gather over our own fireside, grant, O Lord, that the assurance of Thy presence with us may be as a light in our dwelling. Deliver us from that "doubtful mind" which we are so prone to cherish. Dispose us to appreciate the good things we have; and keep us from magnifying our privations by our impatience, or creating evils for ourselves which Thou hast not created for us. Blessed by Thy name, that though we may be straitened in our worldly possessions, we have access without restriction to the treasures of Thy grace. Enrich us with the gifts of Thy Holy Spirit; reveal to us the breadth and length, and depth and height of the love of Christ which passeth knowledge; strengthen our good dispositions; increase our faith, our charity, our humility and our fervency of spirit in Thy service; and cause us to abound more and more each day in spiritual attainments and in Christian labors. And though it shall not be given to us

to see, as we would like to do, our growing likeness to Thee, may it appear at last that we have been constantly under Thy gracious care and culture, advancing in holiness and maturing into the stature of perfect men in Christ Jesus.

If, through our infirmity or perverseness, we have in anything failed this day to exemplify the character of the followers of Christ, we pray Thee to forgive us. Suffer us not to yield to the temptation of the devil and doubt Thy mercy in our seasons of declension; but restore unto us the joys of Thy salvation; and make the remembrance of our falls the means of drawing us into a more watchful walk in the future, and a closer clinging to Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith.

Hear our prayers in behalf of the households with which we are connected and the friends whom we love. Remember in Thy mercy the children of sorrow everywhere. Extend Thy blessed kingdom over the whole earth, that men may learn to do good to one another, and there shall be none to hurt or destroy in all Thy holy mountain; and to Thy name shall be the glory. AMEN.

XVII.

LOOK down upon us, O Lord, with Thy favor and compassion, as once more we present our evening supplication to Thee. We would not regard Thee as a God afar off, but would believe that Thou art always nigh unto such as fear Thee and call upon Thee in truth. Though Thou hast all worlds under Thy care, Thou dost not exclude the least of Thy creatures from Thy providence, so that not a sparrow falleth to the ground without Thy knowledge. Inspire us with

faith to believe that Thou dost not overlook us, though our estate be humble and our abode be lowly; and that Thou hast been acquainted with all our ways this day, and understandest now our wants, our cares, and even the secret thoughts of our hearts. Not because of any goodness in us would we claim an interest in Thy favor, but because Thou art good to the undeserving, and patient towards those who sin against Thee; and because Thou hast revealed Thyself in the Gospel as ready to save unto the uttermost all who come to Thee in the name of Jesus Christ. With penitent hearts we would confess our sins. We deplore not only the evil acts which memory recalls, but the corrupt motive and depraved disposition which led to these acts. We acknowledge that we are the guilty being Thy word declares us to be, and we condemn ourselves as Thy holy law condemns us. But, blessed be Thy name, Thou hast given us in the Gospel the hope of pardon; and hast therein revealed to us the way in which Thou canst be just, and yet, the justifier of all who believe in Jesus Christ, Thy Son. We thankfully embrace the terms of mercy thus offered to us; and reposing our whole confidence in the mediation and intercession of our Divine Redeemer, would believe that Thou dost, according to Thy promise, pardon all our sins, and receive us as Thy sons and daughters. So, trusting in the sure mercies of Thy covenant, we would go to our rest to-night rejoicing in the assurance that in the dark as well as in the light, Thou art encompassing us with Thine arms of love.

For another day's blessings we thank Thee, and humbly implore Thee to follow us through the remainder of our lives with the kind care Thou hast hitherto shown us. Let not our bread or our water fail; and as each day brings its special needs, may

they be supplied out of Thine unwasting fullness. Forbid that the abundance of our comforts should ever seduce us into forgetting our dependence upon Thee, or that our privations or disappointments should lead us to abandon our confidence in Thee. Help us, O Lord, to see Thy will expressing itself in all our changing circumstances, and under all circumstances, enable us to say "Thy will be done."

We bring before Thee in our prayers, all for whom our solitudes are specially exercised,—the aged or infirm members of our household—the little ones who are just stepping upon the stage of life—the youth of the family who are entering the critical fields of manhood or womanhood—the absent—the sick—the bereaved; have them all in Thy holy keeping, O God, and let grace, mercy and peace be multiplied unto them all. If any one of our number has strayed from Thy fold and is living, like the prodigal, in estrangement from Thee, we pray Thee to remember the wanderer; to recover him from the error of his ways; to make him hear Thy voice in the far country where he has gone; and to constrain him to come back to the Father's house. O pity the poor souls who are trying to be happy without Thee; and rescue the deluded multitudes who are now in bondage to the devil. Let Thy salvation visit every house in this community, and may Thy kingdom come, and Thy will be done everywhere on earth, as it is in heaven, and Thine shall be the glory, through Jesus Christ. AMEN.

XVIII.

WE give thanks to Thee O most merciful Father, for the Providence which has conducted us safely through this day, and has granted to us so

many of the blessings we asked of Thee in the morning. Thou hast taught us our dependence upon Thee by innumerable interpositions for our relief and benefit in time past. Thou hast healed our sickness; Thou hast delivered us from our troubles; and Thou hast made many things which seemed adverse to us, issue in our good. As the shadows of the night gather over us, we would hear Thy voice again reminding us of the limitations of our own powers, and inviting us to place our weakness under the shelter of Thy wings. Truly our life is a vapor which appeareth for a little time and then vanisheth away. By a thousand forces which we cannot detect, its form and direction are determined; and we know nothing with certainty concerning it, except that it must ere long be dissolved. But Thou, O God, art greater than all these forces. Thou dost control them in Thy wisdom, and Thou canst and dost overrule them so as to make them Thy ministers in executing Thy sovereign will. In the faith and hopefulness which Thy word inspires, we would lay ourselves and all our interests in Thy hands; and pray Thee to keep us from harm, and to grant us secure and healthful repose during this night. Spare us all to meet again in the morning; and as each successive day finds us renewed in bodily strength, so may it find us more and more confirmed in our purpose to serve and glorify Thee.

If it please Thee, our Father, continue to us the comforts of our home. Preserve unbroken the sweet companionships of the family circle, and grant us the privilege of dwelling together and walking together, for years to come, in the intercourse of domestic love. And yet, along with this natural clinging to life, we would pray for the grace which shall dispose us to desire to live, chiefly that we may please and honor Thee. Forbid, O Lord, that we should ever forget

that Thou art the master and we the servants; or that we should ever cherish the presumptuous thought that Thou reignest merely that we, Thy creatures, may be indulged. Help us to ascribe to Thee, always, the kingdom, the power and the glory, and to check our most importunate desires with the reverence and humility which shall dispose us to say, at all seasons, "nevertheless not as we will, but as Thou willest."

We gratefully acknowledge the blessings Thou hast allotted to us this day. Whatever has been the visible agent in conveying them to us, we recognize Thy hand as the source from which they have come. We thank Thee for all the kindness which has been shown to us by human friends; and we thank Thee if we have been moved and enabled to show kindness to others. Especially we thank Thee that here, in our little household world, we are permitted so constantly to exchange the offices of love, and to contribute to one another's happiness. Forgive us we entreat Thee, if in anything we have offended against Thee or our neighbor; repress within us the selfish propensities of our nature; cleanse us from our secret faults, even from such as in our heedlessness have escaped our observation, or such as in our delusion have led us to put evil for good; and through the sprinkling of the blood of Christ, our Propitiation and our Advocate, grant us the testimony of Thy Spirit, that our sins are blotted out, and that Thy face is lifted upon us in love.

Let Thy blessing, O gracious God, rest to-night upon the homes of all whom we love; make our friends the friends of the Saviour; and when these earthly homes shall know us no more, may we all be gathered in the great family of the redeemed in heaven, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Redeemer. AMEN.

XIX.

O THOU who art great in counsel, and who doest Thy will in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth, we thank Thee that Thy counsel concerning us this day has been a counsel of peace, and that Thy will has ordained to us so many things which have been good and pleasant. Over all the way in which Thou hast led us we would look back, and declare that goodness and mercy from the Lord have followed us. Continue to us, we beseech Thee, Thy fatherly care and protection, now that the darkness of the night has come to remind us of our weakness. Keep our souls in life; protect our persons and our dwelling from harm; and, while our eyes are veiled in slumbers, let Thine eye, which never slumbers nor sleeps, keep watch over our little household flock. We bless Thee for the faith, which, under all the changing aspects of nature and the vicissitudes of Providence, can recognize Thy presence and can confide in Thee as a God of love. The precious promises of Thy word, like the stars in the sky, assure us that though the sun may be hidden from our view, Thou, the Everlasting Light, art still looking down upon us and guiding us through the shadows which lie upon our path, to the glories of an eternal day. May each returning night make us mindful of our own weakness, and lead us to seek succor from the fulness of grace which resides in Thee. If spiritual darkness be resting upon any of our souls—if our eyes are holden through unbelief, or the greatness of our troubles, or through the glare of the world's pomp and glory, upon which we have gazed too ardently—so that we have lost the sense of Thy presence with us, O Lord dispel these clouds and restore to us the light of Thy countenance and

the joys of Thy salvation. If the cherishing of any secret sin has benumbed our sensibilities so that we cannot realize Thy nearness to us, or relish the privilege of communing with Thee, O Lord reveal to us the accursed thing and help us to pluck it from our hearts. Forbid that any of us should be content to linger in that fearful night which falls upon the spirit when we separate from Thee. Forbid that there should be any one in this our little band who can consent, like Judas, to deny his Lord or betray Him into the hands of his enemies.

Follow with Thy blessing, O gracious Father, the work in which we have been engaged this day, and make our influence in the world a good and not a hurtful one. In so far as we have been enabled to do right and conform to Thy precepts in our walk and conversation, we acknowledge that we are indebted to the aid of Thy Holy Spirit; and we pray that that Holy Spirit will use our humble testimony and ministry in promoting the cause of truth and righteousness on earth. If we have lent our hand in any way to wrong-doing, or through our inconsistency given our support to the cause of the evil one, or by our irregular conduct or example have encouraged the wicked or put a stumbling-block in the way of Thy children, O Lord forgive us, and overrule our unfaithfulness, so that no corrupt fruit shall permanently result from our corrupt sowing. O help us day by day to walk as the children of the light, and to have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness. Day by day bring us more under the power of our Divine Master and Head; and beholding, with open face, as in a glass, the glory of the Lord, may we be changed into the same image, from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Hear now our prayer as we entrust ourselves to

Thy keeping for the night. Mercifully shield us from everything which might disturb our minds or harm our bodies. If it please Thee grant us refreshing sleep, and raise us up in the morning with new capacities and new desires to do the work Thou hast given us to do. Embrace all who are dear to us, whether present or absent, in Thy protecting arms. Pity the homes which are darkened by poverty or suffering; and through their various tribulations conduct Thy children to the rest appointed for them in Thy kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

XX.

BLESSED be Thy name, O God, for the privilege of gathering again before Thy throne of grace, at the close of another day. With our united voice we would utter the memory of Thy great goodness. Thy mercy has followed us in a thousand streams. We would trace them all back to their Source, and praise the Rock from which they have issued. Thou art giving Thyself to us, O Lord, in all Thy gifts; and greater than are all the comforts and enjoyments with which Thou hast enriched our lives, we would esteem Thy favor. Let that favor encompass us as a shield, now that the night has come; and let the stars of the sky be to us as they were to Thy servant Abraham—a pledge of the faithfulness of Thy covenant. Thou hast been with us in all the scenes of the day; be with us in the visions of the night. The darkness hideth not from Thee. Suffer not the darkness within us to hide Thee from our eyes. Enable us to carry our faith with us, even into our sleep; and to realize that, in lying down upon our beds, we

are resting within the embrace of the Everlasting arms, and in sinking into the oblivion of slumber we are committing ourselves to the keeping of the living God. We thank Thee for these compensations which Thou art giving us for the necessity which obliges us so unremittingly to toil, and which so often extorts the murmur and the groan from our lips—in the opportunity of retiring each evening to our homes, and enjoying, amidst their solaces, exemption from the pressure of our daily tasks. So help us to believe that there is a compensation in every labor allotted to us by Providence; and a blessing contained in every hardship we may have to undergo. The things which seem to be against us wilt Thou overrule for our good. Enable us to see the love that seeks our profit in every chastening dispensation; and in patient waiting upon the Lord in the hour of weakness and distress may we renew our strength, and even glory in our tribulations. And, O blessed Saviour, grant us the ear of faith in those seasons when the heart sinks under its burdens, and the cloud which rests over our life seems so dark that the spirit faints within us—to hear Thy voice saying to us: “Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. Ye believe in God; believe also in me.” When the weariness of the wilderness oppresses us, and our foot falters as day after day we tread these interminable wastes of vanity and disappointment, O take us sometimes to the mountain-top, and let us see the promised land—the heavenly Canaan—where victory shall crown the long battle with sin, and in Thy presence and service the way-worn pilgrim shall find an eternal rest.

Look upon us in Thy mercy, Our Father, and bless us each one as our varying necessities require. Watch over the weakness of infancy. Protect the young

from the seductions of error and the temptations of vice. Support the aged with heavenly hopes and consolations; and so direct our household life and intercourse that in all things we may truly seek each other's good, and become to one another stewards of the manifold grace of God. Day by day we are reminded of our lack of wisdom, and are constrained to come to Thee with confessions of our failures and short-comings. O Lord, forgive us for all that has been amiss in us this day; and graciously aid us in avoiding in the future the sins of the past. Each day, inspire us with the upright intention, the pure motive, the sincere desire to know and to do Thy will, and the steadfast purpose to continue in well-doing at every cost and hazard.

Let Thy blessing rest upon all the homes of our land, and make them Christian homes. God of our fathers, be Thou the God of their posterity in all their generations. Let there be no strange god among us; and suffer not our people to go after the idols of the world. When the enemy is coming in as a flood, let the Spirit of the Lord lift up a standard against him. Let Thy priests be clothed with righteousness, and let Thy saints shout for joy. Encircle our little flock this night in Thine arms of love, and bring us together again in peace in the morning. We ask all for Jesus' sake. AMEN.

XXI.

O THOU who dwellest in the high and holy place, the great, the mighty God, with reverence and godly fear we would take Thy name upon our lips. But Thou art also our Heavenly Father, and we would look upon Thy face with the confidence and

hopefulness of children. In Thy greatness we find our protection. Because Thine arm is an Almighty arm, we are sure our wants can never exceed its power to relieve; and that Thy grace can do for us exceeding abundantly above all that we can ask or think. Thou hast helped us this day; and through Thy good hand upon us we have been kept in safety, and are permitted to see its closing hour in peace. Much as we rejoice in the possession of the innumerable mercies with which Thy bounty has enriched us, we would rejoice still more in the privilege of possessing Thee Thyself as our supreme treasure. Thou art our portion, O our God. Through Jesus Christ Thy Son, we trust we have come to know Thee—to be reconciled to Thee—to be adopted by Thee. Give us boldness of faith that we may claim as our own the contents of Thy promises, and may accept as realities all the things Thou hast prepared for them that love Thee. Forbid that our religion should be a bondage, and that the requirements of Thy law should be a yoke upon our necks. Under the sweet constraint of Christ's love to us, may all other constraints disappear; and may the services which we render Thee be the free and glad response of our love to Him who first loved us. The sins which we recall upon every review of life we confess to Thee with sorrow and shame. When we think of them we are speechless before Thee. Our hearts condemn us, and Thou art greater than our hearts, and knowest all things. But even here, with this burden of guilt upon our consciences, we would remember that Christ is our advocate—that Christ has made us free from the law of sin and death—and that through Christ as the door we have liberty of access to Thee, and are assured that if we confess our sins, Thou art faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse

us from all unrighteousness. In the very wretchedness which torments us at the recollection of our faults we would recognize Thy voice pleading with us to return to Thee, and so, O Father—we come. Thy mercy has loosened our feet from the fetters of fear and doubt and unbelief; and emboldened us to come and ask in the name of Jesus that our iniquities may be pardoned, and that the joys of Thy salvation may be restored to us. Help us, O Thou Saviour of sinners, to see that Thou art our Saviour; that for our particular needs Thou hast made provision in Thy mediatorial work; and that the Father's covenanted grace is made sure to us—even us—through our faith in Thee.

Grant to us the help which our bodily weakness requires. Let Thine eye watch over us while our eyes are closed in sleep. Fill Thou our cup with blessings for the night, as Thou hast mercifully filled it with the blessings of the day. Show Thy pity towards all who shall this night lie on beds of suffering; send ministering angels to watch over the sick; give comfort to the solitary mourner; and hasten the day when under the benign influences of the religion of Christ, the shadows which sin has added to those of natural sorrow, shall no longer darken the abodes of men. For our own loved ones who may be in circumstances of distress, or who may be beyond the reach of our sight and aid, we make special prayer. Fulfil unto them, O Lord, the desires of our hearts, and send to them some cheering token that thou art with them. Help us now to lay all our burdens in Thy hands; to accept patiently our privations and trials; and to recognize thankfully the measure of good things Thou art portioning out to us day by day. Forgetting the things which are behind, and reaching forth to those which

are before, may we press diligently towards the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus; to whom, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory both now and forever. AMEN.

XXII.

ALmighty God, who has taught us in everything by prayer and supplication to make known our requests unto Thee, we come to Thee thankfully acknowledging Thy great condescension, and humbly making use of the large license Thou hast granted us. In everything we need Thy help. Every breath we draw is an expression of want. We were cast upon Thy care from the beginning; and all our lives we have been pensioners upon Thy bounty. And Thou hast never grown weary in doing us good. Thou hast never been offended at our recurring cries. Thou didst listen to our plaint in infancy; Thou hast heard the sighing of our grief; and Thou dost stoop to catch the moaning of our pain, and the groans of our weariness and old age. Thy mercy endureth forever. We are coming to Thee with new wants, new anxieties to-night. For the day's blessings we thank Thee. We brought to Thee an empty cup in the morning; Thou hast filled it hour by hour—moment by moment. But it is empty again. The night's necessities and perils are before us; Lord, open thine hand once more to satisfy our wants. Thou dost invite us to trust; Thou dost love to be trusted. O teach us the blessed art of trusting Thee; and may our trust be as simple and complete as that of our own little children, around whose beds we draw the curtain, and upon whose brow we print the kiss. Enlarge our faith until it shall take in all

the breadth of Thy promises. In Thee, O God, we would repose our trust; not in the judgments of our own minds, nor in the appearances of things as they strike our senses, or appeal to our desires. Help us to believe that Thy ways are always good because Thou art Thyself always good. Make us so strong in our trust, that God Himself shall be to us the interpreter of all His dealings with us; and that we shall be able to say in every extremity "Though the Lord slay us, yet will we trust in Him."

Give Thine angels charge over us and let no plague come nigh our dwelling. If it please Thee, spare us, all to see the morning light. Watch over these ties of love with which Thou hast united us as a household. Thou hast blessed us, O Lord, in giving us these sweet companionships of the home. In them, help us to find, not only daily delight, but daily opportunities for serving Thee; and may our natural affections be so sanctified and regulated by Thy Spirit, that through the exercise of them, we may still be showing that we love Christ more than we love father or mother, son or daughter. We pray for all the homes of our land, that it may please Thee to convert them into fountains of purity and piety. Rear Thou in them all a seed for Thyself; and establish Thy covenant with them from generation to generation. Turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers; so that the faith once delivered to the saints, may be handed down unimpaired in our families, and our posterity may be found abiding together in the pure truth as it is in Jesus, through all the ages. Let the light of the glorious Gospel soon shine upon all heathen homes, and the temples of idolatry be changed into sanctuaries of the living God. Let Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is done

in heaven, and the wrongs and woes of the nations be everywhere healed through the knowledge of Christ and His beneficent religion.

Send now Thy blessing, we beseech Thee, to all our loved ones near or far away. Let grace, mercy and peace be multiplied abundantly unto them all. Look with compassion upon all suffering ones who have asked us to remember them in our prayers; give them such succor as they may need; deliver them from their troubles if this be right in Thy sight; or if they must still pass through the waters and the fires, be Thou with them, and suffer not the rivers to overflow them nor the flame to kindle upon them. Have us all this night in Thy holy keeping, and to Thy great name, Father, Son and Holy Ghost, shall be the praise. AMEN.

XXIII.

OUR Father, how good, how gracious hast Thou been to us this day! We know not the method of Thy working, for Thou art God and we are but men; and yet in the spirit of it, we see a bountifulness, a tenderness and a constancy of love, so like to that which we feel towards our offspring, that we are sure it is a Father's heart which presides in Thy counsels, and a Father's hand which is ordering Thy providence. Thou hast thought upon us, down to the youngest and feeblest one in our group. Thou hast taken notice of our particular wants; and in regard to each one of us there is a record of mercies which calls for our thankfulness to-night. Thou hast granted us blessings which we have not deserved. Thou hast withholden from us judgments which we have justly provoked. Our gratitude is doubly due

to Thee—for the good Thou hast done us—and because that good has been shown to those who were worthy of Thy wrath rather than of Thy favor. O surely, it has been the yearning of a Father's pity which has made Thee so patient and long-suffering towards us; and which has cherished us as dear children, when we might have been consumed as rebels and enemies. Help us to take these blessings in which we are rejoicing to-day, and look at them—not in the selfish spirit which asks what are they worth as tributaries to our comfort and aggrandizement—but in that which asks, with a higher and nobler view, what are they worth as expressions of God's forbearance and kindness towards us. Help us to see that the amazing grace which was consummated in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, is revealing itself in all the goodness which comes to us in the ordinary forms of our daily experience; and may that goodness perpetually reproach us for our sins, and lead us to repentance.

Suffer us not to lose the sense of our obligations to Thee, O Father, in the rush and absorption of the business of the present life; but always and everywhere, may we show the sincerity of our gratitude by our studious endeavors to please and honor Thee. May self be crucified in the consecration of soul, body and spirit to Thee; and may the appreciation of the good received by us manifest itself in the supreme desire and aim of our minds to be good and to do good. Whether we live may we live unto the Lord; whether we die may we die unto the Lord, so that living or dying we may be the Lord's.

Look mercifully upon us, now, O Lord, as we are about to retire to our rest; and defend us from the perils of the night. Give us the refreshment of healthful sleep, and bring us in peace to the morning.

For those to whose eyes there shall come no sleep to-night—for the sick tossing on their couches of pain—for the souls of those who are appointed to die before the morning—for the anxious watchers by the bedside of suffering loved ones—for the toilers by land and sea whose occupation obliges them to turn their nights into days—for the evil doer who under cover of the night goes to his work of debauchery and crime, and for the forlorn spirit to whom the tortures of conscience refuse the boon of slumber—we pray that God may have mercy upon them all, and send forth His grace in such forms as may support, and comfort, and reclaim, and save them. As our mercies are multiplied from day to day, may our love to Thee and our zeal in Thy service be increased; and may the young and the old of our family, like trees planted by the rivers of water, be found bringing forth fruit to the praise and glory of God, in their season. Dear Saviour, abide with us, for we know not how nearly our natural day may be spent, and how closely the night of death may be at hand. We ask it for Thy name's sake. AMEN.

XXIV.

GRATEFULLY, O Lord, would we look back over the mercies of the day that is gone; and trustingly would we come to Thee for the blessings which we need for the night which is before us. 'Thine everlasting arms have always been underneath us, and by their supporting power we have been upheld hitherto. Upon them we would cast ourselves, now that the gathering shadows have arrested us on our journey—have touched us with a sense of our weakness and loneliness—and have admonished us that

we can no longer direct our way. Great God, we would recognize in Thee the Supreme helper to whom we owe our protection in the past, and the real source of all the efficiency which has seemed to be in natural things to do us good. Our confidence reposes in Thee, not in these natural things; and to Thee, with the faith of little children, we would come and cry, Lord take us, and all that concerns us, this night, into Thy holy keeping. If Thou art with us, we are sure that nothing can be against us. Because the Lord is on our right hand, we shall not be moved. Thou hast said "To this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit and trembleth at my word;" and the blessed Saviour has declared, "If any man love me, he will keep my words, and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him and make our abode with him." Lord, help us to comply with these terms of companionship; and to walk before Thee with such simplicity of purpose, with such humility of mind, and with such unfeigned love for Thee and Thy word, that we may be comforted by the thought that Thou art with us in every place, shedding the light of Thy countenance upon our path, and causing us to abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

Follow with Thy blessing the labors in which we have this day been engaged. Make them profitable in some way to us and to others. Overrule the things which seem to be adverse to us for our good. We trust we have not deliberately given our heart or put our hand to any evil work; and yet, sin so easily besets us, that unwittingly we are betrayed into a selfishness which is unkind, and an eagerness for the accomplishment of our own wishes, which is unjust; or into passionate acts or words which have in them all the poison of malice. Father, we humbly pray

forgiveness for all such faults that may be laid to our charge to-day. Enable us to be more watchful in the future. Cleanse our hearts from all revengeful feelings, if we this day have suffered wrong at the hands of our fellow-man. Make us ready to do good to those whose character is a grief to us, and whose conduct we have to condemn; and in the spirit of our Master to pray for those who despitefully use us and persecute us. Look with Thy special favor upon the young of our family. Speak to them in their tender age as Thou didst to Samuel of old, and incline their hearts to respond to Thy call, as he did—"Speak, Lord, for Thy servant heareth." Our lives are bound up in theirs. Our supreme desire is that we may see them walking in the truth. Help us, O Lord, who are heads of the family, to be faithful in the use of our authority and influence over them; and let Thy grace foster the seed which we are sowing, so that, when our days on earth are all numbered, and we shall all have passed into the solemn eternity, we may be permitted to say, before Thy throne, "Here are we and the children whom Thou hast given us;" and the glory of our salvation shall be ascribed to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, world without end. AMEN.

XXV.

FOR all the mercies of the day, O Lord, we have come to thank Thee. They have been more than we can reckon up—more than we can ever understand. Thy goodness is like the great deep. We cannot measure it—we cannot fathom it. The springs from which issue our health, our comfort and our enjoyments are largely hidden with Thee. Thou dost con-

trol them and make them efficient. We see the blessing—we see not the process and the channel through which it comes. It is enough for us to know that back of these—in Thy hand—lies the source of it. We almost rejoice in the weakness which cannot discover the methods of Thy working, because we are enabled thereby, with a clearer vision of faith, to trace our blessings directly to Thee. Evermore through all the darkness which envelops our walk through life, be Thou to us “the Father of lights” whose presence, whose providence shall make everything clear and right to our view.

Continue to us Thy protection, and watch mercifully over our slumbers this night. Enable us to cast the burden of our cares upon the Lord; and to carry with us such a sense of the love of God shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost, that all the disquietudes of the day may be forgotten. Forgive our iniquities and heal our backslidings. We confess with the deepest contrition our proneness to err from Thy ways. Each day’s recollections force from us the acknowledgment of our unfaithfulness as Christians. We have no excuse to offer for our treacherous dealings with Thee. We have known our duty and have done it not. We come to Thee to-night with the cry “unclean, unclean,” upon our lips. But Thou, O Lord, art plenteous in mercy and wilt cast out none who come to Thee with a penitent heart. So, we trust, we come; and fixing our hope upon the promises made to us in the Gospel of Thy Son, would believe that Thy gracious sceptre is even now extended to us, and that Thou art bidding us go in peace. So compassionate art Thou towards us that Thou dost delight to save us, and dost bear home the wandering sheep with rejoicing. O may Thy kindness inspire us with an increasing hatred of sin; and

may every contact with it which we have to deplore, produce such a recoil from it in our spirits as shall weaken its power over us and bring us into closer union with Thee.

O Thou who makest these rising and setting suns to mark the successive stages of our earthly journey, dispose us seriously to heed their admonitions and to number our days so that we shall apply our hearts unto wisdom. Wherever we stand in this journey to-night, whether at its beginning, or middle, or near its close, help us to understand our obligations as the creatures of God and the subjects of Thy redeeming love, and to be active in the business Thou hast given us to do. Forbid that our hearts should become so sensual as to put the world before God. Forbid that we should ever consent to deny the blessed Saviour, or join with the unbelieving crowd in crying "Crucify him, crucify him." O Thou Lamb of God who for our sakes was lifted up upon the cross, draw all our hearts to Thee. May Thy grace sanctify these ties of love which bind us as a family together; make us one in faith as we are one in the bonds of nature, and whatever joys of an earthly sort we may lack, let this be our joy, that we are heirs together of the grace of life, and members of the royal household of the children of God. Bless with us all the families with whom we are associated by kinship or acquaintance; show Thy favor this night to all persons in whom we are specially interested; comfort the sorrowing; spare the lives of any who may be in peril; give rest to those who are weary with the toils and harassed with the cares of life; and through the troubles and trials of our present state, prepare us all for our entrance into that world where the inhabitant shall no more say I am sick, and where sorrow and sighing shall flee away. We ask all for Jesus' sake. AMEN.

XXVI.

WITH thankful hearts, O Lord, we gather before Thee, to review the mercies of another day. We are Thy poor and needy children; we are Thy helpless little ones; and yet the Lord thinketh upon us. The world is hardly aware of our presence in it, and will not miss us when we are gone; but Thou dost not overlook us; and Thou hast our names in Thy family-book. Though forgotten by our fellow-man, we are not forgotten by our Father in heaven; and we are sure that He who feeds the fowls of the air and clothes the grass of the field, will not and does not exclude us from His notice and care. Thine eye has been upon us and Thy hand has upheld us through the day; now spread over us Thy wing, and grant us Thy protection for the night. We entrust all our interests to Thee—our home, our property, our bodies, the lives of all beneath our roof. We commit our chiefest treasure, our souls, into Thy hands. Let Thy covenant of peace be established with us. Let the peace which Jesus gave to His disciples be breathed into our hearts. Let the excitements, the vexations and the provocations which through the day have disturbed our peace be all allayed; and in the perfect peace of those whose minds are stayed on Thee, may we lie down upon our pillows. We feel, O Lord, that in our coming to Thee at this evening hour, we are coming back to Thee from a separation; for since we bowed the knee to Thee in the morning, our walk has been in many respects a wandering from Thee. We have not remembered Thee as we promised to do. The world has crowded Thee again and again from our thoughts. The force of sudden passion has turned us away from Thee; the fascination of successful work has lured

us into forgetfulness of Thee; or the bewildering effect of adversity has shaken our faith in Thee. Like straying sheep, who have gone each one in his own way, we have to retrace our steps to-night to find our Father's presence. We trust we are doing this in the sincerity of our hearts. As our little children cannot sink to sleep without the kiss which assures them of the pardon of their faults, so, O Lord, we cannot go to our slumber unless Thou bless us. Let the blood of Jesus, to which we resort as to a fountain, wash away the stain of our transgressions; and let the name of Jesus, in which we make our plea, be to us the pledge of Thy forgiving mercy. O how great is Thy goodness to the children of men—a goodness which comes to us, on the one side, in a thousand beneficent acts, and on the other, in the grace which heals our backslidings and blots out our iniquities. O may the perversity of our nature at last yield to the persuasions of Thy continued forbearance and Thy patient waiting upon our haltings, so that our treacherous souls shall become steadfast in their loyalty to Thee, and our feet shall never again consent to stray from Thy paths.

Help us to be reminded by these passing days that our life is a pilgrimage, and that in the conditions which it brings with it, we are not to find our rest. Make us content now to bear the pilgrim's staff and to accept the pilgrim's fare. When weary with the hardships of the way, enable us to look up to the hills whence cometh our help, and to catch visions of the rest that remaineth for the people of God. Make these avocations, which often seem to us so ignoble, and these cares, which often gall us like the fetters of bondage, appear to our eyes as the service appointed to us by Thee, and may we be inspired by the thought that even in our humblest state and in our homeliest

toils, we may be glorifying Thee. And so, living unto the Lord day by day, may our last day find us standing at our post, and ready like watchful servants to hear gladly the bridegroom's knock, and to open to Him immediately. Look with Thy favor upon all with whom we dwell. Send light into homes which are darkened by sorrow. Spare the lives of those who are brought low by sickness. Prepare those who are appointed to death for their great change. Stay the hand of the evil-doer. Bless the efforts of all who are trying to do good in the world; and multiply the number of those who shall be willing, by their own charitable labors, to become the bearers of God's kindness to their suffering fellow-men. And now, may the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that Great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make us all perfect in every good work to do His will, working in us that which is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. AMEN.

XXVII.

THOU who dost open Thine hand and satisfy the wants of every living thing, we come to thank Thee that our wants have been so liberally supplied by Thee this day. We began life as infants, and we carry with us the infant's weakness to the end. We shall never cease to need Thy care; we shall never be able to intermit the cry, "Give us this day our daily bread." Help us to see the goodness of God in imposing upon us the pain and anxiety of our wants, since these wants become the channels through which Thy goodness, in the relief of them, perpetually flows

down to us. Help us to glory in our infirmities, since through these we are made conscious that the power of Christ is resting upon us. Make us willing to endure the earthly privation which introduces us to the fulness of grace which resides in Thee; and through the poverty which forces us to ask all things from Thee, may we learn that we are infinitely rich in having Thee for our Portion. Remember us, O Lord, in the wants which cluster around this evening hour. Our bodies are weary and want rest. Give us needful sleep. We want safety for those who are gathered under our roof, and for all others in other places, in whose welfare we are interested. Spread over them all Thy protecting wing, and let their lives and their health be precious in Thy sight. We want balm for the wounded hearts in whose sorrow we are this night sympathizing. Dry Thou the tears of the bereaved; comfort the afflicted; heal the sick; lift the despondent into hopefulness; and send light to all who are in darkness. We want our domestic peace and happiness to remain undisturbed. Suffer not any calamity to befall us, or disease to invade our dwelling, or death to take away any from our little household circle. We want wisdom to enable us to discern what is right and good; and firmness of purpose that we may pursue it without wavering. Give us the understanding heart, the steadfast mind and the consecrated spirit which says, under all circumstances, "Not our will but Thine be done." We want to follow Jesus in the ordering of our lives, and to have His supporting presence with us when we come to die. Go before us, Thou good Shepherd, in all our earthly walks; keep us from straying from Thy paths; and when we go down in the dark valley, make the gates of death appear to us as the portals of heaven.

Help us, O Lord, to redeem the time that remains

to us. Incline the hearts of the young to enter into Thy service in early life, that they may have fewer wasted days to deplore, and a larger usury to bring to Thee for the talents Thou hast committed to them. Let the claims of Christ always preponderate over the claims of the world in our estimation; and the powers of the world to come be strong enough to hold in check our sensual appetites and our carnal propensities. Suffer us not to build a hope of heaven upon a foundation of sand. Suffer us not to be in practical unbelief while we are making formal professions of our faith. Suffer us not to incur the doom of the barren fig-tree, arrayed in its attire of leaves, and yet furnishing no fruit for the Master's hand. May each day that brings us nearer the end of our stewardship deepen our impression of our responsibilities, and make us more active and diligent in preparing for the reckoning we are to undergo at the coming of the householder. O Lord Jesus, Thou Saviour of sinners, do Thy perfect work in our hearts. We believe; help Thou our unbelief. Implant the germ of spiritual life effectually in our souls. Watch over it. Cause it to abide, and make it grow to the stature of the perfect man in Christ. Keep us by Thy power through faith unto salvation; and may the God of all grace who hath called us unto His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that we have suffered awhile, make us perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle us, and to Him shall be glory and dominion forever and ever. AMEN.

P R A Y E R S
FOR THE SABBATH MORNING.

Sabbath Morning Prayers.

I.

O THOU merciful Father, who art kinder to us than we are to ourselves, we thank Thee that Thou hast, by the return of this holy day, called us away from those worldly pursuits and objects to which we are so prone to become inordinately devoted. Now help us to feel that we are treading upon holy ground; and may we realize that in passing through the portals of this Sabbath morning, we are leaving the world behind us, and entering within the sacred enclosure where God more immediately meets with us. For all the blessings of the week we praise Thee. Gratefully we would review to-day this new chapter in the history of Thy loving care which the past week spreads before us. And taking the cup of salvation in our hands, we would call upon the name of the Lord.

Make us sensible of those spiritual wants for which Thou hast made provision in the ordinances of this day; and as our frail bodies are nourished by the bread Thou hast spread upon our table, so may our souls be fed this day with bread from heaven. Help us to control our thoughts, to elevate our affections, and to cultivate those aspirations which shall lift our minds from the things which are seen and temporal to those which are unseen and eternal. O send down Thy Holy Spirit to quicken our drowsy powers;

to show us the things of Christ; to bring us into fellowship with Thee; and to make us feel more sensibly the constraining power of the love of Christ. Help us so to regulate the desires and imaginations of our hearts, as well as our words and actions, that we shall show that in all things we are aiming to remember the Sabbath-day to keep it holy. Teach us how we may profitably employ these sacred hours so that we may not miss the blessing they were intended to bestow. Dispose us with devout minds to go up to Thy sanctuary to worship Thee with Thy people; or, if this privilege is denied us, enable us to make of our home a house of God and a gate of heaven. Bless those who shall meet in Thy name throughout the world. Accept their prayers and praises; give success to Thy word as it shall be preached; put wisdom into the hearts and grace upon the lips of those who shall preach it; and through the power of the gospel may many souls be born this day in Zion. Open the ears of the young, that they may early hear the voice of Jesus; and prepare their hearts to receive the instructions of the fireside and the Sabbath-school, as the good ground receives the good seed.

Send out Thy light and truth to the ends of the earth. Look with Thy special favor upon Thy servants who are laboring to plant Thy kingdom in heathen lands. Sustain them under all their discouragements; protect them in times of peril; and through Thy blessing upon their efforts, may the dark places of the earth become illuminated, and the habitations of cruelty be converted into the abode of peace and purity. Continue to bless, we beseech Thee, this land in which we live. Forsake us not, O God of our fathers, on account of our sins. Suffer not the people to lose their faith in Thee; and preserve to the genera-

tions of the future, the pure religion which has made us prosperous and great. While the enemy from so many quarters is coming in like a flood, let the Spirit of the Lord lift up a standard against him; and may it be the glory of this nation to the end of time, that it honors Thy law, maintains Thy worship, and reverences Thy Sabbaths. Hear us, O God, in this our morning prayer, and let grace, mercy and peace be multiplied abundantly unto us, and all who love Thy name, through our Lord Jesus Christ. AMEN.

II.

O THOU God of the Sabbath, who has preserved us through the six days of toil, grant us a special blessing as we come before Thee on this day of holy rest. We recognize Thy goodness in the command which requires us at this sacred season, to withdraw from our ordinary work, and devote our time and our minds to the worship of Thee. More needful to us is Thy favor than all the success which the world can give us; and yet in our eager pursuit of worldly success we are prone to forget this chief want of our souls. Thou hast been kinder to us than we are to ourselves; and by a merciful constraint hast obliged us to lay down the burden we have borne through the week, and in the quietness of our home and through the ordinances of the sanctuary, to hold fellowship with Thee, and converse with the truths of Thy word and the great interests which concern us as immortal beings. O help us to keep this day aright, so as to improve its opportunities for the acquisition of spiritual knowledge and for entering into covenant with Thee. Make us sensible of Thy presence with us in private, as well as in the house of

worship; and all through the day, may we be so encompassed by the influences of Thy Holy Spirit that our thoughts and affections shall have free access to Thee, and the duties in which we shall engage shall be performed with a hearty relish, and the Sabbath shall be to us, not a weariness, but a source of delight. As Thou hast forbidden us to do our worldly work, so be pleased to take away from us the worldly spirit; that we may be lifted above the attractions of worldly things, and be able to realize that we are sitting together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

O blessed Saviour, who wast delivered for our offences and raised again for our justification, make us, Thy professed disciples, to be so truly united to Thee that we can say, "like as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also are walking in newness of life in Him." Through the privileges of this consecrated day may we find new reasons for loving Thee, and new strength for doing Thee service. Look mercifully to-day upon the assemblies which shall meet in Thy name; confer upon them the Spirit of grace and supplication; give wisdom to Thy ministers that they may preach the Gospel with power from on high; and make this a day of gladness in many a community and home, by reason of sinners turning from their evil ways, and prodigal children coming back to the Father's house.

Bless the church to which we belong. Preside over its councils; baptize its officers with Thy Spirit; let great grace be given unto our pastor that he may faithfully feed the flock over which the Holy Ghost hath made him overseer; and open the hearts of his hearers to receive the word of God from his lips, so that Thy people may be edified, and souls be continually gathered into Thy kingdom. Make every home amongst us a Bethel; and as priests in their

own households, help all parents to fulfil their duty towards those who are under their care, and train up their offspring as a seed to serve the Lord. Let the darkness which now rests upon so many heathen lands be dissipated, and the light of the glorious Gospel of the Son of God penetrate every benighted portion of our earth. Hear us, O Lord, in these our prayers, for we present them in the name of Jesus Christ, our great High Priest and Redeemer. AMEN.

III.

WE invoke Thy blessing, O most merciful Father, as we begin the duties of this holy day. We would hear Thy voice saying unto us, "Seek ye my face," and with our whole hearts, we would make reply, "Thy face, Lord, will we seek." Early would we seek Thee, and with the dawning light would bring to Thee our first thoughts, and the free-will offerings of our mouths. We adore Thee for Thy greatness as the Creator of all things. We worship Thee as the continued Preserver of all that Thou hast made. The kingdoms of this world pass away, but Thy kingdom is an unchangeable one. The generations of men perish, but Thy years fail not, and Thou abidest from everlasting to everlasting God. Help us to feel that in the privileges of this Sabbath Thou art drawing specially near to us; and prepare us, we beseech Thee, to draw near to Thee. Reveal Thyself unto us as Thou dost not unto the world. By clearer manifestations than even we, Thy children are wont to have, when engaged in the employments of the world, enable us to behold Thy glory, and to rejoice in the light of Thy countenance. Keep us from forgetting Thee during these sacred hours; and

through our communings with Thee may our weary spirits receive refreshment and repose after the toils of the week. Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, our strength and our Redeemer.

We would chiefly praise Thee, O Thou God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for the lively hope which Thou hast begotten in us through the resurrection of Him from the dead; and for that inheritance which is incorruptible, undefiled and which fadeth not away, into which He, as our forerunner, has entered, and which is reserved in heaven for us. O enable us to know the power of Christ's resurrection in the delivering of our souls from the bondage of sin and death, and in the lifting of our hearts to Thee, as the supreme object of their complacency and affection. Bless to us, O Lord, the ordinances of Thine house. Give to us the spirit of true worshippers. With a pure offering may we come into Thy courts, and with singleness of mind may we seek to honor Thee in our devotions. Restrain our thoughts, which have been so occupied with worldly themes through the week, from wandering while we are in Thy presence; forbid that we should offer Thee the words of our lips while our hearts are far from Thee; enlighten our minds that we may understand the Scriptures; and through Thy word as it may be dispensed to us, send us some influence which shall comfort and edify our souls. If to any of us the privilege of waiting upon Thee in the public sanctuary shall be denied, we pray that Thou wouldest visit such with some token of Thy grace; and bestow upon them in their places of detention, a Sabbath blessing.

Give success, we beseech Thee, to all the efforts Thy servants are making to promote the religion of

Christ in the world. Multiply laborers for the wide fields which are opening in our own land, and among heathen nations. Awaken in the hearts of Thy people a livelier zeal for Thy cause, and a tenderer solicitude for the salvation of their neighbors and fellow-men. Help us in our various spheres to hold up the hands of those who minister in Thy name; and by our living piety, to proclaim the truth and excellency of the religion we profess. Teach us how to regulate our occupations and our intercourse with one another this day, so that we shall show that we are striving to hallow the Sabbath, and so to improve the rest Thou hast granted us that it shall fit us for the rest of Thy people in heaven; and Thine shall be the glory forever. AMEN.

IV.

OUR Father, which art in heaven, whose bountiful hand has fed us through the week, help us to be reminded by the return of this holy day that man liveth not by bread alone; and that heavenly things are more needful to us than the earthly things which perish in the using. Grant unto us the blessed satisfaction promised to those who hunger and thirst after righteousness. The wants which have pursued us through the week we would gladly dismiss from our minds; and with a deep sense of our spiritual needs and a sincere longing for spiritual refreshment and enjoyment, we would address ourselves to the duties of the Sabbath. O lift our souls, now, at the opening of the day, from contact and association with the things of the world; and inspire us with the thought that through the portals of this hallowed morning we are permitted to enter into the King's

presence, to look upon His face, and in response to His gracious invitation, to partake of the provision of His house. As we have closed our places of business and laid aside the implements of our daily toil, so may our hearts be closed against the intrusion of worldly cares, and our minds be withdrawn from the scenes and objects of secular life. May the gracious influences of the Holy Spirit aid us in our attempts to worship Thee in public and in private, so that our professed devotion shall be the unfeigned utterance of our faith and love. O Lord, help us with clean hands and with pure hearts to compass Thine altars to-day. We confess that, in our intercourse with the world, we have often fallen into irregularities of temper and of conduct. We have done many things which we ought not to have done, and we have left undone things which we ought to have done. We are oppressed with a sense of our unworthiness, as we think of entering Thy courts and taking Thy name upon our lips. Wherewith shall we come before the Lord, and bow ourselves before the high God? Look not upon us, O Lord, as we are in ourselves—but look upon us in the face of Thine anointed.

Accept us and our services this day, for the sake of Jesus, our great High Priest; grant us the cleansing offered to us through His blood; clothe us with the garment of His righteousness; assure us of the pardon of our sins; and enable us with joyful tongues to join with Thy people in celebrating Thy praise.

Let Thy kingdom come, and Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Sanctify the nations, O God, through Thy truth. Thy Word is truth. O let it have free course and be glorified this day; and let the ascended Saviour see a large accession to His

redeemed seed, and be satisfied for the travail of His soul. Pity, O merciful God, the multitudes who, even in Christian lands, are choosing the service of sin, and refusing to bring their weary and heavy-laden souls to Christ for rest. Hear the prayers which shall ascend to Thee to-day in behalf of an ungodly world; and give such power to the Gospel, wherever preached, that by it the dry bones in every valley shall be quickened, and the dead in every home shall be restored to life. Bless the missionary in his lonely labors among the heathen; sustain him as he goes forth weeping, bearing his precious seed; and crown his efforts with speedy success. Remember with Thy peculiar favor our own land. Preserve to us the Christian homes, the Christian legislation, the Christian ordinances, bequeathed to us by our pious ancestry; and suffer not the assaults of vice and infidelity to overturn the fair sanctuary in which Thou hast caused us to dwell. In the day of our prosperity let us not forget God; and in the day of calamity make us willing to heed Thy rebuke, and humble ourselves under Thy chastisements. Meet with Thy people in all places where they shall assemble to call upon Thy name, and send a Sabbath blessing to all such as are in Thy providence denied this privilege.

And now, O Lord, help us to live in conformity with these our prayers. As we have sought Thy presence in our morning supplications, may we cherish and abide under the sense of Thy presence all the day, and be prepared by our communion with Thee on earth for the eternal communion of the heavenly Sabbath, through Thy grace, which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord. AMEN.

V.

WE thank Thee, O Lord, for the return of another of these days upon which Thou hast set the seal of consecration, and which Thou hast made the type and pledge of the heavenly rest. This is the day which the Lord has made; we will be glad, and rejoice in it. We would hail it as the day of which the Son of man is Lord—the day which commemorates His creative work, His redeeming mission to our race, and His resurrection triumph, in which He conquered death and hell for us. Teach us to make such a use of this Sabbath as shall prepare us for the life and immortality which Christ has brought to light in the revelations of the Gospel. We have been busy all the week in labor for the meat which perisheth. Now, may we give our thoughts to the pursuit of the meat which endureth unto everlasting life.

Upon our time, as well as upon all things else, Thou dost justly lay a proprietor's claim—for time is Thy gift. Thou didst introduce us to it at our birth. Thou hast measured it out to us in the successive periods of our lives. Thou wilt withdraw it when we die. It is meet, O Lord, that Thou shouldest have, by special acknowledgments, a portion of our time. It is right that on each opening day of the week we should place the inscription, "Holy unto the Lord." From the lessons of this day may we learn that the chief end to which all our days should be directed is to glorify Thee; and through its hallowing influences may we be better disposed and prepared than we have ever been to make Thy glory the chief end for which we live every day. Let Thy Spirit help our infirmities; and quicken our religious affections, so that we may,

during these sacred hours, be loosed from the bonds of worldly habits and associations, and lifted above the region of our worldly thoughts and cares. Forbid that we should so love our secular occupations as to look upon the barrier Thou hast set between them and us, in the sanctity of this day, as a grievance; but dispose us, rather, to lay down the implements of our toil with the joy of the enfranchised hireling, and with the thirst of the panting wayfarer to come to the ordinances which Thou hast appointed for our refreshment. Open our ears to hear Thy voice speaking to us in Thy word. They have waxed gross through the clamor of the world to which they have been exposed. We would hear Jesus to-day, preaching to us as He preached to the multitudes in the days of His flesh; and from the lips of the prophets and apostles whom He has inspired we would learn the mysteries of the kingdom of God. If it shall be our privilege to meet with Thy saints in the house where Thou hast recorded Thy name, O help us to appear before Thee with a devout mind and an honest purpose; and may the worship which we render Thee be rendered in spirit and in truth. If, in Thy providence, our solitary chamber must be our sanctuary, help us to convert our home into a Bethel; and by special revelations of Thy presence fill our sick rooms and our dwellings in the wilderness with Thy glory.

Protect, we beseech Thee, our country from the assaults of those who would break down the Sabbath. Defeat the madness of those who would destroy the ark which has brought to our families and our nation such countless blessings in the past. Let Thine ear be attentive this day to the prayers of Thy people for the spread of Thy holy religion; and let the Gospel, as it shall be preached throughout

the world, be made mighty to the pulling down of the strongholds of Satan and the building up of the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ. Do good, O God, in Thy good pleasure unto Zion : build Thou the walls of Jerusalem.

Now, hear us while we pray for all needed temporal blessings this day. Care Thou for the wants of the body as well as those of the soul. Be merciful to any of our kindred or neighbors who are sick or in distress ; send some gracious token of Thy loving kindness to our absent friends ; help us to order our intercourse with one another this day, so that the day shall be a festival, not only of religious, but of domestic joy ; and we shall feel, at the end of it, that we have renewed our strength by waiting upon the Lord ; and to thy name shall be the glory.
AMEN.

PRAYERS
FOR THE SABBATH EVENING.

Sabbath Evening Prayers.

I.

O THOU Father of lights, from whom cometh down every good and perfect gift, and who hast this day added to our ordinary blessings the peculiar privileges of the Sabbath, help us to close the day with a deep and grateful sense of the manifold grace Thou hast bestowed upon us. For the rest from worldly toil which we have enjoyed,—for the quiet repose of our home,—for the opportunity of interchanging the offices of domestic love,—for all good thoughts or profitable impressions awakened in our hearts, this day—we devoutly thank Thee. We trust that Thou hast been specially near to us during these sacred hours; that Thy voice has been speaking to us in the solemn silence; and that Jesus has deigned to enter our lowly abode as a guest and friend. O we thank Thee for this weekly monitor of Thy sympathy with and thy care for us. We thank Thee for the law which enjoins upon us the keeping of the Sabbath. We thank Thee for the disposition which has led us as a family to keep it. We thank Thee for the example and instruction of the parents or friends who taught us to reverence Thine ordinances. We thank Thee above all for the grace of the Holy Spirit by which we have been caused to esteem the Sabbath “a delight,” and to count all its requirements and services as “honor-

able." Let Thy blessing follow the acts of worship in which we have been engaged. Help us to carry the spirit of worshipers with us into the week which lies before us; and to be careful to show the same reverence for God in our manner of conducting our work as we have this day professed to show by our abstaining from it.

Let Thy law which has been expounded to us, or upon which we have meditated, be so written upon our hearts that it shall abide in our memories, and continually control and order our lives. If by waiting upon Thee we have renewed in any measure our spiritual strength, let that strength appear, we beseech Thee, in our increased alacrity in duty, and in our growing conformity to Christ, our Divine Master. With profound humiliation, we reflect upon the instability of our purposes in the past, and the imperfect return we have made to Thee for the religious privileges we have enjoyed. What more could the Lord have done than He has done for us, His favored children? And yet how poor and barren of good fruits our lives have been! Forgive us, O merciful Father, for our wasted opportunities and our misimproved talents; and help us to redeem the time that remains to us, and to walk in the light while we have the light. Very patient Thou hast been with us, in bearing with our past unprofitableness; bear with us a little longer; and help us, in Thy strength, to resolve to devote ourselves, in time to come, more faithfully to Thy service.

Look down upon us with Thy compassion as we close this holy day, and let a special benediction rest upon our slumbers. Fit us for the remaining duties of life; and when the night of death shall come, may we be prepared to enter into that rest which remaineth for the people of God.

And now, may the God of peace that brought again from the dead the Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make us perfect in every good work, to do His will, working in us that which is well-pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. AMEN.

II.

O MERCIFUL God, who hast drawn so near to us through the ordinances of this day, vouchsafe to us Thy blessing now as we close its sacred hours. Thou hast been making us to lie down in green pastures and leading us beside the still waters. We trust we can say, "A day in Thy courts is better than a thousand: we had rather be door-keepers in the house of our God than to dwell in the tents of wickedness." We thank Thee that we have been reared in a Christian home, and taught to reverence Thy sanctuary and Thy Sabbaths. And now, O Lord, as Thou hast graciously given us once more Thine ordinances to enjoy, forbid that they should prove to any of us barren ordinances. May some blessing abide with each soul as the result of the services in which we have been engaged this day. As those who are conscious that they have spiritual wants more pressing than those of the body, help us to be serious and diligent in improving our religious advantages, and in making a profitable use of our means of grace. Impress upon our minds the truths we have meditated upon in Thy word, and the counsels which may have been addressed to us by those who are appointed to instruct us in Thy name. If

we have been admonished of any neglected duty by what we have read or heard, help us to heed the admonition. If Thy promises in their preciousness have been set before our minds, help us to walk in the comfort of them many days. If we have been rebuked for our faults, help us humbly to accept the rebuke. If our sins have been exposed to our view, help us to repent of those sins, and seek the remission of them through the mercy of our God in Christ. If our hearts have felt the persuasive power of the Holy Spirit, and been moved in any degree by the invitations of the merciful Saviour, help us to cherish these good dispositions, and to persevere in our endeavors to forsake sin and find the way of life.

May the prayers of thy people which have this day ascended to Thee be heard in heaven, Thy dwelling-place, and great grace be bestowed upon Thy saints, and great power be given to the Gospel wherever it has been proclaimed. May the day soon arrive when, in all their various languages, the nations of the earth shall praise Thee; and when every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

For the rest from worldly toil which we have enjoyed this day, we thank Thee; and humbly pray that we may find that in waiting upon the Lord we have renewed our strength for the performance of the duties of the week which lies before us. Add now, we beseech Thee, to the blessings of the day, that special token of thy favor which thou dost bestow upon Thy chosen ones—"the peace of God which passeth all understanding," to keep our hearts and minds this night, through Christ Jesus; and to Him, with the Father and the Holy Ghost, shall be the praise for ever. AMEN.

III.

GOOD and gracious hast Thou been to us, O Lord, this day; and with hearty thankfulness we gather around our family altar to pay our evening sacrifice to Thee. In the multitude of thy loving-kindness Thou hast granted to us another of these seasons of sacred rest; and now, at the close of it, we come to Thee to ask for a blessing upon its privileges and enjoyments. Let it not be in vain for us that this Sabbath has come and gone, but in the strength and comfort of it may we continue many days. Impress upon our minds the counsels which have been addressed to us through Thy word; confirm us in every good resolution we have been led to form; and suffer not the devout feelings and serious thoughts which have been awakened within us to be dissipated by the distractions of the coming week. Make those of us who are the professed followers of Christ to become more steadfast and exemplary in our Christian walk; and incline those of us who have hitherto neglected the great salvation to hear the voice of God inviting us, in this accepted time, to give our hearts to Him. O help our dull and carnal souls to learn that it is in Thee alone that they can find the true ground of rest. In our waywardness and wantonness we are continually turning to the things of the world with an idolatrous trust, and persuading ourselves that in its enjoyments and possessions we can find the satisfaction we crave. In Thy mercy Thou hast set these weekly Sabbaths in our path to remind us of the vanity of all earthly acquisitions, and to draw our hearts from these broken cisterns to Thee,—the fountain of living waters. Too faintly have we listened to the admonitions of these witnesses in the past; too quickly, like the

morning cloud and the early dew, their testimony has faded from our minds. Let not, O Lord, our neglect of these days of the Son of Man appear against us to condemn us when we stand at Thy bar; let not the doom of Jerusalem, who knew not the time of her visitation, overtake any of us. By the gracious influences of Thy Spirit abate the intemperate ardor with which we are wont to pursue worldly wealth and pleasure, and quicken within us those spiritual affections which shall lead us to make the kingdom of God and His righteousness the supreme objects of our pursuit.

Pity, we beseech Thee, the multitudes, who, even under the light of the Sabbath and its ordinances, are choosing the ways of darkness, and, like the prodigal, finding their pleasure in unholy rioting instead of the pure provisions of the Father's house. Hear, O Lord, the prayers in behalf of these deluded wanderers which have been offered up to Thee in the sanctuary this day. Let thy blessing accompany the efforts of Thy ministers to teach men Thy law and to win them from the practice of sin. Holy Spirit, descend like the shower upon the seed that has been sown. Give such effect to the truth which has been proclaimed throughout the world, that, as the result of it, many souls may be born into the kingdom of God, and there may be joy among the angels in heaven over sinners repenting and returning to Thee.

Take charge of us now, most merciful Father, as we retire to our rest. With our faith renewed and strengthened by our intercourse with Thee this day, may we with perfect trust commit ourselves and all whom we love into Thy hands, and rest in the assurance of reaching at last the eternal Sabbath, through Thine infinite mercy towards us, in Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.

IV.

BREATHE upon us a blessing, our Father, as we close this day of holy communion with Thee. With a nearer and tenderer feeling of sonship, by reason of the privileges we have enjoyed, we would come to Thy footstool and ask that grace may be added to grace through an evening's benediction upon us all. May the peace of God which passeth all understanding keep our hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. May the loving kindness which has given us the Sabbath follow us into the week which lies before us. Blessed be Thy name that Thou hast reminded us that the world which would absorb all our time and thought is not our master, and that it is not in its pursuits and acquisitions that we are to find our rest. O let that voice which has to-day bidden us suspend our toil and intermit the quest of earthly profit and enjoyment continually sound in our ears and keep our feet moving and our affections set—in the direction of heavenly things. In each returning Sabbath Thou art repeating the testimony, "Ye are not of the world, as I am not of the world." O blessed Saviour, help us to keep in mind this line which Thou hast drawn between us and the world when we go back on the morrow to our intercourse with it. It is by Thy power working in us and with us that we must succeed. Thou, who didst, with the command to rise up and walk, give the helpless paralytic the grace which enabled him to obey, grant unto us ability to do that which it is naturally impossible for us to do. Teach us how to live by faith upon the Son of God instead of by reliance upon our own strength; and encourage us to believe that, through Christ strengthening us, we can do with our weak hands all that Christ com-

mands us to do. Baptize us—baptize the whole Church with larger measures of this grace of faith; and inspire Thy people with the confidence which shall embolden them to undertake even the removing of a mountain at their Master's bidding. While feeble human lips have this day been proclaiming the truths of the Gospel, let Thine own Divine power attend the message; and may the effusion of the Holy Spirit cause the seed sown to bring forth an abundant harvest to Thy praise. O Thou who dost nourish the seed sown in the earth with the sunbeam and the shower, put life into the light of Thy preached word, that it may quicken the souls upon whom it shines, and regenerate the heart, while it instructs the mind. Thou hast said Thy word shall not return unto Thee void, and Thou hast promised the Holy Spirit to them that ask Thee. We bring our humble prayer, offered in the name of Jesus, in behalf of the generation, the race to which we belong, and beg that Thy word this day may, through the accompanying energy of Thy Spirit, prove the wisdom and the power of God unto salvation to the multitudes to whom it has been addressed. Especially for the members of our own household would we intercede. As Thou hast made us one in the bonds of natural kinship, so make us one in the experience of Thy renewing grace, and in the possession of a true faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Establish Thy covenant of life and peace with us and with our children after us; make us heirs together of the grace of life; and as often as we are called to mourn over the rupture of any of these fond ties which now bind us together, may we be comforted with the hope of meeting again in our Father's house above. We commend to Thy care all whom we love. Bless Thou those whom we

would bless; and with Thine own almighty hand keep Thou those whom our short arms cannot reach.

Forgive now, we beseech Thee, the sin that any of us may have committed against Thee this day. With unfeigned sorrow we would confess our faults, and in humble reliance upon the merits of our Divine Redeemer, ask Thee to blot them out from the book of Thy remembrance. Give us secure repose this night; and raise us up in the morning prepared to enter with new zeal into Thy service. Make us faithful in following Christ all our days on earth, and at last minister to us abundantly an entrance into Thy heavenly kingdom—for Jesus' sake. AMEN.

V.

O LORD our God, Thou hast been to us to-day as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land. Over the tumult of our ordinary life Thou hast breathed a great calm. To the winds and the waves by which we are buffeted while out in the world, Thou hast said "Peace—be still." We thank Thee for Thy great goodness towards us; and with hearts kindled into new gratitude by the mercies of the day, we would bring our evening sacrifice to Thine altar. We trust it has been with something of the desire of the hart panting after the water-brooks that we have sought Thee this day. We have a thirst which the world cannot satisfy. The things which withdraw us from Thee are separating us from the true portion of our souls—the true fountain of rest. To-day Thou hast met us on our pilgrimage, and called us up from the low fields of our earthly toiling, and brought us to the Mount of Vision, and caused us to hear voices from the heavenly world telling us of

heavenly things. Jesus has walked with us by the way, and sat with us at our table, and expounded to us the things concerning Himself in the Scriptures, and opened to us the counsels of God and the mind of the Spirit. Suffer us not to lose the benefit of these revelations. Let not the goodness which may have come to us through this communion with God, pass away like the morning cloud and early dew. O let not the curse of the barren soil, which drinketh in the rain which falleth oft upon it, and then beareth only thorns and briars—rest upon our souls. To-morrow, when we return to the world, may all who see us take knowledge of us that we have been with Jesus. Lord, evermore give us this living bread and water upon which we have feasted to-day, that we may be nourished up into completeness of spiritual stature, and our profiting become so conspicuous as to appear unto all men. Let not Thy word which has this day been preached to so many hearers, return unto Thee void. Thy ministers have sowed the seed. Thy people have watered it with their prayers. Now, Lord, withhold not Thou the increase. Let the mountains be brought low and the valleys raised up, and a highway for the Gospel be opened into all the nations of the earth. Baptize the church with larger measures of faith and zeal; fill the hearts of Christians with the Spirit of their Master, who, though He was rich, for our sakes became poor; and through the promptings of that Spirit, may the glad tidings of a Saviour who died for our sins and rose again for our justification soon be proclaimed in every land and tongue. We would ask a special blessing from Thee, O Lord Jesus, at this closing hour of the Sabbath, like that which Thou didst breathe upon Thy disciples when Thou wast parted from them and carried up into heaven. Help us to feel that Thy

hands are stretched forth in benediction over us, and that Thou art bequeathing to us Thy peace; and that Thou art promising to us the aids of the Comforter and the joy of Thy presence to the end of the world. Bless us with an enlargement of our faith. Bless us with the comfort of a clear and abiding hope. Bless us with a tenderer and wider charity. Bless us with a forgiving temper towards our fellow-man, as we have this day sought forgiveness from Thee. Bless us with a readiness to deny ourselves for Christ's sake and the good of others, as we have this day contemplated the sacrifices endured by Christ for us. Bless us with warmer desires for the salvation of sinners, as we have this day been reminded of the grace of Christ in seeking us when we were wandering from the fold of God. Bless us with all things needful for this life and the life which is to come. Bless us with moderation in the use of wealth, and with patience in the hour of adversity. Bless those of us who are present before Thee; and if any of our little circle are far away, encompass them to-night with Thine arms of love, as we pray Thee to encompass us. Bless us with wisdom to guide us through the whole journey of life, so that when at last the end shall come, we may be prepared to exchange the earthly home for the house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens, and the prayers of the earthly sanctuary for the praises of the redeemed in glory. We ask all in the name of Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Lord. AMEN.

P R A Y E R S

FOR SPECIAL OCCASIONS,

WHICH MAY BE USED IN CONNECTION WITH THE
FOREGOING.

Prayers for Special Occasions.

I.

FOR A SABBATH ON WHICH THE LORD'S SUPPER IS TO BE
CELEBRATED.

HELP us, O Lord, with an intelligent and devout mind to engage in that special form of worship which has been appointed for this day. In this ordinance Thou dost gather us around Thee as the host gathers his friends at his table; and in tones which seem to our ears to throb with the great love which led Thee to Gethsemane and the cross, Thou dost bid us remember Thee. May the Holy Spirit prepare us for the service. Forbid that we should lay a thoughtless or profane hand upon the memorials of the sacrifice of the Son of God. Worthily—with becoming conceptions of the meaning of the act, and with right views of the glory and grace of Him whose death we commemorate—may we eat of this bread and drink of this cup. Let the sorrow of that Holy Soul which for our sakes was “exceeding sorrowful, even unto death,” touch our hearts with sorrow as we contemplate those sins of ours which made it necessary that the Lamb of God should die. From the greatness of the ransom paid for our redemption, we would learn the greatness of our guilt and the extremity of our ruin. We would bring with us the broken heart and the contrite spirit. We would come renewing our first works of peni-

tence and faith; and we would ask Thee, O Father, to renew within us a sense of Thy forgiving mercy, and to assure us by fresh revelations that our sins are blotted out. Help us to receive Christ in all His offices as our Prophet, our Priest, and our King, with an appropriating trust, like that with which we shall receive those elements of food by which our natural life is sustained. And as those who have been redeemed by the precious blood of Christ, may we be enabled to realize the completeness of His ownership in us, and of our obligation to present ourselves as living sacrifices to Him. Grant, O Lord, that we may have great peace of mind in participating in this ordinance; that the fulness and freedom of God's grace may be revealed to us; that we may be kept from distractions and from the temptations of the evil one; that amidst all the bitterness of our grief at the remembrance of our unfaithfulness to our previous vows, we may still be permitted to believe that we are Thine adopted children, accepted in the beloved; and that in this sacramental act we may have our hearts expanded with love to all the brotherhood of Thy saints, and elevated into fellowship with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ; and to thy name shall be the glory. AMEN.

II.

AFTER COMMUNION.

GREAT has been Thy goodness to us this day, O Lord, in permitting us again to sit at Thy table. We thank Thee for the opportunity which invited us, and the disposition which drew us to the sacred interview. We would feel that within closed doors,

apart from the world, we have been communing with the Lord. If we have been able, in any degree, to apprehend Thy presence with us in this service, and if we have derived any comfort or encouragement from it, we praise Thee. Surely Thou hast been in our midst, and hast made Thyself known to us in the breaking of bread. It has seemed to us that it was Thy hand which bore to us the symbols of Thy body and blood; and Thy voice which bade us do this in remembrance of Thee. With tenderer feelings of love towards Thee and towards all mankind in our hearts, with a deeper hatred of our sins, with a simpler view of Jesus as the only and the all-sufficient sin-bearer of the world, with every evil lust crucified within us, and with the honest purpose in our souls to live in nearer fellowship with our blessed Saviour, and in more faithful obedience to His commands, we would turn to the world on tomorrow. O help us to remember everywhere that Thy vows are upon us; and may every day find us leading a sacramental life, till we shall be prepared at last with the sainted ones who have gone before, and the loved ones who shall come after us, to sit down at the marriage supper of the Lamb; and to Him who loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood, shall the praise and the glory of our salvation be ascribed, world without end. AMEN.

III.

AT THE BIRTH OF A CHILD.

WITH special gratitude we would acknowledge Thy goodness to us, O Lord, in leading us safely through a season of anxiety and peril, and in

granting us the joy of seeing a new life added to our household treasures. Thou hast turned our painful solicitudes into rapturous delight, and changed for us the cup of trembling into the cup of thanksgiving. Blessed be Thy name, O Thou Author and Preserver of life, that both mother and child are spared to us. Watch over them still in their respective states of weakness. Help us in receiving this little one into our home to receive it as a gift from Thee, and to feel that Thou hast constituted us Thy ministers to train up the child for Thy kingdom. Sanctify those natural affections which Thou hast kindled into a livelier intensity by this event, and cause them to remind us of our obligations to Thee for the possession of all our loved ones; and to see in every new object of love, a fresh appeal to our hearts, to make Thee the supreme object of our devotion. Great things we come to ask of Thee—for this child, at the outset of its being—even that Jesus may take it in His arms and breathe a blessing upon its infancy; and that the Holy Ghost may deign to take possession of its soul, as a temple in which He shall perpetually dwell. Fulfil, O Lord, so far as may be right in Thy sight, those fond desires which we cherish for our offspring; enable us, the parents, to live and act so that we shall be blessings to them, and make Thou them, in turn, blessings to us; and may the love which now makes of our earthly home a type of heaven, have its consummation in the union of all our little flock in that world, where we shall enjoy the reality of which the earthly bliss was the shadow and the foretaste. In multiplying the ties of human kinship, multiply unto us the grace which shall enable us to understand and fulfil the responsibilities which are involved in them; and through Thy blessing upon our endea-

vors, may this child, over whose birth we rejoice to-day, give early evidence that it has received that birth of the Spirit, by which it shall be made a child of God, and an heir of Thy kingdom; and to Thy name shall be everlasting praise. AMEN.

IV.

AFTER THE BAPTISM OF A CHILD.

WE take upon our lips, O Lord, the prayers which have been offered up by the church in behalf of the child who has this day been devoted to Thee in holy baptism. May those prayers be heard in heaven, and answered in blessings upon us and upon our little one. We thank Thee that we can believe that Thy covenant with Thy people extends its provisions to their seed as well as to themselves; that Jesus included children in His love and in the purpose of His redeeming work; and that the Holy Spirit has deigned to make his abode in the hearts of children. Grant, we beseech Thee, now, that all the grace which is represented by the baptismal rite, may be fulfilled in the experience of our child. Looking from the rite to that which it signifies, we ask that this child may be ingrafted into Christ by a living union; that it may receive from Him power to become a child of God; that it may early be made the subject of the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Ghost; that it may be purged from its native depravity, and kept from the evil which is in the world; and that after a useful life, it may be crowned with eternal glory in Thy kingdom. Help us who are the parents and guardians of the

child to feel our responsibilities in the charge Thou hast committed to us; make us faithful in watching over and training up this immortal spirit; give us wisdom and patience and diligence in the critical work; and through Thy blessing upon our efforts, may the joy be granted to us of seeing all our offspring walking with us in the ways of God on earth, and of anticipating the gathering of them all together, an unbroken household, before Thy throne in heaven, and the glory shall be Thine forever. AMEN.

V.

FOR A CHILD DANGEROUSLY ILL.

LOOK down with compassion, O merciful Father, upon us and upon the little sufferer, over whom we are watching with such anxious hearts. Hope in the created arm has almost expired in our breasts. It seems as if we were laboring in vain—as if the enemy were mocking at all our efforts to save this child. Lord, Thou art our refuge when other refuges fail. Thy resources are inexhaustible. To them we make our appeal. Thou gavest us the treasure and we called Thee good: and rejoiced in the sunbeam Thou hadst kindled in our home. Thou art good still. Thou art always good. If it seem good to Thee, O God, grant us the desire of our hearts and let this child live. Speak Thou the healing word; give efficacy to the remedies employed; breathe anew the breath of life into the exhausted frame; and call back the spirit from the borders of the grave. Thou hast inspired us with these strong affections which are pleading in our prayers. Thou dost not rebuke

us for the uttering of them. . We speak them forth to Thee in great earnestness—but with great humility. We dare not—we would not take the sceptre from Thy hands. We would not put our will above Thine. We would only say, Father, if it be possible in Thy sight, let this cup pass from us. Thou knowest what is best for us and for our child. Spare the child if this be right. If Thou hast determined otherwise, and the precious gift Thou hast lent to us can be ours no more, then help us, Father, to believe that Thy decree is right. Help us to submit to Thy holy will. Strengthen us for the agony of the parting hour; and enable us to feel, under the pressure of our great grief, the supporting presence of Thine everlasting arms; and to Thy name, in the depths of our sorrow, we will give the glory. AMEN.

VI.

FOR A SICK MEMBER OF THE FAMILY.

HEAR us now, O Lord, as we unite our prayers in behalf of that member of our family who is sick. Thou hast taught us by this distress that we are frail like other men, and that the health and strength in which we are prone to confide are but a broken reed. Thou hast seen fit to suffer one of our number to be prostrated by disease. We recognize thy hand in the affliction which has befallen us; we look to that hand for deliverance from it. Thou hast been our helper hitherto; and again and again in our sickness Thou hast healed us. Once more we ask Thee to interpose for our relief. Bless Thy servant whom Thou hast brought low; endue him (or

her) with patience to bear the weariness and pain of the sick bed; make the means we are employing effectual for his (or *her*) restoration; direct the physician to the use of suitable remedies; and send us some token for good—some sign of improvement—to cheer us in our present anxiety. Our hope, O Lord, is in Thee. Have compassion upon us, and spare to us this life which is so dear to us. We are not worthy that Thou shouldest come under our roof; and perhaps, when all has been well with us, we have forgotten or denied Thee. But Thou hast made us to feel our dependence now. Hear our prayer, O Father, and pity us, and do for us marvelous things, for which we will bless and praise Thy great name. Is anything too hard for Thee? Speak, Lord, the word, and the sick one shall be made whole. Our souls are waiting for the favorable response. But we wait in humility, remembering that Thou art God, and that it becomes us, in all the ardor of our desires, to stay the hand that would resist Thy holy will. Prepare us for the revelation of that will, even if it should be adverse to this our petition. If this sickness should be unto death, O God, into Thy hands we commit the departing spirit; praying that—washed and made white in the blood of the Lamb it may go from this earthly home to a place prepared for it through the grace of Jesus in the Father's house above. In this dark hour lift Thou upon us the light of Thy countenance; sustain our souls with a sense of Thy nearness and with an unfaltering confidence in Thy wisdom and love; and reveal Thyself unto us as a very present help and an all-sufficient portion when our earthly kinsmen and friends are taken from us. We ask all for Jesus' sake. AMEN.

VII.

FOR AN ABSENT MEMBER OF THE FAMILY.

O THOU, who art the Shepherd of all the families of mankind, to whom all must look for food and shelter and protection, we ask Thy special care for that one of our little household flock who is now absent from us. Follow him (or *her*) with Thy continual blessing. Keep him (or *her*) in safety in the house and by the way. Put kindness into the hearts of all with whom he (or *she*) shall come in contact, and make the powers of nature minister in every place to his (or *her*) good. Reverently and gratefully we would bring the anxieties of our minds and lay them all upon the heart of God. We rejoice to believe that the Almighty arm is present where ours cannot be, and that the All-seeing eye takes notice of our loved ones when they are hidden from our sight; and in the exercise of an humble faith we would invoke the offices of that arm and that eye in behalf of him (or *her*) who is now separated from us. If it be right, grant that the object which has led to this separation may be attained. If it be health, O Lord, bestow the boon, and restore to us the invalid in perfect soundness. If it be the acquisition of knowledge, bless the efforts of the student and make them effectual in fitting him (or *her*) for a useful life. If it be the prosecution of an honorable business, grant the adventurer counsel and success in his (or *her*) enterprise. The Lord watch between us and the absent one while we are sundered the one from the other; hear our daily prayers for each other; defend us in the hour of temptation and danger; and grant us in due time the privilege of a happy re-union; and to His holy name shall be the praise. AMEN.

VIII.

FOR A DYING PERSON.

LORD Jesus, into Thy hands we commit the spirit of this our departing brother (or *sister*). We are kneeling around his (or *her*) bed-side in utter impotency. Our ministry is ended. We have followed him (or *her*) to the gates of death. We can do no more but cry to Thee who hast said, "Whosoever believeth in Me shall never die," and pray that this last moment he (or *she*) may be enabled to lift the look of faith to Thee, and die clinging to Thine almighty arm. O Spirit of grace, Divine Comforter, now reveal Jesus to these eyes from which the things of earth are fading. Speak Thou to this soul whom our words, perhaps, can no more reach, and give it words of hope and cheer which we are unable to utter. Fill it with peace and joy unspeakable, and open to its view the rest that follows the struggle,—the crown of life which ends the conflict with sin and death. If grace has begun its saving work in this heart in former days, now let that work be perfected in preparing it to pass without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, into the presence of God. If grace has hitherto been neglected or resisted by it, O Thou who canst save unto the uttermost, even now work in this soul before it departs, to draw it in penitence and trust to Thine arms; and though no sign should be left to us of the marvellous act of mercy, let the ear of the dying one hear Thy voice, saying, "Fear not, for I have redeemed thee;" "This day thou shalt be with me in Paradise." Even now, hear this cry which we, speaking for him (or *her*), present to Thee, and stretch forth Thy hand, O merciful Saviour, to draw him (or *her*) from the

dark waters. Even in death may he (or *she*) receive the washing of regeneration, and be allowed some humble place—as one cleansed by the blood of the Lamb—among the subjects of Thy redeeming power. Look upon us, who are bowed before Thee, O Lord, and help us to see that it is our Father God, who is now revealing to us His will. Enable us to take the bitter cup that He has brought to our lips; and sustain us as we pass under the shadow of this great trial, and to Thy name we will give the praise. AMEN.

IX.

AFTER A DEATH IN A FAMILY.

O GOD, how unsearchable are Thy judgments and Thy ways past finding out! Thou hast laid Thy hand heavily upon us, and we are crushed under the stroke of Thy rod. A great silence and a great darkness have come into our home. A voice we loved to hear is hushed; a presence which was a light in our dwelling is gone from us. Our longing for the dear one taken from us has made all familiar things seem strange to us, and turned our fullness into emptiness. O Lord, pity us. Help us to bear this sorrow. Help us to hear some consoling word from Thee to break this awful silence; and to catch some ray of light from Thy countenance to cheer us in this deep darkness. We have no refuge but Thee. Our distracted minds are almost beyond our control. Lord, do Thou breathe into them Thy peace; and teach us how, in this hour of trial, to stay ourselves upon Thee. Thy will, O God, must be done. Enable us to say, let it be done! Thou hast but claimed a treasure which was Thine own. We called it ours;

and in the fondness of our love, forgot that all ours are Thine. O give us power to see that God is the same in wisdom, mercy and love, when He takes away as when He gives. As we have rejoiced in Thee, in the day of our gladness, we would comfort ourselves in Thee, in the day of our calamity. "Though the Lord slay me, yet will we trust in Him." Strengthen our poor hearts to bear this affliction. They are weak, and in vain we ask human friends to do us any good. They have no remedy for our griefs; and can only stand powerless before the open grave, and bid us go and weep there. Lord Jesus reveal Thyself to us amidst our tears; and help us in submission and faith to weep them upon thy bosom. Show to us that God is our Father still, as Thou hast shown Him to us in happier hours; and may the pain of our chastisement be soothed by the thought that as a wise Father, He chastens those whom He loves. Fulfil unto us the promises Thou hast made to Thine afflicted children. Show us the greatness of Thy tender-mercies. Make known to us the duties arising out of our present trial; and dispose us, in Thy strength, to take up the burden of them. Help us to be patient, waiting for the morning which is to come after our night of weeping; teach us how to honor Thee in the day of evil, as well as in the day of prosperity; and forbid that our sorrow should be like the sorrow of the world that worketh death.

O Lord, we have poured out our souls before Thee. We fly to the arm that has smitten us. O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive; O Lord, hearken and do; open Thine eyes and behold our desolation; defer not, but send us help in the day of our trouble, for Thy name's sake. AMEN.

X.

IN A SEASON OF WORLDLY ADVERSITY.

GIVE ear to our prayer, O God, and hide not Thyself from our supplication. We are oppressed—undertake Thou for us. Hast Thou not said, “Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and He shall sustain thee?” O Lord, our burden is now heavier than we can bear. Wave after wave of trouble has gone over us. We are groping in thick darkness like the blind. Our schemes for our worldly advancement have come to nought. Our labor has been in vain. We have planted, but have gathered no fruit. We have looked for good, and behold only evil has come upon us. We have been driven along by the windy storm and tempest until our path has brought us to the verge of ruin. A bottomless abyss seems to lie before us, and we see no standing place on the other side. O Thou who art our hope when all other hopes fail us, succor us now. Help our disquieted souls, in this hour of our extremity, to renew their hope in Thee. If through these calamities Thou art rebuking us for our sins, help us to see our sins and truly to repent of them. If Thou art trying us in the furnace of Fatherly discipline, help us to bear the trial and to be purified by it. Lord, forsake us not. Interpose in some way for our relief and deliverance. Show us some escape from our present troubles. Thou didst open a passage for Thy people through the Red Sea. Bid these waters which threaten to engulf us, to divide and give us a safe issue out of the dangers which are impending over us. Reveal to us the thing we ought to do. Restore calmness to our bewildered minds, and strength to our enfeebled arm. Keep our hearts steadfast in trusting in Thee; and make us patient

in bearing the cross Thou hast laid upon us. Send light, O Lord, to guide us in this dark day; pity a helpless family thrown upon Thy care; and let it appear in our case, as in the case of Thy servant of old, that in the end the Lord is very pitiful and of tender mercy; and to Thy name we will ever give the glory of our salvation. AMEN.

XI.

AFTER A MARRIAGE IN A FAMILY.

O THOU who dost take part with us, alike in our seasons of joy and sorrow, bestow, we beseech Thee, Thy special benediction upon this new relationship which has been formed within our home. Bless these Thy servants who have been united in the sacred tie which has made them man and wife. Thy hand we trust has created the bond which has mysteriously blended their lives together. Watch over that bond, O merciful Father; preserve it long unbroken; through it let Thy beneficence continually flow down to them: and through all their coming years may they look back with gratitude to Thee, for the hour and the rite which have made the twain one. Amidst all the gladness which now inspires their hearts, may they apprehend the responsibilities which belong to the joint-life into which they have entered; and looking to Thee for daily and hourly guidance may they be enabled faithfully to acquit themselves of the obligations they have assumed to each other, and to Thee. Fulfil, so far as may be best for them, the kind desires which we, their friends are entertaining for them. Let the sure mercies of Thy covenant attend them in all the ex-

periences of their future life; and convert their reverses, as well as their successes into blessings. Sanctify their fellowship with each other so that it shall be a constant expression of their fellowship with Christ; and when their ministry of love on earth is ended, may their union and their blessedness be made perfect in heaven. And now, may grace, mercy and peace, be multiplied abundantly unto them and unto us all, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. AMEN.

PRAYERS
FOR THE SABBATH-SCHOOL.

Prayers at the Opening of a Sabbath-School.

I.

O LORD, incline our hearts unto Thy testimonies, and give us understanding that we may learn Thy commandments. Let Thy word be a lamp unto our feet, and a light unto our path. Make Thy face to shine upon Thy servants, and teach us Thy statutes. Open Thou our eyes that we may behold wondrous things out of Thy law.

We thank Thee, merciful Father, for the many blessings vouchsafed to us since we last met together; and we thank Thee chiefly that Thou hast made us capable of knowing Thee as the source from which those blessings have come. With our whole hearts we would praise Thee in our songs to-day. With glad voices we would proclaim that the Lord is good, and that His mercy endures forever. And while we celebrate Thy goodness, we would with sorrow and shame confess our sins, and humbly ask Thee, for Jesus' sake, to forgive them.

Grant unto us now, we beseech Thee, the preparation of heart which we need in order to engage profitably in the study of Thy holy word. Enable those of us who are appointed to teach, to execute our office with such spirituality of aim, and such tender solicitude, as shall make it a work of faith

and a labor of love. Instruct us, that we may instruct these young souls entrusted to our care; and in the spirit of our gracious Master, who has said of little children, "Of such is the kingdom of heaven," may it be our endeavor and our privilege to guide them in the knowledge of Thy truth, and into the way of salvation. And dispose the minds of those who have come to be taught that they may with seriousness and docility receive the counsel of Thy word, and be led with a true faith to embrace the doctrines and precepts of Thy holy religion. Direct us all in the duties of the hour; help us to address ourselves to them as those who are rendering service to God; and through Thy blessing upon our studies, may the fruit of the bread here cast upon the waters be found in after days, in the sanctified lives of these children; and to Thy name, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, shall be the praise for ever. AMEN.

II.

ALMIGHTY God, our Heavenly Father, by whose kind care we have been preserved through another week, look mercifully upon us as we gather once more, a company of children, around Thy footstool, to pay Thee our worship and to listen to Thy counsels. Thou hast made us "children of the light," by reason of the knowledge of Thee, the true God, and of Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent, which Thou hast given us in Thy word. Incline our hearts to love the light, and to walk in it; and to avoid the unfruitful works of darkness in which the evil one would tempt us to engage. Open our minds that they may receive among their earliest impres-

sions such a sense of the grace and loveliness of the blessed Saviour, as shall dispose us to confide in Him as our truest friend, and to follow Him as our safest guide. O Thou Shepherd of Israel, who hast given thy life for the sheep, and who hast made the feeding of Thy lambs a part of our service as Thy disciples, help those of us who are the teachers in this school to discharge our ministry in humble imitation of Thine own example. Confer upon us the gifts which shall make us apt to teach and wise to win souls to Christ; and implant in the hearts of our scholars the precious seed of Thy truth before the enemy shall have corrupted them with his tares. Bestow upon us the influences of Thy Holy Spirit to illuminate our minds; to enable us with due heed to speak and to hear Thy word, and to keep us from all levity and irreverence while we are before Thee.

Bless the various households which are represented here, and shield them from calamity and sorrow. Make the parents and guardians of the little ones who are sent to us for instruction, co-workers with us in our endeavors to train them up in Christian doctrine and duty; and may the light kindled in the souls of these children in this school be carried back by them to their homes, and give testimony in all their families to the power and excellency of the religion which has here been taught them.

Accept now, O blessed Jesus, the hosannas which we, like the children of old, have come to sing in the temple; and let our hearts be enlightened and cheered by the gracious words which shall this day fall from Thy lips; and to Thee, with the Father and the Holy Ghost, the one God of our salvation, shall all glory be ascribed, world without end. AMEN.

III.

(O)UR Father which art in heaven, help us in all our exercises this day to hallow Thy name. We are thankful that our blessed Lord has given us that Name to use, and has given it to us as a sign and pledge, that through faith in Him as our Mediator, we may be made the children of God. Help us all to aspire after this high relationship. By all the love and reverence we owe to our earthly parents, may we be reminded of the love and reverence we owe to Thee; and by all the need we feel for their affection and care, may we be admonished of the need of Thy favor and compassion. In all the goodness they are exercising toward us, we would see the goodness of God continually bestowed upon us; and as, from a natural motive, we trust in and obey and serve Thee, so we pray, that we may early learn, from a spiritual motive, to trust in and obey and serve Thee.

We acknowledge Thy kindness to us in granting to us the privilege of meeting again as a Sabbath-school. Enable us heartily to attend to our several duties. With an intelligent sense of our responsibilities, may we who are set to teach, strive to feed these souls with the pure truth of God, and to furnish them with such knowledge of Thy perfect law and of the Gospel of thy grace, as shall fit them for holiness of life in this world, and for everlasting blessedness in the world to come. And dispose these children to bring with them to Thy house a serious and devout mind; to be respectful to their teachers; to be kind and courteous to their companions, and to be attentive to the lessons and counsels which may be addressed to them. Thou hast favored them by giving them their natural birth in a Christian land and under the influence of Christian institu-

tions. O Lord, impart unto them that higher birth, the birth of the Spirit, by which these outward advantages shall be made effectual to the renewing of their nature after Thine own image, and the engrafting of them into Christ as living branches of the True vine. May the attractions of Christ be so revealed to their young hearts that they shall be constrained to forsake all to follow Him, and to lay their lives in their early freshness as a sacrifice upon His altar.

Let Thy Holy Spirit give power to Thy word wherever it shall this day be preached or taught throughout the world. Especially we would pray that thy blessing may rest upon the schools established for the instruction of youth in heathen lands. Pity these benighted wanderers from Thy fold; and through the light of the glorious Gospel of Christ, may they be reclaimed from the error of their ways, and made partakers of the privileges which the religion of Jesus has bestowed upon us. Make us willing to do what we can for their recovery; and cause that the humble offerings which we are permitted from time to time to make to the missionary cause, may be made instrumental in bearing the tidings of salvation to some victim of false religion, and of saving some soul from death. We ask all in the name of Jesus Christ, our Divine Lord and Redeemer. AMEN.

Prayers at the Closing of a Sabbath School.

I.

BESTOW upon us now, O Lord, Thy blessing as we close the services of this hour. For the opportunity and the privilege of waiting upon Thee in these exercises we thank Thee; and we pray that, in going back to our homes, we may bear with us such impressions of Thy truth as shall abide in our hearts, like the good seed sown in the good ground, which brought forth fruit—some thirty, some sixty, and some an hundred fold. Help us all to show by our godly conduct through the week which is before us that we have been true and faithful learners in the school of Christ. O Thou Holy Spirit, whose office it is to open the blinded eye of the soul and to enable it to see and understand the things of God, give Thy quickening power to the counsels which have this day been imparted to these children; and through Thy blessing upon our instructions, may they be led to love Thy Law which we have tried to teach them, and to choose those ways of heavenly wisdom in which we have sought to lead them. Watch over us all while we shall be separated from each other, and permit us again, in due time, to resume our study of Thy blessed word. Hear us now, as in the words which our Saviour has taught us, we pray,

Our Father, which art in heaven, &c.

II.

We thank Thee, O merciful God, for the opportunity which we have this day enjoyed of engaging in Thy worship and of communing together concerning the great things of Thy Law. We thank Thee that the mysteries of Thy kingdom, which have been so long and so largely hidden from the eyes of men, have been revealed to us through the teachings of Jesus Christ, Thy Son, and have been made so plain to us that even the little child can understand them. We thank Thee that the Holy Spirit has been given to us as a helper to guide us unto the truth and to make Thy word effectual to our enlightenment and salvation. Grant now, we beseech Thee, that the blessing of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, may rest upon us all as we close the services in which we have been engaged, and may the lessons we have received to-day be so fastened upon our minds and our hearts that they shall control our affections and regulate our conduct in all our future lives. Confirm in us every good disposition which may have been excited within us, and help us to execute every right purpose which we may have been led to form this day. Give us that knowledge of Christ which shall convert and sanctify our souls; and through the faithful following of Him on earth, may we all be prepared to enjoy the blessedness of His heavenly kingdom.

Our Father, which art in Heaven, &c.

III.

O THOU who hast given us the unspeakably precious treasure of Thy word, grant that the use

of it which we have made this day may be the means of enlightening our eyes and of converting our souls. May the love of God, in sending Jesus Christ into the world, and in bringing the knowledge of Him to us, be so revealed to our minds that we shall joyfully accept Him as our Saviour, and devote ourselves to His service as our Master. And through Thy grace accompanying our instructions, may these children show in all time to come, through their faith in Jesus, and their holy character and life, that they have been effectually taught of God and regenerated by the Holy Spirit. Protect them from the evil influences to which they may be exposed in the world; help them, by their blameless walk and their consecrated spirit, to adorn the doctrine of God their Saviour; and as, through Thy distinguishing mercy, they have been "planted in the house of the Lord" in their early years, so may they continue in their maturer life to "flourish in the courts of our God," and even "in old age to bring forth fruit" to His glory and the good of the world. And to Thy name shall the praise be given, world without end.

Our Father, which art in heaven, &c.

PRAVERS
FOR THE TABLE.

Prayers for the Table.

I.

BESTOW upon us, O Lord, Thy heavenly grace as Thou hast bestowed upon us these gifts of Thy Providence. Help us to receive them in true thankfulness; and with the strength they afford us to be more diligent in Thy service, we ask for Christ's sake. AMEN.

II.

O THOU who hast so kindly provided for our bodily wants, provide also, we beseech Thee, for the wants of the soul; and dispose us with the same earnestness with which we seek our food, to seek the spiritual nourishment which shall fit us for Thy service and kingdom. AMEN.

III.

RECEIVE our thanks, O Thou Father of mercies, for the kind remembrance of our wants witnessed in these gifts; and enable us to show the sincerity of our gratitude by the obedience of our lives, through the grace of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. AMEN.

IV.

GRATEFULLY, O Lord, we accept these fresh tokens of Thy goodness; and pray that through the enjoyment of them, our hearts may be made more

mindful of others, and more ready to do good as we have the opportunity, and to Thy name shall be the glory. AMEN.

V.

HELP us, O Lord, to receive our daily bread in such faith, that the material gift shall be to us a token of that love which is covenanted to Thy people through Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.

VI.

O THOU who hast gathered us once more around our table, bless us in the reception of Thy bounty; and through Thy grace sanctifying our earthly refreshments, may we be prepared to eat bread together in Thy heavenly kingdom, we ask in the name of Christ. AMEN.

VII.

THOU hast blessed us, O God, in sending us once more food for our natural wants; grant us the blessing promised to those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, and ever more feed us with the bread of life through Thy grace in Christ, our Redeemer. AMEN.

VIII.

DISPOSE us, O Lord, to receive this food with a due remembrance of our unworthiness; and through Thy goodness to us, lead us to repentance for our sins, and to a consecration of our lives to Thee, for Christ's sake. AMEN.

IX.

FORBID, O Lord, that the frequency of Thy gifts should betray us into forgetfulness of the source from which they come; but by the daily supply of our wants, may we be reminded of our continual dependence upon Thee, and of the obligation which requires, whether we eat or drink, or whatsoever we do, to do all to Thy glory. AMEN.

X.

O THOU, who dost teach us to look to Thee, day by day, for the relief of our bodily wants, help us to live in the exercise of daily trust in Thee; and in waiting upon Thee for the bread which perisheth, may we secure the bread which shall endure unto everlasting life, through Christ our Redeemer. AMEN.