



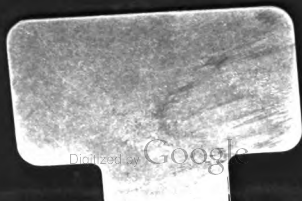
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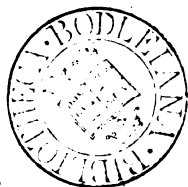


THE BOOK
OF
FAMILY WORSHIP.

THE BOOK
OF
FAMILY WORSHIP.

CONTAINING

PRAYERS FOR EVERY MORNING AND EVENING
THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, AND FOR
PARTICULAR OCCASIONS.



BY

DAVID GEO. GOYDER.

"The glory of the world, and the wealth and beauty of it, are not enough to illustrate the fulness of the meaning of the words which the Lord's Prayer begins with, and which every man on earth may utter, — 'OUR FATHER.' " — *Beecher.*

LONDON:
F. PITMAN, 20, PATERNOSTER ROW.
JAMES SPIERS, BLOOMSBURY STREET.

1871.

LONDON :
F. PITMAN, 20, PATERNOSTER ROW, E.C.

In Memoriam.



JOSEPH SENIOR,

OF DALTON, NEAR HUDDERSFIELD,
YORKSHIRE,

DEPARTED THIS LIFE

JULY 31, 1854,

AGED 57 YEARS.

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE Prayers contained in this volume were composed many years ago, at the request and for the use of my late friend, Mr. Joseph Senior, of Dalton, near Huddersfield.

In common with many others, he lamented that no book of daily prayers for the use of the New Church existed. [With Mr. Mason's "Help to Devotion," it does not interfere.] Mr. Senior lived to see its completion, and I began to copy it in volumes for his special use. Had he lived, it would have been published at his expense.

It is needful to remark that the prayers were originally double the length of those now contained in this volume. But I have thought it prudent to abbreviate them, so as to bring them within the compass of family reading.

At the request, originally of a lady, and lately of a clergyman of the Church of England, I have added Prayers for Particular Occasions.

The great variety of subjects contained in eight hundred prayers precludes the possibility of preparing an index. But I have added a form of self-examination, and a brief preparation for the reception of the Holy Supper. I have also added a short table of portions of Scripture, drawn from the Psalms and from the Lord's Sermon on the Mount, to be read before the prayers.

I have recently published a little volume entitled the "*Prayer of Prayers*,"—five short lectures on the Lord's Prayer. This volume I recommend to the subscribers of "*The Book of Worship*." And if any of the subscribers to the present volume are unable to purchase it, I will send it them freely on condition of their sending two stamps to pay the postage. I pray that the Divine blessing may accompany both volumes.

WIVENHOE, ESSEX,
June 30th, 1871.



The Book of Family Worship.

PRAYERS.

FIRST WEEK.—SABBATH MORNING.

MOST merciful Lord God our Saviour, as Thou hast graciously brought us to behold the light of this Sabbath, deign to look upon us from Thy high and holy place, and assist us to enter upon the duties of this day with reverence and humility. Thou hast designed us to find our happiness in loving Thee, and in showing our love to Thee, by loving our neighbour as ourself. By this are we known to be Thy disciples as we have love one to another.

Lord, we beseech Thee pour forth the influences of Thy Spirit upon us, that a devout obedience may be enkindled within us to Thy divine injunctions.

We confess that the love of self and the love of the world have long held dominion over us. We have frequently contended who among us should be greatest: and even when we have attempted to do good, there has frequently arisen within us a jealousy lest the good we have intended should be anticipated by others. O Lord, help us to keep in remembrance that all good of right belongs to Thee; and in our efforts to perform the uses of charity, may we keep Thee ever before us, and labour to promote the good of our brethren with singleness of eye and purity of heart, ascribing unto Thee all the honour and all the praise for ever and ever. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SABBATH EVENING.

O LORD Almighty, the Redeemer and Saviour of the universe of worlds, the duties and privileges of another Sabbath having been participated in and brought to a close, we again approach Thee as a Church in our own house. Thou art the hearer of prayer: wheresoever two or three are assembled in Thy name, there art Thou in the midst of them. O God of all consolation, let Thy presence be felt by us, pardon our imper-

NOTE.—The person who conducts the worship should always read a portion of the Holy Word before the Prayer.

fections, and accept our humble offerings as the incense of the evening sacrifice.

O what a glorious inheritance hast Thou laid up in store for all who become regenerate! May Thy truth become to our souls what the purifying water is to our bodies. May we be faithful and just in confessing our sins; and O grant us Thy help to repent, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

We thank Thee, O merciful Saviour, for the gift of Thy Holy Word, as the stream that can alone make glad the city of our God. Thy Holy Word in its going forth is the source of all joy and blessedness. O may we so apply its sacred truths, that our wills and affections may be purified and filled with Thy love, and our understandings and thoughts be enlightened and governed by Thy wisdom. We ask these blessings in Thy name, O Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY MORNING.

O LORD God our Saviour, direct us in our various offices of usefulness this day, that we may preserve the temper and spirit proper for communicating what Thou hast in mercy bestowed upon us. May the natural love of rule be transformed into the spiritual love of usefulness. Thou wilt not destroy in us the desire of good when it is desired for its own pure sake, and to show forth the purity of Thy love.

Lord we beseech Thee to lead us by Thy good Spirit, and let Thy gracious providence be so operative upon us, that we may be humble instruments in Thy hand to promote the happiness of all around us, while we work out our own salvation with fear and trembling.

In all our duties this day, may we feel the blessedness of Thy presence. Whether we are engaged in the instruction of children, or in some other useful office in Thy Church, or whether we, in simple obedience listen to the admonition of others, still, O Lord, may Thy presence be with us, and Thy fear before our eyes, that we sin not. Help us to consecrate our whole souls to Thy service. May the inmost of our affections be as the mount of Thy holiness, the inmost of our understandings as the throne of Thy government. Yea, Lord, reign Thou within us by Thy love and truth; impart unto us the influences of Thy Spirit; give unto us watchfulness and circumspection; and strengthen us by this day's exercises, that we may be endowed with new vigour to contend against our corruptions, until all within us be created anew. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY EVENING.

O LORD God, who art the King invisible, immutable, eternal, establish Thou within our souls Thy divine government, and let purity, piety, peace, and holiness take up their abode within us.

As visible members of Thy Church on earth, may the seal set in our foreheads be the mark that shall ultimately admit us into Thy Church in heaven. In all our future associations with the world, may Thy truth be unto us as our constant guide and counsellor. May it check us,

should our inclinations turn to evil, and whisper peace to our souls when we do good. May it purify every thought and affection, and hallow every desire, and lead us constantly to lift up our souls to Thee.

O Lord, Thou only canst keep us in the way of holiness. Thou only canst baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire. We humbly pray Thee that Thou wilt be near to us at all times, and baptize us with this baptism.

Let the reign of sin and the kingdom of Satan be destroyed within us. Purge us with hyssop that we may be clean, wash us that we may be whiter than snow. And do Thou, O Lord, set up a kingdom within our souls, which shall never be destroyed, so that we may realize the truth by a happy and blessed experience, that the kingdom of heaven is established within us. So let Thy kingdom come, O Lord Jesus Christ, we beseech Thee. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY MORNING.

O LORD be merciful unto us this morning, be merciful unto us we beseech Thee: lift Thou up the light of Thy countenance upon us; and cause Thy face to shine, and we shall be saved.

We come before Thee, deeply impressed by Thy goodness, we kneel in Thy presence under the conviction that Thou art the hearer and answerer of prayer.

O that men could be brought to behold the perfect love with which Thou hast regarded them! O may the minds of men be prepared to behold Thee in all Thy divine perfections; to know Thee, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge; to feel that life eternal is to know Thee, the only true God, even Jesus Christ our Saviour.

O heavenly Father, we pray that we may be led to a devout contemplation of Thy divine perfections. Thou art the only *true—the Divine man!* and we feel that it is by a knowledge of Thee and of Thy divine perfections, that we can be brought to a true knowledge of ourselves, of our duty to Thee, and of our duty towards our neighbour. Thou revealest Thyself unto us through the medium of Thy Holy Word. By a knowledge of Thy Word are we able to increase in wisdom, and by loving Thee we can become conformed to Thy likeness. Of ourselves we can do nothing—can know nothing. All our sufficiency is of Thee. To Thee, therefore, do we come, O most blessed Saviour; fill us with a knowledge of Thyself. This knowledge we pray for in Thy own name, O Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY EVENING.

O LORD God Almighty, at the close of another day we desire to draw near to Thee, and to offer our humble and grateful thanks for Thy Divine protection and providential care. This day has added to our obligations, and should lead to the devout acknowledgment that Thy mercies are ever new towards us.

We have indeed "erred from Thy ways, like lost sheep;" but Thou hast followed us in our wanderings, and by Thy divine dispensations hast brought us to Thy fold again. O Lord, enkindle within us a flame of holy love and gratitude; and may the immensity of Thy goodness, as evidenced in the great work of our redemption, be ever before us.

In the plenitude of Thy divine love, deign to look upon us, O Lord. Turn us, again, O Lord God of hosts, and let the influences of Thy good Spirit quicken within our souls ardent aspirations for Thy heavenly kingdom.

While we behold the span of human existence, how much there is to be done, and how little time to do it in, help us, O Lord, we beseech Thee, so to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. Help us in the important duty of self-examination. Help us that we may lead lives of practical holiness. Hear us, O Lord Jesus Christ, for Thine own name sake. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

GREAT and adorable Saviour, we humbly desire to know Thee as Thou revealest thyself in Thy divine perfections. As a God of love, O help us to love Thee, as Thou hast loved us: as a God of truth, O let Thy light shine, Thy wisdom guide us, and by Thy truth we pray Thee to aid us in the regulation of our life and conversation. In all things may we learn of Thee and follow Thee. In the performance of all our duties, still may we behold Thee ever before us. As our best efforts are imperfect, and we know not how to bring our affairs to a prosperous issue, may the dispensations of Thy providence make us ever submissive, and however much they may appear to inflict suffering, may we remember that Thou hast no other design in permitting their operation upon us, than the security of our everlasting good.

With this earnest desire to know Thee, that we may thereby know ourselves, and with this humble supplication, that we may set Thee continually before us, learn of Thee, and strive in all things to be conformed to Thy image, Lord, we go forth to commence the duties of another day. As Thou hast protected us during the past night, so do we feel assured that Thou wilt be with us during this day. To Thy wise guidance and direction, O Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly commit ourselves. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

O INFINITE and adorable Lord God and Saviour, Thou knowest how frail we are; Thou art acquainted with all our thoughts; there is not a word in our tongue, but lo! O Lord, Thou knowest it altogether.

We acknowledge that our hearts appear to be set in us to do evil, and again and again have we to confess how easily we are drawn aside and enticed of our own lusts. But O Lord, merciful and gracious, help us to overcome our evils, give us strength to contend against them in their most seducing and enticing forms, and give unto us clean hearts, and renew a right spirit within us.

We desire to thank Thee, O Lord, that Thou hast added another day to our existence. We thank Thee that Thou hast brought us safely through its duties. O grant Thy blessing upon our labours, and may they result in good to our fellow-creatures.

With humble confidence we commit our souls to Thy gracious keeping this night. May Thy peace pervade our hearts and minds, and may Thy blessing be with us, and be felt by us and by all mankind, now and for evermore. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY MORNING.

IT is a good thing to give thanks unto Thee, O Lord, to show forth Thy loving-kindness in the morning, and Thy faithfulness every night. Thou makest the outgoings of the morning and of the evening to rejoice. Thou hast preserved us alive amidst the dangers of the past night, and the morning has brought us into Thy presence to offer our humble duty and gratitude. "We will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall be continually upon our lips;" "we will make a joyful noise to the Rock of our salvation, for He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand." Glory be unto Thy holy name, O Lord Jesus Christ.

Lord, enable us to express our gratitude in Thy presence with becoming humility. While every day renews Thy goodness, and we see it displayed in all the wondrous acts of Thy providence, may a deep conviction of our own unworthiness still possess us. May we remember that there is nothing we have done or can do, that can at all merit Thy favour. We make humble confession that if it had not been for the Lord, our enemies had been too strong for us. But the Lord hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad. O may the many mercies we have received at Thy hands, fill our hearts with adoring gratitude, and incite us to obedience to all Thy just and wise commands. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY EVENING.

GREAT and merciful Jehovah, whose exalted perfections are unapproachable, but who in Thy transcendent glory hast opened a way, through the medium of Thy word, in which Thy creatures can hold communion with Thee; we now humbly bend before Thee, and through the humanity which Thou hast glorified, we humbly hope to be introduced to such a knowledge of Thy glorious person, as may be best adapted to advance us in the path of the regeneration.

O keep us, we beseech Thee, from every species of idolatry, not merely from the worship of dumb idols, wood and stone—which have eyes, and see not, ears, and hear not—but from the idolatry of self, from the adoration of our own talents and abilities. Hast Thou bestowed upon us great and valuable talents; O keep us humble in the exercise of them. We are taught by Thy holy Word, that if we suffer ourselves to be inflated by pride, or lifted up by self-conceit, this is to worship the talent we possess instead of the God who bestowed it. O Lord, we give the glory

unto Thee. "For if we have made gold our hope, or have said to the fine gold, Thou art our confidence, if we rejoiced because our wealth was great, and because our hand had gotten much, this also is abomination before Thee, for we should have denied the Lord that is above." Oh, help us to do our duty, and to give all the glory and all the praise to Thee alone. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY MORNING.

MOST merciful and adorable Lord our Saviour, who watcheth over the frailty and feebleness of all Thy creatures, who permitteth Thy blessed spirits to have charge over us, and bear us up when in temptation and suffering, we mourn over our transgressions, we desire to humble ourselves before Thee; help us to show forth that godly sorrow which worketh repentance—that sorrow which is a testimony of our weak and feeble condition, which supplicates Thine aid alone to enable us to rise above our forlorn condition.

Lord; help us. On Thy goodness do we alone depend. O help us to bring forth fruits meet for repentance. May we no longer tamper with Thy mercy and long suffering.

Assist us to acquire that temper and spirit which subdues our evil passions. May we spiritually realize within our souls the fulfilment of the glorious prophecy: "The wolf shall lie down with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, and the calf, and the young lion, and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them." O assist us to gain this blessed state of innocence. O help us to become pure in heart, so shall we have conjunction of life with Thee, our only God and Saviour. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY EVENING.

MOST merciful Lord Jesus Christ, we would approach Thee this evening, lifting up our hearts with our hands unto Thee in the heavens. Enable us to conquer the selfish inclinations which draw us aside from our duty to Thee. Subdue within us all unholy lusts, all sordid desires, all anxiety about the world and its concerns, so that our worship may be without distraction, and heaven and its blessed realities kept before our eyes, while Thy divine perfections fill our souls with adoring love. May all the duties in which we engage of morality and external usefulness, be filled with that spirit and that life which exhibits the truth of faith and the good of life—the faith which worketh by love.

Enable us to acquire a spirit of humility, and to quell the risings of self-love; and O preserve us from spiritual pride. Whatsoever we engage in, may it be done under a deep sense of entire dependence upon Thee. Without Thee, we acknowledge we can do nothing.

And, O Lord, we beseech Thee, let Thy blessings rest upon the duties in which we have engaged this day, while we confide ourselves to Thy providential care during the night season. "Thine eyes behold, Thine eyelids try, the children of men." To Thee alone do we commit our-

selves. Visit us, we beseech Thee, with sound and refreshing sleep, that our spirits may be renewed, and our bodies invigorated to go through the duties of the morrow. We ask all for Thy name and mercy sake, O Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY MORNING.

GREAT and merciful Redeemer, without whom we can do nothing, we feel our insufficiency, our constant liability to err; to Thee, therefore, we look for help. O sustain us and hold Thou us up. Our confidence, our hope is in Thee; we more and more distrust our own power, we can do nothing of ourselves; be near to us, then, O merciful Father, and uphold us by the right hand of Thy righteousness.

We thank Thee for the comforts and refreshments of the past night. The day again calls us to our duties, and the feeling of happiness, even in our bodily existence, demands our gratitude and love. We thank Thee for the Word of Thy truth which has been just read in our ears; for the assurance that deeds of usefulness are in themselves works of charity; so that if we this day labour with singleness of purpose, we shall indeed be charitably employed, and Thy blessing will rest upon our humble efforts.

But while we feel a sense of happiness for the comforts and pleasures of bodily health and usefulness, O may our hearts dilate with gratitude, for all our spiritual privileges. O help us to view these in their true light, and help us so to traverse the path of duty that our spiritual progress may be commensurate with the privileges we enjoy. May Thy Word dwell within us, and may it be in us a fountain of truth springing up unto everlasting life. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY EVENING.

MOST merciful Lord God, our Saviour, assist us ever to keep Thee before our eyes; and whatsoever we do, may it be done in obedience to Thy divine injunction, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

O Lord, "what is man that Thou art mindful of him? or the son of man that thou visitest him?" Unwearied in Thy love, Thy benefits have never ceased to flow unto us. And yet how cold and thoughtless have we been! we have too frequently resisted Thy grace, we have opposed the influences of Thy Spirit, and set our affections on the things of time and sense. We confess the guilt and folly of our past conduct. Turn us again, O Lord God of hosts. Have mercy upon us! Cause Thy face to shine, and we shall be saved.

Enable us to raise our minds by a contemplation of Thy glory, and especially of Thy love. May our desires after Thee be more fervent; our endeavours to serve Thee more steadfast and uniform: may our endurance of trial be evinced by greater patience, knowing that it will tend to work our purification.

O Lord, we desire to thank Thee for all the blessings of the past week,

for health, strength, reason, and family comforts, and for all the blessings of this life. Into Thy hands we resign our spirits. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SECOND WEEK.—SABBATH MORNING.

INFINITELY great and glorious Lord God, whom the heaven of heavens cannot contain, how condescending is Thy goodness in permitting us to call Thee our Father, and to hold conversation with Thee by prayer and supplication.

We confess we have turned too frequently, a deaf ear to Thine exhortations, and resisted the overtures of Thy Divine mercy; but still Thou hast not left us to ourselves. Thy providence has followed us; Thy voice we still hear, "Turn ye, turn ye, why will ye die?"

Lord, we desire to humble ourselves in Thy presence. We have sinned and done wickedly, and it is of Thy mercy we are not consumed. Our inward evils are constantly infesting us, they are the enemies with whom we must contend. Lord, help us to subdue them; and may Thy gracious words of promise, "To him that overcometh will I give power over the nations," stimulate us to exertion, and aid us in the work of spiritual purification. And, while we pray to Thee for help against the infestations of our spiritual enemies, and the promptings to sensual indulgence from our enemies within, O endow us with fortitude, that we may be enabled to overcome. May we keep Thee ever before us in all our temporal engagements, submitting our affairs unto Thee, being submissive and resigned to Thy divine dispensations. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SABBATH EVENING.

LORD of the Sabbath, we desire to consecrate ourselves to Thy service this evening. We would be called by Thy name. We bear upon our foreheads the glorious initial of Christianity. O help us to walk worthy of the vocation whereunto we are called. Help us to be obedient to whatsoever Thou hast enjoined; to renounce the life of selfishness, and to live as become servants who would show all love and duty to their Lord.

May the uncertainty of bodily existence so teach us to live and improve our time, that the call for removal, when it comes, may be met with humble confidence, and the house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens, be our everlasting home.

With devout gratitude we thank Thee for this day of rest. Unto Thee do we look, from whence cometh our help. We would approach Thee with singleness of eye and purity of heart. Open Thine ears to our prayer; hear and answer us according to the multitude of Thy tender mercies. We desire above all things that poverty of spirit, which shall bow us down in adoring love and gratitude to Thee. This day has been unto us a season of rest and spiritual refreshment. Thou hast called upon us to spend it in the exercises of humility, faith, and charity. Bless the labours of Thy minister who has bestowed spiritual blessings upon us. He has been speaking unto us the words of eternal life, and through His labours may we be prepared to taste of the joys of Thy heavenly kingdom. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY MORNING.

O LORD, we approach Thy mercy seat, and implore Thee to implant within us holy desires and thoughts, and may we delight ourselves in Thee, and be enabled to do Thy will from the heart.

As we are again about to enter upon our various avocations, O may we be endowed with strength faithfully to pursue them, not for the purpose of heaping up wealth to ourselves, but that a life of usefulness may enable us to preserve the health of our bodies, conduce to the peace of our minds, and diffuse to our fellow-creatures their portion of the blessings of which Thou alone art the supreme giver. To this end, O Lord, prosper the labour of our hands, yea, the labour of our hands, prosper Thou it; for without Thy blessing our labour is vain.

O Lord, Thou searchest the heart and triest the reins; Thou knowest the real state of all who now kneel before Thee. Thou knowest whether we are mere formalists, or seeking Thee in truth. Reveal to us, we beseech Thee, our true condition. Discover to us our secret faults, show to us the hideousness of hypocrisy, and may the solemn truth be deeply impressed upon our hearts, that without inward holiness no man shall see the Lord.

As a family, O Lord, we beseech Thee, knit and bind us together in love; establish us in charity towards each other. May we labour to promote the good of all, and whatsoever we do, may it be done under the influence of Thy love and fear. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, our adorable Saviour! May the work of Thy love be ever before us, and may we constantly look unto Thee for assistance to acquire more and more of the temper and spirit by which Thou wert distinguished whilst tabernacled in the flesh, accomplishing the great work of our redemption.

With an abhorrence of all that is evil, may we steadily contend against it. Knowing how frail we are, and how prone to turn aside to wickedness, may we keep Thee ever before us. O make us meek and lowly of heart, endue us with patience under suffering, and aid us to acquire perfect resignation to Thy will. Teach us to be kind, charitable, and forgiving, as Thou hast been kind unto us and hast blotted out our transgressions as a thick cloud from before Thee.

May anger, jealousy, envy, and discontentment be removed from us, with all malice; and aid us, we beseech Thee, to be true, just, and upright in all our dealings with our fellow-men.

Nor would we pray for ourselves alone, but for all the families of the earth. In Thy name may they be blessed. May those who sit in darkness be brought to the light of Thy truth, and may the prophecy of Thy Holy Word find its speedy accomplishment: "In that day, the Lord shall be King over all the earth; in that day there shall be one Lord, and His name One." Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY MORNING.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Lord, with feelings of thankfulness we humbly desire to approach Thee this morning, to adore Thee for the continuance of Thy Fatherly love towards us. What can we render unto Thee for all Thy benefits? Thou desirest not sacrifice, but hast pleasure in all those who do Thy will, and we can only become Thy disciples as we do whatsoever Thou commandest us. O assist us to acquire this spirit of obedience, and with patience and perseverance to continue in well doing.

Lord, we desire to confess in Thy presence, how deceitful have been our hearts, how desperately wicked. In turning our eyes inwardly, and contemplating our own state, we may with truth say, wickedness burneth as a fire, and our evils rise up in fearful array against us. O how frail, how weak, how fallible, we are! If left to pursue our own guilty courses unchecked, how speedily should we accomplish our destruction. Truly do the passing events of each day testify against us, "that the heart gathereth iniquity to itself."

Lord, help us. Send forth the dispensations most suitable to effect a change. Be merciful unto us. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and lead us in the way everlasting. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY EVENING.

O LORD Almighty, our Heavenly Father, through Thy mercy we have been safely brought through the toils and perils of another day, and we now humbly approach Thee, to offer up our evening thanksgivings for past mercies, and to pray for the continuance of Thy love towards us.

We have heard Thy voice in Thy Word, we have seen Thee in the wonderful interpositions of Thy providence exercised in our behalf, all undeserving as we are; and while we acknowledge Thy purity, "we abhor ourselves" for our evils, "and repent in dust and ashes."

O merciful Father, assist us to bring ourselves under a devout obedience to Thy will, for in Thy favour is life. Thy mercy is ever new towards us.

We praise Thee, O Lord, for Thine inestimable love in the work of our redemption. O how wonderful must be that love, which condescended to take the frailty and imperfection of humanity as a garment wherewith to clothe Thy divinity, and thereby be enabled to meet with and overcome man's spiritual enemies. "Thine own arm brought salvation unto Thee, Thy righteousness it sustained Thee," and having reconciled the world unto Thyself, "we now joy in God, through Thee our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have received the atonement." May Thy holy name be glorified. May all the people say continually, The Lord be magnified. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

O LORD, the High, the Holy One that inhabiteth eternity, permit us, Thy sinful creatures, to approach Thee this morning, and to offer unto Thee our united thanksgivings and praises.

We would enter upon the duties, trials, and conflicts of this day in Thy fear, we would serve Thee in newness of spirit, desirous not only of knowing Thy commandments, but of doing that which they enjoin. Lord, let Thy good Spirit be with us, so that we may not wander from Thy precepts. Let not sin have dominion over us, and grant that Thy preventive providence may be with us, so that the devices of our own evil hearts may not ensnare us into sin.

Strengthen us, we beseech Thee, that by constant watchfulness and prayer unto Thee for aid, we may be enabled to resist temptation. May the influences of Thy good Spirit, raise up a standard against our enemies, and may the trials permitted for our purification tend to draw us more closely unto Thee our only deliverer.

We desire to praise Thy holy name for the light of another day, and the blessings with which it is accompanied. Thou hast renewed our strength, and hast graciously preserved us during the night season. Thou hast brought us again to Thy footstool: O may this day, and every day that we are spared, teach us to die unto sin, that we may be alive unto righteousness, and serve Thee in newness of spirit. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

O THOU who art of purer eyes than to behold iniquity, before whom the ungodly cannot stand; O Thou whose tender love and merciful providence is ever seeking to turn evil from man, behold us, Thy sinful creatures, now kneeling in prayer before Thee. O look upon us in our low estate, for we have estranged ourselves from Thee, we have nearly destroyed ourselves by our iniquities, and if Thou shouldst cease to be gracious, what hope have we of pardon and salvation? But Thou art never weary in befriending us. Thy love knows no ebbing tide. Thou art good and doest good, and notwithstanding all the evils we have committed, Thy goodness and mercy follows—and will continue to follow us all the days of our life. Thou didst create us in Thine own image and likeness, and didst so endow us with rationality as to enable us to hold communion with Thyself, and to feel and know the blessedness of so heavenly an intercourse. But we have turned to ourselves and disobeyed Thy most sacred injunctions, and turning from Thee, the fountain of living waters, hewed out to ourselves cisterns—broken cisterns—that hold no water. We have separated ourselves from Thee, and instead of walking in the path of life Thou hadst made straight before us, we have turned backward into the way of death. Pardon us, O Lord Jesus Christ, we beseech Thee; turn us again, O Lord God of hosts, cause Thy face to shine, and we shall be saved. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, we again come before Thee this morning. Continue, we beseech Thee, Thy love towards us, and blot out our transgressions for Thine own name sake.

Go before us this day, we beseech Thee according to our need; either

in the pillar of a cloud, or in a pillar of fire. Impress us with a deep sense of the responsibility we are under to Thee. May we be kept in remembrance that every talent Thou hast bestowed upon us has been given for a good purpose, and it is our duty so to use it, that we may not in the end be placed among the wicked and unprofitable servants.

As Thou hast added unto our existence another day, O grant us Thy divine assistance, that we may faithfully perform the duties thereof, that we may give due diligence to our engagements; and while we give heed to seeking "first the kingdom of God and His righteousness," may we follow the example of Thee our great Saviour, who, while tabernacling in the flesh, SPENT THYSELF in going about doing good to all. May we remember that our life is designed by Thee to be spent in charity and usefulness, and we shall best exhibit our obedience to the precept, "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." Help us faithfully to perform the duties of our respective callings. O make us faithful and trustworthy to those who employ us, and whether our condition be lowly or exalted, may we faithfully perform all its duties, looking unto Thee for assistance, from whom alone cometh our help. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY EVENING.

O LORD God and Saviour, Thy compassionate voice is still heard calling unto us, "O man, where art thou?" Truly have we been afraid, for we have sinned, and we have hid ourselves from Thee; and when we had given ourselves up for lost, and hope had forsaken us, even then Thy love sought us out. Thou didst not leave us to perish: Thou didst devise a way whereby the path to happiness might be again opened up; and, O amazing love! in the very depths of our degradation Thy sacred word went forth, that "the Seed of the woman should bruise the serpent's head," and the sensual principle in man should again be brought under the government of the spiritual principle.

Adored be the infinity of Thy love, O Lord. Thou hast not forgotten us in our low estate. "In Thy love and in Thy pity Thou hast visited and redeemed us, and hast become our Saviour." And now all are invited to come unto Thee: all may drink of the water of life freely; all may take of the bread which cometh down from heaven, and eat, and live for ever.

We glorify Thee, our Lord and Redeemer, that Thou hast raised us to newness of spirit. We rejoice in Thy presence. We magnify Thy name, for it is holy. Be Thy holy name adored, O Lord Jesus Christ.

Lord assist us, that our hearts may be consecrated to Thy service; render us living temples, in which Thou mayest take up Thine abode. So shall we dwell under the shadow of Thy wings, and ultimately enter into everlasting rest. We ask this, O Lord Jesus Christ, for Thy name and mercy's sake. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY MORNING.

O THOU that searchest the heart and knowest what is therein, most glorious, just, and holy God,—over all, blessed for ever; with reverence and solemnity we approach Thine august person;—with humility we lift up our eyes to Thy glorious countenance; O let it shine upon us; be merciful unto us, be merciful unto us, O Lord, and assist our attempts to worship Thee in spirit and in truth.

With a deeply humbled but grateful sense of Thy continued regard for Thee, whom the heaven of heavens cannot contain, we would adore Thee for Thy unfailing love. Thou hast extended Thy divine assurance unto us, and unto the most guilty of Thy creatures, that there is an ever present help, if it be but humbly sought.

Thou, in Thy abundant love and tender mercy and compassion, sustainest the poor and needy, and with the gracious manifestations of Thy goodness, Thou art the support of the sick, the consolation of the sorrowful. Though surrounded with glorified spirits, whose theme is the constant adoration of Thee, the holy Lord God Almighty, though adoring myriads send up the joyful shout of praise, Hallelujah, for the Lord God the Omnipotent reigneth, yet art Thou present with the poor in spirit, and with the humble in heart, and with all who engage in love to their neighbour, in acts of charity and usefulness, Thou wilt ever be near to bless them. We praise Thee, O Lord Jesus Christ, for Thine infinite love and mercy. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY EVENING.

O HEAVENLY Lord, our Saviour, in whom alone we have redemption, even the forgiveness of sins, through Thy unfailing loving-kindness we are brought to the close of another day, and we would humbly express our thanksgivings and praises for Thy protecting care. Every day of our past lives we have had reason to adore Thee; for no day has passed without the communication of many blessings and tender mercies, accompanied by the constant watchfulness of Thy paternal care.

We desire to thank Thee for all that we possess; for our comfortable habitation, for our food and raiment, and all the blessings of bodily existence. We owe all to Thy mercy.

But we cannot but confess, that though Thy mercies are ever new towards us, we too frequently use them improperly, and sometimes absolutely abuse them.—Lord, we mourn over our past sins, and would earnestly supplicate Thy divine aid, that we may avoid them for the future. O how much valuable time have we misspent! how often have we sought after and indulged in trivial vanities! Lord, help us to turn unto Thee with full purpose of heart and life; give unto us the grace of repentance, and preserve us from everything false and evil. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY MORNING.

O MOST merciful God and Saviour, we draw near to Thee this morning; Thou hast created us for immortal joys, and hast so constituted us

as to be capable of serving Thee and of advancing in knowledge to all eternity. Thou art high above all heavens, and from Thy holy habitation lookest down upon the children of men. While surrounded with the innumerable company of glorified spirits, whom Thou hast raised from death unto life, Thou dost not disdain those, thy creatures, who, yet in probation, are looking forward for the enjoyment of the same glorious beatitudes. Thou blessest them also.

O Lord, we would strive to magnify Thy name. May it by us on earth be revered: and, O Lord, we beseech Thee, inscribe Thy name upon us, write it on our inward parts, and cause it to show forth Thy love in our life and conversation. May the gentle virtues of peace and humility, which spring from Thy goodness, stamp upon our lives and actions the qualities which raise Thy name above all other names in heaven and on earth.

Thou art a sun and a shield; Thou bringest grace and glory, and Thine infinite perfections transcend all our praise. We submit ourselves to the guidance of Thy good providence. O go before us and protect us through the duties of this day. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY EVENING.

LORD Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Redeemer, bow down Thine ear, we beseech Thee, to our supplication; O listen to the voice of our cry, our King and our God. Thou art indeed our propitiator, our merciful one, and not unto us only art Thou merciful, but unto the whole world.

May the truth of Thine apostle, that Thou, being the "propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only, but for the sins of the whole world," convince us that there is no limit set to Thy mercy, but "every one that feareth Thee, and worketh righteousness is accepted of Thee." O make us grateful for the knowledge of this comfortable truth, and stir up within us the desire to spread the glad tidings everywhere. O may the world be brought to know and feel Thou art no respecter of persons. May we, who now assemble around our family altar, call upon all men within our sphere, to hear Thy word, and to rely upon Thee in every time of need, for Thou art love and mercy itself. This mercy have we again felt during the past day; and truly Thy goodness and mercy have followed us all the days of our life. O may we ever adore Thee for Thy love, strive to show our gratitude by a willing obedience to Thy precepts, and walk in Thine ordinances with innocency and integrity. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THIRD WEEK.—SABBATH MORNING.

O LORD God of our Salvation, the return of the Sabbath is unto us a memorial of Thy glorious resurrection. This day reminds us of the full glorification of Thy humanity, and of Thy gracious promise, "because Thou livest, we shall live also." On this day the assurance of our eternal state is impressed upon us with double force, and we are reminded by the rapid flight of time, that ere long "time with us shall be no more."

Merciful Lord and Saviour, bestow upon us Thy grace, that we may from henceforth serve Thee with diligence and uprightness, and walk before Thee with simplicity and lowly-mindedness.

Lord, sanctify to our souls this day of rest. May it be unto us not only as a season of repose from bodily labour, but of rest and refreshment from spiritual trial and temptation. Enable us to "enter into Thy gates with thanksgiving, and into Thy courts with praise, to be thankful unto Thee, and speak good of Thy name."

O let Thy blessing rest upon this day's duties, and assist us to consecrate every thought and affection to Thy service. May the sacrifices which we offer be those of broken and contrite hearts.

Hear us, O Lord Jesus Christ, for Thine own name and mercy's sake. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SABBATH EVENING.

MOST merciful Lord, our heavenly Father, Thou only art worthy to receive adoration and praise. "Thou art the first and the last, and beside Thee there is no God." Impress our hearts and understandings, we beseech Thee, with the sanctity of Thy presence, and grant that, in approaching Thee this evening we may call to mind Thy loving-kindness towards us.

We thank Thee, O Lord, for the renewed opportunity we have had of treading Thy courts in the company of the great congregation. The enjoyment of the privileges of the Sabbath is among the greatest of Thy divine gifts. Thou hast this day caused the streams of truth to flow over the thirsty soil of our minds. This day Thou hast given us to eat of the true bread which cometh down from heaven. How calm and holy have been all things around us!

O Lord, we thank Thee that Thou hast made the Sabbath for man. It is indeed "the joy of our hearts, the glory and the lifting up of our heads." With humility we desire to resign ourselves to Thy gracious keeping, O Lord. We very seldom know what is best for us; and too frequently make our arrangements as though our own prudence could bring us through all difficulties. O Lord, help our weakness, bear with our infirmities and waywardness. And may Thy Divine Providence in all things control us. Fill our souls with Thy truth and good.

May we lay ourselves down in peace; and may we rise again in deep and pious gratitude, that hitherto the Lord hath helped and sustained us. We acknowledge Thy goodness, O Lord Jesus Christ. All glory be to Thy holy name. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, the morning has dawned upon us; we open our eyes to the cheerful light of day; we find our lives renewed, and our hands made strong to labour, by the mighty God of Jacob. We lift up our voices to Thee, knowing that Thou art the hearer and answerer of prayer. They who trust in Thee, Thou, with Thy mercy, wilt compass

them about. Thou art our portion from generation to generation. Thou suppliest us with the good of Thy love, and this we feel as the meat of our souls, as the nourishment best suited to render us strong to labour, and to fit us to bear the trials of our earthly state.

O Lord, we desire to thank Thee that Thou hast brought us through the perils and dangers of the night. For, though unseen by us, our spiritual enemies have been watchful to do us evil. But Thy love never sleeps! Thy protecting providence hath operated mightily for our deliverance.

And, now O Lord, we beseech Thee, lead us this day by Thy truth, and keep us from the indulgence of our corrupt inclinations. We wait upon Thee, we place ourselves under the watchful care of Thy divine providence. If danger beset us, we know Thou art a very present help in time of trouble. We go forth to our work and our labour until the evening. Prosper, we beseech Thee, the labour of our hands. Teach us to be faithful to the earthly steward Thou hast placed over us, so that we may receive from Thee the true riches. Instruct, guide, and lead us in the way we should go. O cause Thy light to shine upon us, and we shall be saved. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY EVENING.

O THOU, who hast provided a dwelling-place for the children of men, and in all generations hast been mindful of them; our King and our God, our kind Father, and faithful and devoted Friend: O Thou who dwellest in light and glory, and yet condescendest to men of low estate, let Thy presence be felt among us, as we again bow ourselves in humble prayer before Thee,

We adore Thee, for Thou art our all-sufficient provider. Assist us to love Thee with greater fervency. Thou hast protected us, and brought us through every difficulty, and again are we arrived at the conclusion of another day. Grant unto us, O most merciful Father, a sense of Thy constant loving-kindness. Keep us, we beseech Thee, as the apple of Thine eye, in the broad noon of day, and in the deep gloom of night. When we retire, may we shut the door of our hearts against the world, and as Thou hast exhorted us, enter into our closets of secret communion with Thee. When we mingle in the world, may a recollection that "Thou God seest us," prevent a vain and frivolous spirit. Whether we be engaged in business, or relaxing in pleasure, may we consider the high stake of eternity before us, earnestly contending for righteousness, and keeping ourselves free from evil.

As we are about to commit ourselves to sleep, may a deep and solemn feeling possess all our minds, and may we remember that Thy providence can alone determine whether we shall awake in this or in the eternal world. Hear us, we beseech Thee, and for Thy name and mercy sake, O Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, grant these our humble petitions. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, the Protector of all Thy creatures, we humbly approach Thee this morning. We would praise Thy name with our whole hearts; we would extol Thee our God and King. Heaven and earth are full of the majesty of Thy glory. Who shall set forth all Thy praise? The night is Thine; the day also is Thine. With humble and grateful thanks, we desire to acknowledge Thine ever present goodness; help us, O Lord, that we may be preserved under the influence of a godly spirit, living in Thy love and fear.

O Lord, we desire to express a becoming sense of humility for our iniquities. O grant us Thine assistance to turn from them. Aid us, O Lord, in the important work of repentance; for without Thee we can do nothing.

As we look around us and contemplate the manifold duties in which men are engaged, may we perform our allotted portion with cheerfulness and zeal: "not slothful in business, but fervent in spirit."

Keep us, O Lord, we beseech Thee, from a mere worldly spirit, and while we labour to provide things honest in the sight of all men, and eat from our labour of the bread that perisheth, O may we with arduous labour for our portion of the bread which endureth unto everlasting life. Help us, O Lord, we beseech Thee.

O Lord, let Thy light go forth with power, and may the minds of the people be prepared to receive it. Bless all the families of the earth, and teach them to love each other, even as Thou hast loved them. Never may we invidiously compare our righteousness with that of others: or pharisaically assume to ourselves any kind of goodness. May we be severe to our own failings but lenient to those of others. O teach us to "do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with Thee." Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY EVENING.

O LORD Almighty, our beneficent Father, Protector, and Friend, another day of labour has been passed, and by ~~us~~ we have been brought nearer to the kingdom of eternity. Awful, yet if we have been firm in our duty, most cheering thought! The anxiety of bodily life ought to be lessened and the anticipation of the perfect life of the soul, as we have been brought nearer to its commencement, ought to fill us with hope and joy. But O how awful to reflect upon, if our duties have been neglected; and alas! can we say they have been faithfully performed? What surrender of our selfishness has distinguished us this day? For whose good have we relinquished any natural gratification? Have we practised self-denial, or have we in any degree sacrificed a portion of our own comforts, that the pressing wants of others might receive some relief? Search us, O God, and try our hearts, and see if there be any token of amendment in us; and O send forth the righteous dispensations of Thy providence, that we may be brought to see the necessity of repentance and true holiness.

Lord, teach us ever to know and acknowledge the unity of Thy glory! In *goodness*, in *wisdom*, in *power*, in *providence*, in *redemption*, in *sal-*

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vation, in Thy *Divine Word*, in Thy *kingdom*, as the *life of heaven*, and as the *life of the world*, Thou, the essential love, art ONE!—the only ONE TRUE GOD, and JESUS CHRIST, Thy HIGH and HOLY NAME! May that Name be magnified throughout the world! O hasten the accomplishment of the prophecy, we beseech Thee, when mankind shall universally acknowledge that there is ONE GOD, and HIS NAME is the LORD JESUS CHRIST.

Into Thy hands, our only Lord and Saviour, we surrender our souls. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, Thou art the true Light which enlighteneth every man that cometh into the world. Unto Thee, therefore, we turn our eyes, now that the returning light hath blessed them. O cause us, we beseech Thee, to behold Thy loving-kindness this morning, even as we behold Thy faithfulness every night. In Thee, O Lord, is our hope and confidence, we wait upon Thee for the renewal of our returning strength.

With the returning light of day, new duties devolve upon us, and we require new strength to enable us to accomplish them. Help us, we beseech Thee, that what Thy word has declared may be fulfilled in us: "They who wait upon the Lord, shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles: they shall run and not be weary: they shall walk and not faint." O let this gracious promise experience fulfilment in this family, who now kneel in Thy presence. Shed upon us Thy holy influences from on high, that they may surround us as with a spiritual atmosphere, and keep us from the contamination of evil. May Thy love warm our hearts with heavenly goodness. May Thy goodness be felt as the animating principle of our existence, as the generating heat that shall send forth a stream of light into our understandings, and cause them to be brought under the guidance of Thy Divine wisdom.

O God of love, let the showers of Thy truth descend upon the thirsty soil of our minds, so that, by softening them, we may with greater hope break up our fallow land, and prepare our understandings for the reception of the seeds of truth, which may be nurtured into plants fit to grow in the garden of God. Hear us, O Lord Jesus Christ, and answer us for Thy name and mercy sake. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

O THOU whose ears are ever open to the petitions of Thy creatures, we cry unto Thee; this evening we appear at Thy footstool, and, O Lord, from this our family altar, let our prayers as evening sacrifice ascend into Thine ears; hearken unto us and answer us, we beseech Thee, for great is Thy mercy.

We have walked before Thee this day; but how imperfectly, O Lord, Thou knowest. Our best efforts have been beclouded by imperfection, and we have felt within us the working of those corruptions which are ever

drawing us aside to evil. We have indeed done wickedly, and if we should say we have not sinned, we should deceive ourselves, and the truth would not be in us. We confess our sins, O Lord, before Thee. O pardon all we have done amiss this day for Thy mercy sake. We know Thou art good, and ready to forgive, and plenteous in mercy to such as call upon Thy name.

O pour upon us the true Spirit of supplication. Fill our souls with such desires as are spiritual and heavenly. O Lord, we beseech Thee, strengthen Thou our weak hands, confirm our feeble knees. Let Thy Divine voice say to us, Thy feeble creatures, Be strong—fear not, I am with thee; be thou not dismayed, I am Thy God!"

Lord, we humbly pray Thee to watch over us for good. Enable us to keep our hearts with all diligence, for out of them are the issues of life.

O let Thy holy influences descend upon us. Fill us with Thy love! Enlighten us by Thy truth! Aid us to do Thy will in all things! May we end our duties this day in Thy love and fear, and sink into peaceful repose, in humble reliance on that mercy which has followed us all the days of our lives. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, unto Thee do we come, as the Giver of every good and perfect gift. Mindful of Thy divine instruction, may we learn of Thee, making Thee our great exemplar in all things. Help us to keep Thee ever before us, and to acquire Thy temper and spirit. Should we be reviled, help us to return good for evil. Should intemperate words be spoken unto us, may we by meekness and gentleness of speech, show that we remember Thy divine counsel. If we are grievously assaulted by evil spirits, or placed in bodily jeopardy, O may we still strive to learn of Thee, remembering Thine own divine instruction—"Do good to them that hate you, and pray for them that spitefully use you and persecute you." Lord help us, we beseech Thee, that we may aim to become like unto Thee, and as Thou hast set the example; and thus become the children of our Father in the heavens. May we be perfect, even as Thou art perfect.

O Lord, God our Saviour, we implore Thy fatherly care and protection this day. We need Thine aid, and Thy strength to enable us to go through our various duties. Let Thy strength be manifested in our weakness, we beseech Thee, and may Thy grace be with us, Thy goodness and mercy follow us, this day and every day of our lives.

O Lord, we praise Thee! Thou art infinite in wisdom, and all Thine acts are done in truth. We praise Thee for the new outpouring of truth and mercy in Thy word. Prepare Thou, we beseech Thee, the hearts and understandings of men, that by the righteous dispensations of Thy providence they may receive the glorious truth of the new dispensation.

O Lord, send forth Thy light and Thy truth, that men may be conducted to Thy holy hill. Let Thy blessing be upon Thy church; upon all those that minister therein: upon all who train and instruct the young, and upon all the families of the earth, may Thy blessing descend.

We ask this in Thine own name, O Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY EVENING.

O GRACIOUS Lord, the sanctifier and regenerator of the world, behold this family assembled before Thee, and grant unto them a fulfilment of Thy gracious promise, "where two or three are assembled together in Thy name, there art Thou in the midst of them." Be spiritually present with us, we beseech Thee! Lift up the light of Thy countenance upon us, cause Thy face to shine, and we shall be saved.

We desire, O Lord, to humble ourselves before Thee, to confess our transgressions, to acknowledge our sins, for they are many. Forgive our iniquities, O Lord, we beseech Thee! Have mercy upon us! O let Thy gracious accents whisper peace and pardon to our souls.

O Lord, Thou art our hiding-place from of old. Thy name is a strong tower of defence, we enter into it and are safe. On Thee do we rely in every time of need. To Thee do we look in all our afflictions, for Thou hast at all times preserved us; and our songs of deliverance arise from Thy victories over our spiritual enemies. O how great is Thy goodness! how great Thy mercy! how unbounded Thy love! Help us to feel the force of Thy divine commandment, and to love one another as Thou hast loved us.

May we study to promote each other's happiness; relinquish our own imaginary rights, if by so doing we can add to the comfort and convenience of our brethren. As was Thy temper, as was Thy spirit, O Lord, when inhabiting an earthly tabernacle, so may we strive to be like Thee. Thou didst become the least of all and the Servant of all. Help us, we pray Thee, to become like Thee, for Thine own name and mercy's sake, O Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY MORNING.

O THOU who art the bright, the morning star, let the day-spring from on high dawn upon us. Thou hast unsealed our eye-lids; and by the refreshing repose that Thou hast blessed us with, Thou hast renewed our bodily existence and made us strong for labour.

Glorified be Thy name, O Lord! We will praise and bless Thee at all times. We will speak of Thy marvellous loving-kindness; we will magnify and exalt Thy name for ever and ever. Open Thou our lips, we beseech Thee, so shall we speak of all Thy wondrous works. May we, by a happy experience, know that Thou art good to all; blessed are all they who put their trust in Thee!

O Lord, we acknowledge that Thou often addressest Thy children in Thy Holy Word in the seeming language of anger, for it is only by awakening our fears, that, wicked as we are, we can be brought to a knowledge of our evils; and we are thus led to see the necessity of repentance. Thou hast declared that "the face of the Lord is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth." O

grant unto us a true perception of the true meaning of these divine words. Thy nature is immutable, and cannot change. Thou art essential love; and Thy love is equally dispensed to the evil and the good. But we confess, that while we continue in evil, we imagine that Thou art angry with us, and thus we behold Thee through our own frowardness. But when Thy righteous dispensations have accomplished the purposes for which they were designed, then do we see the change is in ourselves, that Thy language was accommodated to our low and polluted condition, and that by this appearance of threatening we have been enabled to remove the stumbling-block out of the way.

And Thou hast put a new song in our mouths, even Thy sure mercies: Thou hast refreshed our souls with inward gratitude. Then are we brought to a sense of Thy truth; for, "the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous and His ears are open to their cry." Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, who, when tabernacling in the flesh, didst declare: "I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance;" O Thou who hast "borne our griefs and carried our sorrows," who in Thy zeal didst go forth as a mighty conqueror against our spiritual enemies, but whose weapons were not of this world; O Thou whose eye ever beams upon us with a divine tenderness, we come before Thee with devout thankfulness, but with humble fear. The day hath uttered Thy speech in our ears, the night still shows forth Thy loving-kindness.

We feel that our inclination is to evil, and we know that evil cannot dwell with Thee. But Thou art ever kind and compassionate to returning sinners. Thy divine encouragement is, "O that there were such a heart within them, that they might fear me always and keep my commandments, that it might be well with them, and with their children after them!" when shall it once be? May we listen to this expostulation and strive never to offend Thee in thought, in word, or deed!

We cannot sufficiently adore that goodness and mercy which bears so long with us, and is so kind and compassionate towards us. O help us to depart from evil and to do good, to seek peace and pursue it. Bring our tempers, we beseech Thee, under Thy benign influence. By constant watchfulness, enable us to discipline our passions, that we may keep our hearts with all diligence.

But, Lord, who among us can understand his errors? Cleanse Thou us from secret faults, and keep us from presumption in imputing good unto ourselves. For there is none that doeth good; no, not one. Give us Thy grace, that we may be preserved from evil, and kept in the strait and narrow way to life. Hear us, O Lord Jesus Christ! for in Thy help alone shall we be able to work out our salvation with fear and trembling. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY MORNING.

MOST merciful Lord Jesus Christ, at the close of another week we are constrained to acknowledge Thee as a God of love and mercy. In Thy love and in Thy pity Thou hast redeemed us, and hast become our Saviour.

Who can circumscribe Thy goodness, or point to its utmost limit? Thou hast brought life and immortality to light; and we may, through Thee, exult and say, "O death, where is Thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? Thanks be to Thee, O Lord, who givest us the victory! Thou hast taken to Thyself Thy great power and hast reigned. To Thee every knee shall now bow, every tongue confess; for all power is Thine in heaven and on earth.

We adore Thee for the wonder-working power of Thy divine love! Help us, O Lord, we beseech Thee, that as Thou hast loved us, we also may love one another. May Thy love be so shed abroad in all our hearts that its influence may be felt in the regulation of our tempers, and in the subjugation of the enemies of our own house! Help us, O Lord, to be obedient to all that Thou hast ordained, and to acquire a child-like disposition. Prepare our understanding for the wisdom which cometh from above, "which is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, easy to be entreated, full of mercy and of good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy."

O fill our souls with Thy perfect love, that we may fulfil the royal law according to the Scriptures. Help us to put away all wrath, clamour, and bitterness; and may we love our neighbour as ourselves. Re-impress us, we beseech Thee, with Thy divine image and likeness.

Help our infirmities by Thy good spirit; guide us safely through the duties of this day; and bring us eventually to the full enjoyment of all heavenly blessings. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY EVENING.

LORD God of our salvation, we approach Thy glorious Person under a full conviction that Thou art near to all such as call upon Thee in truth. Thou art ineffably good, the infinite, the eternal, the immutable Jehovah! Thy glories are reflected in creation, redemption, salvation, regeneration, and providence. When we reflect upon these, Thy divine qualities, we are constrained to exclaim, "What is man, that Thou art mindful of him, or the son of man, that Thou visitest him? Thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, Thou hast crowned him with glory and honour."

O Lord our heavenly Father, enable us to turn our thoughts and affections to a more devout contemplation of Thee, the pattern of all perfection. We thank Thee that Thou hast revealed Thy perfections in Thy Word, and therein may we make an intimate acquaintance with Thee! There may we contemplate Thy Divine excellences; there are we encouraged to search for the wisdom which cometh from above; there learn the nature of Thy holy precepts, and acquire a perception of that true blessedness which awaits those who act in obedience to Thy just and wise commands.

Adored be Thy goodness, for this great—this inestimable gift of Thy Divine Word! It is the all in all of the humble Christian. In it he finds the bread that endureth unto everlasting life. There flow the streams that refresh the weary spirit. There meets he that true Friend, when every other eye is averted. There he finds mercy, pardon, and peace: and all the consolations needful to heal the wounded spirit, he finds in that blessed treasury.

Great Lord of all things, devoutly impress us, we beseech Thee, with the value of this divine book; and teach us to love Thee better, and to serve Thee with greater spirituality, in newness of heart and with fervency of spirit. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FOURTH WEEK.—SABBATH MORNING.

MOST merciful Lord Jesus Christ, we adore Thee for the crowning act of Thy divine goodness, that “in Thy love and in Thy pity Thou hast redeemed us from death. Thou hast opened wide the gates of salvation to all who believe.

Deeply conscious of Thy never-failing love, we draw near to Thy footstool with reverence and holy awe. We worship Thee and call upon Thy holy name as one acquainted with our infirmities, knowing the frailty of our nature.

Thou hast encouraged us by the assurance that “on those who fear Thy name, shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in His wings.”

O help us to remember that the various names by which Thou art distinguished in Thy Holy Word are expressive of Thy divine qualities, and that therefore a most solemn warning is imposed upon us not to take Thy holy name in vain. Help us, O Lord, deeply to ponder on this commandment. We assume Thy name as followers of Thee, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Thou hast exhorted us to learn of Thee as well as to follow Thee. When we look upon our past lives, and reflect upon the thoughtlessness with which we have uttered Thy name, we cannot but accuse ourselves of a frequent violation of Thy divine name. We have not made Thee our model. We have not imitated Thy forbearance. We have not manifested Thy temper and spirit.

O Lord, pardon our evils, we entreat Thee, and help us to greater watchfulness. May we ever remember, that Thou wilt by no means clear the guilty. O that Thy name may be inscribed on our inward parts, and that from this day forth we may cease to do evil and learn to do well! Help us, O Lord Jesus Christ, for on Thee alone do we depend. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SABBATH EVENING.

ALMIGHTY and most adorable Lord, the God of all the families of the earth, we approach Thee this evening deeply sensible of Thy divine goodness. Another Sabbath has passed, and we have participated in its privileges.

Alas! how inadequate have been our best efforts in Thy service! We have heard Thy Word, and have profited but little by its salutary admonitions. The most solemn warnings have been pressed upon us; but too frequently have they been slighted. Our duties have been coldly and carelessly performed, and we have made little improvement in the knowledge of divine things. Amidst the streams of truth and knowledge that flow from Thy word, how little have we tasted of their spirit and life! And amidst all the advantages and blessings in which we have participated, how small is our relish for divine things. We are all unprofitable servants, we have all erred and come short of Thy mercy. O Lord, help us to serve Thee better. Send down Thy holy influences and refresh our souls; and O grant that the appeals which have this day been made to us by Thy servant may so reach our hearts, that from this day forth we may serve Thee in newness of spirit. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY MORNING.

MOST merciful Lord Jesus Christ, Thy good providence has enabled us to awake this morning. Thou hast been our sole protector by night as well as by day; and though thousands have departed this natural existence during the night, we are still the living monuments of Thy goodness. O Lord, enable us we beseech Thee so to devote our lives to Thy service that we may show forth our gratitude. Thou hast created us that we might be eternally happy in Thy kingdom; and when by transgression we fell, Thou in Thy love and in Thy pity didst redeem us. Glory be to Thy holy name!

Help us, O Lord, that we may begin this week's labour in Thy fear. May Thy fear be ever before us that we sin not. Help us to keep a bridle upon our tongue, that we offend not in our speech; but in our going forth may Thy divine presence be ever before us, and knowing Thou art of purer eyes than to behold iniquity, may we be watchful and strengthen the things that remain, and strive with faithfulness to do Thy will. We are instructed in Thy word that in whatsoever we engage, we should do all to the glory of God. May we therefore glorify Thee, even in our worldly callings, pursuing them with industry, integrity, and uprightness; faithfully and diligently performing our several duties, and approving ourselves worthy of being Thy disciples. May we do nothing without imploring Thy divine blessing upon it. May every undertaking in which we engage be sanctified to some use, and may holiness from Thee so pervade all our affections and thoughts, that whether we be in activity or retirement, we may keep ourselves from that which is evil, and strive more and more to become like Thee, O Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY EVENING.

O LORD God Almighty, merciful and gracious,—our bodies wearied by labour return to their peaceful habitation, and seek the repose which may renew their strength. We assemble before Thee at the close of this day, we kneel before Thy mercy-seat; we praise Thee for Thy protecting

providence, for Thy mercy and loving-kindness. O refresh our spirits by Thy presence ; cause Thy loving-kindness to appear among us—for in Thee do we trust. How precious, O God, unto us are Thy words, how great is the sum of them ; they are more than can be numbered, and all Thy words are filled with Thy wisdom, and in Thy wisdom dwells the fulness of Thy love. It is Thy Word that refreshes our spirits and imparts the true blessedness of life.

As evening draws its curtain around us and invites us to repose, may there be so much of tranquil peace within us, as shall enable us to commit ourselves with humble confidence unto Thy protection. The termination of daily labour ought to remind us of the termination of the labour of life, and each successive evening should find us prepared for awaking in another and eternal state of being. But while we calmly and thoughtfully contemplate our removal from a state of natural to one of spiritual existence, O may we so live that we may view the change, come when it may, with the humble joy that belongs to Thy true disciples. It is our duty to wait with patience all the days of our appointed time, till our change come ; to perform the uses required of us with alacrity and zeal ; to be careful or anxious for nothing, but in everything approve ourselves as servants who know that their master measures all their capacities, knows all their wants, and will withhold no good thing from them that fear him. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY MORNING.

IF it had not been for Thee, O Lord, now may all Thy children say, if it had not been for Thee, our spiritual enemies, in the silent watches of the night, had proved too strong for us, and we had been overcome by their snares and devices. But Thou, O Lord, hast watched over and defended us, Thy protecting providence hath preserved us, and we rejoice in the light of another day.

Preserved by Thy goodness, our lips shall show forth all Thy praise ; our first thoughts we devote unto Thee as the early sacrifice of the morning. What shall we render unto the Lord for all His benefits towards us ? We will consecrate ourselves to Thy service, for Thou, O Lord, art worthy to receive adoration. We will speak aloud of Thy goodness, for Thou only art good to all, and Thy tender mercy is from one generation to another. We will approach Thee with reverence, for holy and reverend is Thy name. We will be humble and fear before Thee, and O grant that our prayers may rise up as incense.

Is there any friend on earth like unto Thee, O Lord ? and who in the heavens can we compare with Thee ? O how merciful are Thy ways unto us, how great is the sum of them, they are more than can be numbered ; we have slept in peace, we have awaked, for Thou hast sustained us ; we will rejoice and be glad in Thy salvation.

O Lord Jesus Christ, how good it is that we call to our remembrance Thy unfailing love, that we meditate frequently upon it, and that we strive to make it our model. There is nothing that can exceed Thy mercy. We ask for strength to go through the duties of this day. O help us, Lord Jesus Christ, for in Thee alone do we trust. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY EVENING.

O GOD, whose presence is with all who are humble in spirit and contrite in heart, we—who have tasted of Thy love, and have been by Thy truth instructed, O Thou whose wisdom is universal, whose ways are past finding out, but whose every act bears the stamp of Fatherly tenderness and compassion—wearied with the day's pursuits, and borne down by the labour of the flesh, we would seek Thee, and, in the way of Thy own appointment, desire to refresh our wearied frames by laving in the waters of the Spirit. Thy Word is indeed a fountain of living waters; the streams whereof gladden every human soul; for Thou art always in the midst of Thy Word, and therefore is it by Thy presence always pure, always ready for the healing of the nations, always spirit and life.

As we kneel in Thy presence, we feel our weariness subside; a quiet gladness pervades our frames; the influences of Thy goodness fall silently upon us as the dew of Hermon, as the dew that descended on the mountains of Zion; and a refreshed spirit gives repose to a wearied body.

Lord, we have fresh occasions to love and adore Thee, for every morning brings some new benefit, every evening some fresh token of Thy love. "Day unto day uttereth speech, night unto night showeth knowledge." All Thy works praise Thee. The sun as he sets in splendour, the moon, as she "trails her silver glories through the night," the stars as they emit their burning radiance, and man created in Thy image and likeness, with all his innumerable affections and thoughts, are bodied in life in the various parts of creation:—all these when in order show forth all Thy greatness and speak of all Thy loving-kindness, and call us by faith, love, and knowledge daily and hourly to glorify Thy name. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

O GOD, in whose presence all men are equal, but who yet, by the inscrutability of Thy wisdom, hast so created and disposed them, that they may fill varied stations in life, and by being suitably but differently gifted, each be enabled to minister to the good, the comfort, and the happiness of others; O Thou who thus wisely and by Thy providence so disposest us, that we may all be members of the same family, and be united by the spirit of adoption under one parent, whereby we can call upon Thee as our common Father,—we draw near to Thee this morning; and refreshed in our bodies, and made strong for labour, we offer our thanksgivings unto Thee; we sing praises to Thy name, O Thou most High.

As part of the great creation, we desire to make acknowledgment of the allegiance due to Thee. For the heaven, even the heaven of heavens, is Thine, but the earth hast Thou given to the children of men. Who shall not fear Thee, O Thou righteous God, and sing praises unto Thee, O Thou beneficent parent?

O Thou that hearest prayer, to Thee shall all flesh come. Deign to listen to our petitions, we beseech Thee. To whom can we make known our wants, O Lord, but unto Thee; Thou hast the words of eternal life, and from Thee the all-pervading power of life goes forth. O may we ever keep in view the end for which we were designed. May we watch over

our passions and hold them in subjection. Help us, O Lord, we beseech Thee, for in Thee alone do we trust. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

O LORD God Almighty, Creator of the universe of worlds, Saviour, Redeemer, and Regenerator,—at the close of another day we come, with humility and thankfulness, into Thy presence. We know, O Lord, that no enumeration of Thy divine qualities can add to Thy glory, or render us more acceptable in Thy sight. But in our acknowledgements of what Thou art, and in our enumeration of Thy divine perfections, we are brought to a proper sense of the deep reverence with which we should approach Thee, and of the humility which becomes creatures dependant upon so merciful, yet so great and glorious a God. And when we remember that Thy greatness is equalled by Thy goodness; and that, not only art Thou holy and just, but merciful, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, we can draw near unto Thee with the greater freedom. O how good Thou art, O Lord! The High and Lofty One, consorting with the creature He has made! The mighty God, assuming the humanity to recover His disobedient children! The Father of eternity, deigning to become an infant of days! Was ever love equal to Thy love? To what greater extent could Thy condescension reach, when Thou declaredst, that if we were obedient unto Thee, we should be one with Thee, even as Thou, O Lord Jesus Christ, art one with the Father? O most adorable Lord, may we with profound humility acknowledge that, though we are unworthy the least of Thy favours, yet Thy mercy endureth for ever. To Thee, O Lord, we bow in humble adoration. Accept our evening sacrifice, we beseech Thee. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY MORNING.

ALMIGHTY Father, Thou art our God; we will exalt Thee, we will praise Thy Name for ever and ever. This morning bears testimony anew to Thy divine mercy. The eye that never slumbers nor sleeps has been open for our protection; and our bodies, renewed by repose, feel strong to commence anew the labours of the day. Therefore in the morning will we raise our voices unto thee, O Lord. In the morning, we will direct our prayer unto Thee, and look up; for to look upward, Thou hast instructed us, is to elevate our understandings to a contemplation of Thy divine perfections, to raise our thoughts from the world, and, as in duty bound, seek Thee first both in the order of time and in the order of importance. To begin the day and every day with Thee, and, by the elevation of our souls to Thee, receive such portions of divine influence as shall keep us all this day, strengthen us in the due performance of our respective duties and assist to fit us for the importance of the station to which we may be called in Thy heavenly kingdom. May we offer this morning the "firstlings of our flock and the fat thereof," the affections of innocence and confiding love; and may our confidence be based on Thee alone, for Thou art the portion of our

inheritance, and of our cup! Thou maintainest our lot, and as we set Thee ever before us, Thou wilt be at our right hand, Thou wilt meet all our spiritual opponents: each trial to which we are exposed will tend only to our increased purification, and when Thou hast tried us and purified us as silver purified in a furnace of earth, we shall rise upward and have a goodly heritage in Thy heavenly kingdom. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, in whom alone we live, and move, and have our being, we approach Thee as the only wise God our Saviour. We praise Thy name for ever and ever. May the whole earth be filled with Thy glory, and all the families of mankind unite with the innumerable hosts of the blessed in magnifying Thy goodness, and raising and perpetuating the song of triumph, "Hallelujah! for the Lord God, the Omnipotent, reigneth."

O Lord, we trust only in Thy name. In Thy favour is life, Thou hast dealt bountifully with us. May our evening prayers ascend unto Thee with fervid sincerity; may we acknowledge the guiding of Thy divine providence, and rest our souls' happiness on Thy love and mercy. In whom can we repose so much confidence? Who has stood by us like unto Thee, O Lord? When trouble has come upon us in this world, Thou hast approved Thyself unto us a friend that sticketh closer than a brother; and we can with truth, as we ought with gratitude, exclaim, "Hitherto the Lord hath helped us!"

O Lord, we went forth to our labour this morning depending upon Thine aid and protection, and feeling that Thou wouldst impart unto us all needful assistance in the accomplishment of our varied duties; and Thy providence has sustained us,—we have again proved Thy faithfulness; and as our day has been, so has been our strength. And now that we assemble around our family altar, to offer our evening sacrifice and to call upon Thy name, we with gratitude acknowledge that Thy mercies are ever new towards us, and that Thou preservest us alike from the arrow that flieth by night, and from "the destruction that wasteth at noon-day." Glory be to Thy holy name, O Lord, our Redeemer. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY MORNING.

O LORD God Almighty, to whom alone belongeth mercy, we wait upon Thee this morning; Thou art our help and our shield, "our buckler, the horn of our salvation, and our high tower." Thou hast preserved us amidst innumerable unseen perils which compass our path; and from the image of natural death, Thou hast awakened us, filled us with Thy spirit, and brought us to glorify Thy name in the cheerful light of another day. And never has Thy watchfulness intermitted, for Thy angels encamp about our dwellings to deliver all those that trust in Thee.

On Thy providence have we hitherto depended, and goodness and mercy have followed us all the days of our life.

Lord, we beseech Thee, enable us to reflect for what purpose we are

placed here ; not only to prepare for a higher and more glorious state of being, but to engage in those acts of use which minister to the comfort and convenience of others ; for " none liveth to himself."

Thou hast designed us as mutual helps ; as the body of man is one, though composed of many members, and each member combines with the others to promote one common end of good, so are we members one of another, designed to promote each other's happiness, and placed here to assist each other in bearing our common burthens : and in this way we mutually depend upon each other. And, O Lord, we beseech Thee, enable us to reflect, that none of us " dieth to himself." May we so live, that when we shall be called to the spiritual world, we may yet speak on the acts of charity which Thou hast enabled us to do. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY EVENING.

O LORD God Almighty, we approach Thee this evening with humility and thankfulness, convinced of Thy perfect immortality, of the unchangeable nature of Thy love. Thou art the same " yesterday, to-day, and for ever." Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever. When we consider the purity of Thy divine nature, and reflect upon the evils by which our lives have been unhappily stained, Thy marvellous goodness stands more open and conspicuous before us ; and though we have rebelled against Thee, yet Thy loving-kindness and tender mercy is continually with us, and we humbly acknowledge how perfect Thou art in goodness, forgiving iniquity and sin, and blotting out our transgressions for Thine own name's sake.

O Lord, as we kneel before Thee we acknowledge that another day has run its steady course. Can we say that we have progressed with it ? that one step has been taken in advance on the way of regeneration ; that one evil has been subdued or even broken, to make way for the implantation of its opposite good ? O how deceitful are our hearts ; who shall know them, O God !

Bow us down in spirit, we beseech Thee. May we sink in deep humiliation before Thee ; O purify us by Thy truth, Thy word is truth.

Thou abidest, O Lord, in Thy holy mountain. Thy seat is in heaven. In light and love, Thou art inaccessible ; and yet such is Thy goodness that Thou hast attempered Thy glory, and dwellest with the humble, and through the medium of ministering spirits Thy light and Thy love are sent forth, and become the life and the light of the world. To Thee, O Lord Jesus Christ, we ascribe all honour and glory for ever. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY MORNING.

BENEFICENT Father of all the families of the earth, Thou only art worthy to receive glory, and honour, and strength, for Thou hast taken unto Thee thy great power and hast reigned. There is none like unto Thee, O Lord, who dwellest between the Cherubim. Thy perfections are as infinite as Thy wisdom, as deep and unsearchable ; thy ways are past finding out ; Thou art the only living and true God. Thou re-

vealest Thyself of old to the prophets, as the Jehovah of hosts, plenteous in mercy and abundant in goodness and truth.

In these last days, thou revealest Thyself under the divine name, Jesus Christ, our Lord; O may we and all the families of the earth be brought to believe on Thy name, adore Thy name, for Thou art God and there is none else: a just God and a Saviour, there is none beside Thee.

We desire meekly to raise our eyes this morning to Thy glorious person. Prostrate before Thee, yet would we in spirit catch a glimpse of Thy radiant perfections. O Lord, we feel how much Thou desirest the happiness of Thy creatures: and the more frequently we are brought to contemplate Thy perfections, the greater must be the probability of our true and spiritual enjoyment. We praise Thee, O Lord, for Thou art high: yet hast Thou respect unto the lowly. O how great is Thy goodness! Thou wilt regard the prayer of the lowly, the broken and contrite heart Thou wilt not despise. O hear us, and answer us from Thy mercy seat, O Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and grant us pardon for Thy name and mercy sake. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY EVENING.

BLESSED and praised be Thy holy name, O Lord God Almighty, and may the whole earth be filled with Thy glory! Thou art King of kings, and Lord of lords, unto Thee may every knee bow and every tongue confess. All the heavens shall praise Thee, the heavens, the work of Thy hands; and let all the inhabitants of the earth magnify Thee, who have felt the power of Thy redeeming love.

We humbly desire to worship at Thy footstool, to kneel before Thee, our Maker; O Lord Jesus Christ, let our cry ascend unto Thee, our King and our God. Another week draws nigh to its close, and still are we spared to pursue lives of usefulness here, and to prepare for higher states of being hereafter.

We remember the former periods of our lives, we look upon our childhood, our youth, our present existence; and when was there a time, O Lord, when Thou wast unmindful of us? Never. Surely goodness and mercy have followed us all the days of our life. O cause us to hear Thy loving-kindness this evening, for in Thee do we trust. Cause us to know the path we should walk in, for Thou only canst effectually guide us, and unto Thee do we lift up our souls. Thou art gracious and full of compassion, long-suffering, and of tender mercy. Thou sparest us even when we deserve punishment, and when before our dark and guilty minds there is an appearance of anger and vengeance, Thy mercy is still new towards us, and we feel, as Thy righteous dispensations become known to us, that Thou art indeed good to all, and Thy tender mercies are over all Thy works. We glorify Thee that Thou hast added another week unto our lives. We retire to rest under the assurance that Thou, Lord, wilt watch over us for good. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FIFTH WEEK.—SABBATH MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, Thou art our great, our glorified Redeemer. Thou didst rise on the first day of the week; Thou didst ascend high above all heavens, and from Thy divine glory a radiance is shed upon all the blessed inhabitants of Thy kingdom; and is gradually attempered until it is fit for the vision of men upon earth. Thou art risen indeed. And O grant that we may rise to newness of life. Assist us to put off the old man, which is fashioned after the flesh, and to put on the new man, which is fashioned after the spirit, even of Thy spirit, O Lord our strength and our Redeemer.

O Lord of the Sabbath, we humbly desire to consecrate this day to Thy service. May our house be unto us as Thy early temple, and may Thy glory be among us, Thy spiritual influences in our hearts, and Thy word unfolded before us, so as to gladden our understandings.

O heavenly Father, aid us to make this day one of real devotion and piety. May we separate ourselves from every object of a worldly nature, may we enter into our closet, and shut the door thereof; so that a strict scrutiny of our affections and thoughts may be made.

May we go forth to the public services of Thy church with chastened and penitent hearts for our past evils; and with humble thanksgivings that the portals of Thy temple are still open to receive us. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SABBATH EVENING.

O LORD God, our Saviour and Redeemer, when we cry unto Thee, hear us; when we cry unto Thee, have mercy upon us, and listen to our prayer.

This day has been a day of spiritual rejoicing to our souls; we have entered within the hallowed enclosures of Thy temple, and have united with Thy congregation in singing one of the songs of Zion. May Thy name be glorified!

We adore Thee! O Lord God our Saviour. Thou hast taken to Thee Thy great power and hast reigned. Thou art the sure, the tried, the precious foundation. Thou hast become unto us the author as well as the finisher of our faith, and there is no other name under heaven whereby men can be saved. We adore Thee, we magnify Thy name for ever and ever.

O Lord, we thank Thee for the privileges we have this day enjoyed; for the hearing of Thy word read and preached, and for joining in praise to Thy high and holy name. We have heard Thy messages of love; may they be treasured in our hearts.

O bless the public ministrations of Thy Word this day, and may all who hear and learn Thy will, be filled with Thy grace to do it. Pour Thy good spirit upon all who teach Thy truth, from the watchman upon the watch-tower, to the humble feeder of Thy lambs. May they teach Thy truth in love. May Thy example be ever before them. May the spirit of gentleness pervade their discourses, the language of persuasive love flow from their lips, and may their reward be the good fruits of righteousness from their people, may this be the crown of their rejoicing.

And may all the glory be ascribed unto Thee, who art God over all, blessed for evermore. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, the friend of all Thy people, their Saviour, Redeemer, and Regenerator, we approach Thee under a due sense of Thy loving-kindness and tender mercy. Give ear to our words, we beseech Thee, consider our meditation, hearken unto the voice of our cry, for unto Thee alone do we offer our petitions. Our voice shalt Thou hear in the morning, O Lord; in the morning will we direct our prayer unto Thee, and will look up.

O Lord, we desire to offer our thanksgivings unto Thee, for Thou art good, Thy compassion fails not, but Thy mercy endureth for ever. What can we render unto Thee for all Thy benefits? We have nothing, O Lord, but gratitude and thanksgiving; and O may this morning's devotions prove a record of our gratitude and love!

We now enter upon another week of labour. O make it one of usefulness to our fellow creatures; may we strive to improve every moment of this day, and may thoughts of heaven perpetually cheer us and urge us onward in the path of the regeneration.

In every act in which we engage, and in which good is designed to our fellow creatures, Thou art present; Thou art as its soul, Thou art the very life and energy of it; yea, Lord, Thou dwellest in everything that is good. O what a stimulus would this prove unto us, did we but sufficiently consider it: "To do good," therefore, "and to communicate" may we never forget; "for with such sacrifices Thou art well pleased." Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY EVENING.

MOST merciful Lord our God, Thou art great; we will exalt Thee! We will praise Thy name for ever and ever; Thy mercies are ever new towards us. Thou hast brought us safely through this day, and we again assemble at our family altar to seek Thy face, and utter our thanksgivings in Thy presence.

O Thou who art high and sittest on the throne of Thy righteousness, before whose face the very angels are charged with folly, and are not pure in Thy sight, wilt Thou indeed dwell with men upon earth? Yea, Lord! Thou hast so declared. Thou wilt dwell even with us, to comfort the hearts of the humble and to revive the spirit of the contrite ones.

O wondrous love! divine condescension! We can but adore Thee in silent gratitude!

Thou art high and inhabitest eternity. There are supreme goodness and supreme wisdom; and yet even the lowest principle of human life in which is good, the simplest thought of the understanding in which is truth, find their conjoining principles in Thy glorified humanity. We can ascend by mediums into conjunction with those that are most high, and thus the humblest soul can be replenished with all the graces of love, wisdom, and blessedness, from Thee, the eternal fountain of mercy. It

is by Thy perfect union of divinity with humanity, by the glorification, that all are enabled to approach Thee. We glorify Thy name, O Thou Most High.

Watch over us this night, we beseech Thee, for good; and may we renew our strength, and serve Thee with greater spirituality. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY MORNING.

OMNIPOTENT and omniscient Jehovah, the God of all joy and consolation, the fountain of all life and blessedness, the source of all grace and mercy, who is like unto Thee? who can be compared with Thee? In heaven, O Lord, Thou rulest alone; and in the plenitude of Thy goodness and truth, Thou guidest the blessed in their several degrees of use. And on earth Thy presence is felt, and Thine influence is exercised, that man may be brought into the way of salvation.

O God, Thou art worthy to be feared for Thy power, and that power is ever exercised on our behalf. For Thou displayest Thy power in protecting us against the assaults of our spiritual enemies, and bringing us safely through our trials and difficulties. And to whom can we better trust the guidance of our affairs, than to Thee, O Lord, who art the source of all wisdom? and that wisdom Thou bringest down to the humblest understanding, through the medium of Thy holy Word. How boundless is Thy goodness: so universal, so vast, so free! may a lively gratitude possess us, and may we strive to return Thee love for love.

We desire, O Lord, to adore Thee, for Thou alone art holy! We praise Thee, for Thou alone art great! We believe and trust in Thy gracious promises, for Thou alone art faithful!

We pray Thee, O Lord, help us faithfully to perform our various duties this day. May we, through the strength with which Thou hast endowed us, be diligent in business; serving our employers, not as eye-servants or men-pleasers, but as the servants of Thee, O Lord Jesus Christ, doing Thy will from the heart. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY EVENING.

MERCIFUL and ever blessed Lord God our Saviour Jesus Christ! Deeply sensible of our grievous evils, actual as well as hereditary, we desire to humble ourselves in Thy presence. Another day has closed upon us, and the season allotted for natural repose again draws nigh.

And how have we spent this day? how have its duties been performed? Has Thy fear, O Lord, been perpetually before our eyes? Have we held our tongues as with a bridle, and refrained from wickedness in thought, word, and deed?

Ah! who shall say he is free from sin? who, among all who assume to be most righteous, can declare himself innocent in Thy sight? There is none, no, not one that doeth righteousness, or that keepeth the truth.

But Thou hast assured us, that if we repent, Thou art faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Teach us, O Lord, we beseech Thee, the necessity of immediate repentance.

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This day is gone ; to-morrow is not ours, but Thine, O Lord, and we may be called into Thy presence. How awful is this consideration ! Have we provided oil for our lamps, and are they ready trimmed, should the Bridegroom call us ? Alas ! all unworthy as we are, we have but little goodness or oil, and we have but little time to seek a fresh supply. O Lord, have mercy upon us for we are weak, our souls are bowed down in sorrow because of our sins ; O spare us that we may recover our strength before we go hence and be no more seen. Hear us, and have mercy upon us, for Thine own name sake. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

LORD Jesus Christ, who art King of kings, and Lord of lords, the great, the only potentate. We are awakened this morning by Thy mercy ; and the glorious orb which Thou hast placed in the centre of the firmament, sends forth his light at Thy command, renews our energies, and calls us forth to our labour. As we view this beauteous and glorious luminary, we call to remembrance the words of Thy truth : " On them that fear Thy name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in His wings." And by this are our first thoughts led to a devout contemplation of Thee as the source of all love, animation, and wisdom. And as the sun of this world displays his glory, and produces order, beauty, and fertility, we are enabled to contemplate the surpassing glory and beauty of the Sun of heaven. In the midst of the Sun of heaven, Thou dwellest ! Thou rulest in the heavens ; Thou arranges the blessed inhabitants into their various societies ; Thou fillest the many mansions of Thy heavenly kingdom with all the variety of intelligence, wisdom, and love ; and Thou preservest unconfused the distinct degrees of happiness in infinite varieties ; Thou thus establishest order in heaven and on earth, and Thou preservest it throughout. O Lord our God, in Thee do we put our trust. We would bless and praise Thy holy name for ever and ever.

We lift up our hearts with our hands to Thee in the heavens ; and while the voice of our supplication ascends up unto Thee, O send forth Thy light and Thy truth upon us and upon all the families of the earth : let them enter our understandings, chase away from mankind all darkness and error, so that finding an entrance into our affections, may they be instrumental in enriching, sanctifying, and purifying our hearts. Hear us, O Lord Jesus Christ, for Thy name and mercy sake. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

MOST merciful Lord Jesus Christ, Thou hast declared that the kingdom of heaven is within us ; and as we reflect on the spiritual sense of Thy holy Word, we are instructed, that in every mind there dwells a multitude of sons and daughters, or of thoughts and affections, which, duly matured by the truths and goods of Thy word, become as children who are called the " heritage of the Lord."

May we consider that the accents of truth which flow forth from the understanding, result from the inflowing of the influence of Thy

wisdom; and as this wisdom conjoins itself with the affections of the will, the daughters of heavenly goodness unite with the sons of heavenly wisdom, to magnify and praise the good FATHER who is the life of both. Thus, O Lord, we pray thee, enable us to serve Thee, that our minds may be as the soil where all heavenly virtues may take root, and shoot forth as plants fit to grow in the garden of the Lord. "May our sons be as plants grown up in their youth; our daughters as corner-stones polished after the similitude of a palace." May all our affections and thoughts be brought into a state of harmony and obedience to Thy will, so as to show the ripened affections of our hearts, and the purified thoughts of our understandings united.

But, O Father, of ourselves, we can do nothing; hold Thou us up, so shall we not be moved. Be near us in every temptation, and in every moment of danger teach us to depend upon Thee. By Thy truth strengthen and confirm every holy principle, and keep us in such a constant state of watchfulness, that we may make our calling and election sure.

The day is Thine; the night also is Thine, and we now desire to resign ourselves, soul and body, into Thy gracious keeping. Watch over us, and bring us safely into Thy heavenly kingdom at the last. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY MORNING.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Lord God our Saviour. To Thee we humbly address ourselves. "Thou makest the outgoings of the morning and the evening to rejoice." We thankfully rejoice, that Thou hast preserved us during the past night, and in safety hast Thou brought us to worship Thee, this morning.

Hearken unto the voice of our cry, our King and our God, for unto Thee alone do we offer our petitions; and may the great multitude whom no one can number, be now humbly engaged in this solemn and bounden duty.

May young men and maidens, old men and children, praise Thy Name, O Lord, for it is excellent, and praise is comely. Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings, as well as out of those of age and experience, Thou perfectest praise.

O God, Thou art our God, early will we seek Thee. Thou art our God, we will praise Thee, Thou art our God we will exalt Thee. How great are Thy mercies unto us; who can number them? From the moment when we first drew our infant breath, Thou hast not forsaken us, but hast guided us through the perils of youth, through the passions of maturity, and brought us safely to this day. We cannot express our gratitude too deeply and too fervently. What is there, Lord, that we can do to make Thy goodness known? There is nothing that Thou requirest at our hands, but that may be done by us, if we look unto Thee for assistance. To do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with Thee, our God, constitutes the whole duty of man. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY EVENING.

IT is a good thing, O Lord, to draw near unto Thee continually ; and to be kept in remembrance of our nearness to the eternal world. As each declining day assembles us together to meditate upon Thy Word, and to acknowledge our manifold mercies from Thee, we are reminded that a further portion of our limited span of natural existence has been narrowed, and we are brought nearer to eternity. The veil that divides us from the spiritual world is indeed opaque, and impervious to our vision. But it is nevertheless thin, and is even partly to be pierced by our spirits, if we love Thee and keep Thy commandments. For what can be hidden from the spiritual perception of him who was dead to sin,—but now is alive unto God even unto Christ Jesus our Lord?

O how often might we enjoy conversation with Thee and with the blessed inhabitants of Thy kingdom, did we but “pray without ceasing.” And even now, O Lord, dim as are our perceptions, glimpses of Thy goodness, truth, and mercy pass before us. We see Thy hand exercised in its power for our deliverance ; Thine ear is open to our cry ; Thine eye watches over us, ever observant that our spiritual adversaries gain no advantage over us. The gracious accents of Thy divine voice fall as the “dew of Hermon” upon our souls. Even to old age Thou art with us, even to hoary hairs Thou wilt carry us. Thou wilt never forsake us.

Lord, we thank Thee for these assurances of Thy love.

O let Thy holy angels watch over us this night and guard us from temptation. Into Thy hands we resign our spirits as we retire to rest. Be with us, O Lord, we beseech Thee, for in Thee alone do we trust. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY MORNING.

O THOU, whose presence is with the humble, who dwellest with the poor in spirit, we approach Thee this morning in humble prayer and supplication. Unto Thee are we invited to come in the gracious words—“ask, and ye shall receive.” Thou desirest not our prayers for Thine own sake, nor because Thou art unacquainted with our wants ; but that we may show that our dependance is upon Thee, and if we would receive good at Thy hands, it becomes doubly blessed as we acknowledge its divine source. And we are also surrounded by the sphere of Thy goodness, for Thou wilt deign to meet us, and be propitious, and commune with us from Thy mercy-seat. We thank Thee, O most merciful Father, for this encouragement to approach the throne of Thy love. Our voices are lifted up unto Thee O Lord, and Thy face will we seek. Through the silent watches of the night, when we have been wrapped in repose and forgetfulness ; when our condition has been most helpless and we easily could have become the prey of our spiritual enemies, Thine eye has watched over us, Thine arm has sustained us, and the morning bears testimony to the renewal of Thy mercy.

O may the thousands now in prayer before Thee, unite in one general thanksgiving ; “Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless His Holy Name.” Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY EVENING.

O LORD and Saviour Jesus Christ, it is of Thy mercy, that day after day is added unto our existence, that we may by acts of usefulness here, be prepared for the high and holy uses of Thy kingdom.

Thy hand has been with us this day, and Thou hast amidst innumerable dangers brought us to the present moment. O may we prove our gratitude, by dedicating unto Thee our lives, our souls, our talents, our faculties, and all that we possess. May we set the Lord ever before us. May we cultivate a spirit of peace and forbearance, and lead a sober, righteous, and godly life. O grant unto us strength, we beseech Thee, that we may be able to resist the influence of our spiritual adversaries; aid us in the struggles necessary for our purification, and make us more than conquerors by the power which worketh for us. Incline us to seek after happiness in the way Thou hast appointed, and through the medium of humble goodness. When we look around us in the world, and see the universal struggle made after happiness, and know that the happiness sought after, and the struggles made to attain it, must end in disappointment, because Thou art not the first and the last in all such endeavours, how truly are we taught that what is without has not the least connection with true happiness; even the greatest of all earthly blessings, health of body, is not sufficient to make us happy of itself, for true happiness springs from the soul which is at peace with Thee, O Lord. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY MORNING.

LORD! in Thee do we put our trust, in Thee alone do we repose confidence; Thou ever hast preserved us, and Thou wilt be our defender even unto death. Thou hast been pleased safely to conduct us to the closing day of another week; and the rest of the past night hath prepared us for the day's duties, and strengthened us to go forth to our work and to our labour until the evening.

We acknowledge with heart-felt gratitude Thy persevering, Thy tender care; day unto day renews Thy goodness, night unto night continues the watchfulness of Thy providence; therefore do we humbly trust in Thee, O Lord, and pray Thee to aid us in our morning's devotions, that we may offer the sacrifices of righteousness. Lord, teach us to set our affections upon things above; for if our desires are towards the world, they never can be satisfied; our passions are always craving after sensual gratifications, and the world and its pleasures only increase their craving. Teach us, therefore, we beseech Thee, to have our conversation in heaven. If our views be fixed on the eternal world, the expectation of its joys will afford the most exquisite satisfaction; and teach us to live in this world as strangers and as pilgrims anxiously preparing for another and a better state. Teach us, O Lord, to bring our every thought, word, and deed to the bar of our own consciences; and on our consciences inscribe the Word of Thy Truth. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, who, amidst innumerable trials, hast brought us safely to the present moment, we glorify Thy holy name for all Thy tender love towards us.

Let us not the thousandth part of the wonderful interventions of Thy providence in our behalf; "such knowledge is too wonderful for us; it is high, we cannot attain to it." Yet with humble thanksgiving we acknowledge "Thou hast delivered our souls from death, our eyes from tears, our feet from falling." Our spiritual interests as well as our spiritual necessities are ever regarded by Thee, and provided for; O grant that we may with thankfulness submit ourselves unto Thy righteous government, our King and our God.

Nor would we be unmindful of all Thy temporal benefits—Thou hast opened Thy hands, and hast given us bread enough and to spare. Thou hast fed us with food convenient for us. We have been covered with decent raiment. We enter our peaceful home and meet with the kind looks and the happy welcome of those who are near and dear to us, we hear their friendly greetings, we interchange the sympathies of family love. O God, our cup is full to overflowing. Surely our lines are laid in pleasant places; goodness and mercy have followed us all the days of our lives; and amidst the innumerable backslidings of our corrupt nature we continue to evince the certainty of the Apostolic truth that GOD IS LOVE—LOVE IN ITS VERY ESSENCE. AND THIS LOVE IS THE LIFE OF MEN.

And now, O Lord, permit us to lie down in peace, and to repose under the shadow of Thy wings. Let Thy Word be our meditation if we are wakeful, and may it be our consoler, adviser, and friend through all the chequered scenes of this our natural existence. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SIXTH WEEK.—SABBATH MORNING.

MERCIFUL Saviour, our Redeeming Lord, the true God and eternal life; we approach Thy footstool this morning, and we remember with heartfelt gratitude, that when man was dead in trespasses and sin, Thou didst not leave him to perish; but, bowing the heavens, Thou didst come down; and, clothing Thyself with light as with a garment, Thou didst appear as the Saviour of an otherwise lost people.

And when every temptation which could assail the humanity was met and resisted, and all the powers of darkness in vain attempted to hold man as their captive, we remember, as Thy Word discloses unto us, that Thou didst subdue death and hell, didst triumph over the grave, and didst encourage Thy faithful followers with the gracious assurance, "because I live, ye shall live also." And it was on the first day of the week that the portals of the tomb flew open; for what could confine the Lord of life and glory? And Thou didst arise as on this day, in all the majesty of a mighty conqueror. O may we, at this time, raise our thoughts and affections unto Thee with joy and gratitude for the great work of redemption; may we rejoice at the deliverance which Thou hast effected for us and all mankind. O may we die unto sin, and be alive unto God, even unto Thee, the only God and our Saviour. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SABBATH EVENING.

O LORD, Thou art the King of glory, Thou art the Father and friend of Thy people, the God of the universe of worlds. Thy power is only equalled by Thy goodness, and Thy goodness is universally dispensed. Thou hast revealed Thyself this day through the medium of Thy Word, and in Thy Church Thou hast spiritually presented Thyself before Thy people. Thou hast universally diffused the influences of Thy spirit, and made the place of Thy feet glorious. May all who have worshipped before Thee this day know and feel that they have experienced Thy blessing; and may they so show a sense of their gratitude as to serve Thee with greater purity of heart and fervency of spirit.

O gracious Lord, our Saviour, may our approaches unto Thee this evening be distinguished by humility, love, and gratitude. Enable us to treasure up the truths of Thy gospel in our memories, and to make them the theme of our meditation by night and by day. O let the result of this day's duties be displayed in us, by a peaceable and gentle disposition, and by a holy walk and conversation. Thou hast exhorted us by Thine apostle, "to learn in whatsoever state we are, therewith to be content." O aid us to acquire this temper and this spirit. We commit ourselves to Thy divine keeping this night, and into Thy hands we resign our spirits. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY MORNING.

ETERNAL, Omnipotent, and ever present Lord God and Saviour! Almighty Father of the universe! We humbly approach Thee, this morning, and desire to adore Thee for the blessings of sleep, and for the protection of our souls and bodies during its continuance. O let Thy divine protection be extended to us; and guard us through this day from every temporal and spiritual danger. In Thee alone can we trust, and they who trust in Thee, mercy shall compass them about.

O Lord, how excellent is Thy name in all the earth, Thy glory is above the heavens! Thou hast created all things, and for Thy pleasure they are and were created; but Thy pleasure is to see the chief of Thy creatures in the orderly enjoyment of all Thy blessings. Thou hast placed all things of Thy creation under his control, and hast given him the universal enjoyment of them. How boundless is his dominion! O that we were so deeply impressed by Thy goodness, as never to raise our eyes upward, or around, without remembering the Benefactor who hath so bountifully, so marvellously endowed us with blessings. The glorious sun is now streaming in light above us; faint emblem of Thee—the Sun of righteousness. But O what a glorious firmament hast Thou spread over our heads, as a canopy! What fountains of light set at inconceivable distances, give animation to revolving worlds around them! Wondrous indeed are the things we behold; effects from causes which exist in the heavens! How marvellous are Thy works, Lord God Almighty! just and true are Thy ways, Thou King of saints! Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY EVENING.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Saviour! unto Thee we present our praises and thanksgivings, for every past instance of Thy love and mercy. Another day's duties have been brought to a close, and the temporal affairs of the world have occupied our attention. How have we performed these duties? Has the love of our neighbour been ever before us? and has the love of usefulness, from a principle of goodness animated us? Have we set Thee continually before our eyes? Have we dealt justly with our fellow-men, and served faithfully, and with a single eye, those who have employed us? Important questions! May we place ourselves at the bar of our own consciences and try ourselves by the standard of Thy truth. For "Who shall abide in Thy tabernacle? Who shall dwell in Thy holy hill?—He that walketh uprightly and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart. He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour. In whose eyes a vile person is contemned, but he honoureth them that fear the Lord. He that sweareth to his own hurt and changeth not. He that putteth not out his money to usury, nor taketh reward against the innocent. He that doeth these things shall never be moved."

O Lord, as these truths of Thy Word press themselves upon our recollections we are constrained to acknowledge that we have very imperfectly performed our duties. Our best efforts have been tinged with insincerity, and too often with intense selfishness. We have imagined we might do the best we could for ourselves, and thus we have not loved our neighbour as ourselves; and while we have assumed the name of Christ, how utterly unworthy are we to bear Thy name. O heavenly Father, instruct us in the use of Thy Word, as may best show our desire for reformation; pardon our sins, we beseech Thee, for Thine own name and mercy sake. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY MORNING.

OLORD Jesus Christ, accept our tribute of praise, this morning, our grateful adoration for the protection of the past night, and permit us to approach Thee with humility and lowly-mindedness, and to acknowledge that Thy watchful eye never intermits its guardian care over us.

We have rested in peace and safety, we have risen again, for Thou sustainest us, we are surrounded by Thy mercy; the day has opened, and brought with it its accustomed benefits and blessings; our health is continued unto us, our table is spread before us, and Thou hast invigorated our frames, and made us strong to labour.

O Lord, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier, in whom all the fulness of the Godhead dwells bodily—Jesus, our Saviour, our merciful one, may we ever evince a becoming sense of Thy goodness, and show our gratitude by a holy and religious life. Thou art our great Parent, our indulgent Father, although the great God of heaven and earth. We are Thy children, the sheep of Thy pasture, the recipients of perpetual life from Thee. Thee we adore! Thee only do we worship! and without Thee we can do nothing.

Thou hast instructed us in the great duties and business of life, and

if we would live for heaven, we must love Thee above all things, and our neighbour as ourselves; and to bring ourselves under Thy perfect love, we must learn of Thee. Help us, O Lord Jesus Christ, in all things to learn of Thee, that we may find rest to our own souls. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY EVENING.

O THOU who sittest enthroned in light and glory ineffable; allow us, a few of Thine unworthy creatures to approach Thee, and reverently to bow at Thy footstool, acknowledging our utter unworthiness.

The more we reflect upon the multitude of Thy tender mercies, the more are we lost in wonder at Thy goodness and condescension; O that a deep and affecting sense of Thy majesty, and of our meanness, of Thy bounty and of our indigence, may pervade us. O that we may at all times feel that the Lord alone is righteous.

Attend unto our cry, O Lord, give ear unto our prayer! Search and try our hearts, visit us this night by the exploring power of Thy truth, and grant that a deep sense of our unworthiness and of Thy goodness may cause us to lay open our whole souls before Thee, so that our sins being manifested, we may loathe ourselves for our iniquities, and resolve, by the aid of Thy grace, to go and sin no more. Hold up our going in Thy paths, we beseech Thee, that our footsteps slip not. O Thou that savest by Thy right hand those that put their trust in Thee; let Thy saving mercy be seen and felt by us. Keep us, as the apple of Thine eye, hide us under the shadow of Thy wings. So shall we behold Thy face in righteousness, and "when we awake, we shall be satisfied with Thy likeness."

O Lord, we desire to adore Thee for Thy divine protection, extended to us this day. Thou hast been our rock, our fortress, and our deliverer, our God, our strength, our buckler, and the horn of our salvation, and our high tower. Thy name has been to us a secure pavilion: we have entered in, and been safe in Thy protection. Be with us through this night, for Thy name and mercy sake. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

GREAT Lord of all things, omnipotent and eternal Jehovah, we approach Thy divine majesty this morning, and with reverence adore Thee for the quiet and refreshing sleep we have enjoyed; and for the renewal of our strength thereby. Thou art an ever present God.

Thou knowest our down-sitting and up-rising; Thou understandest our thoughts afar off, Thou compassest our path, Thou art acquainted with all our ways, and if we commit our souls to Thee, Thou wilt bring us through every danger.

O Lord, our Saviour, how mindful of us art Thou; and yet, how unworthy are we of all Thy care! O that there were a more fervent spirit within us. O that we were more sensible of the numberless obligations we are under to Thee. Help us, O Lord, to love Thee with our whole heart, and to serve Thee with willing minds.

Thou hast fearfully and wonderfully made us, and Thou hast given us power to contemplate our own structure, and to adore Thee, who hast so admirably adapted each part to its fellow with perfect symmetry and precision. Thou hast placed us as probationers here, and yet are we beings of both worlds. The heaven and its blessed inhabitants claim our souls, the earth hast Thou given to the children of men, and this claims the uses of our bodies; and Thou hast with perfect wisdom ordained man to labour, that thereby all his bodily members may be preserved in health and sanity. We cannot contemplate a single member of our bodies, but we are lost in wonder at its fitness as an instrument of the soul. O Lord, help us to glorify Thee in our bodies and in our spirits, which are Thine. To Thee be all the glory. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

O FATHER of Eternity! Blest source of light and life! with profound humiliation we desire to prostrate ourselves before Thee. O enable us to worship Thee in spirit and in truth, and with devout thanksgiving to acknowledge that this and every day has borne testimony to Thy love. Hitherto Thou, O Lord, hast helped us; and if we trust in Thee, Thy divine assurance has gone forth, "I will never forsake you, I will be with you even unto the end of the world." Lord, we desire to adore Thee for this gracious assurance.

But, O Father, we are constrained to acknowledge, and we acknowledge with deep contrition, our numberless transgressions. Even when we imagine ourselves to have been most attentive, and to have performed our duties with care and diligence, we have found upon a review of them their utter insufficiency; and while we have too frequently gratified our self-love by assuming that all our temporal duties have been performed from a love of our neighbour and a love of usefulness, the still small voice has reproached us from within "O man, the motive has been base—it has neither originated in the love of God nor in the love of thy neighbour, but in thine own overweening selfishness and egotism. Thou art a Pharisee and art glorifying thyself." Great Lord of all things, we sink in deep abasement before Thee; "O, who can understand his errors? Cleanse Thou us from secret faults." May we strive in the performance of our various duties "not to let our left hand know what our right hand doeth," but in singleness of eye and purity of heart do all to Thy glory. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, Thou only art perfect and essential holiness. To Thee, therefore, we humbly address ourselves. Before Thee, we bow in humble gratitude for the mercies we have enjoyed during the past night, and we would humbly unite our voices to praise Thee for all the wonders of Thy redeeming love.

How wonderful are Thy dealings with us, O Lord, how deeply worthy of our highest veneration! How should they excite serious thoughts

within us, and lead us while we contemplate, to wonder and adore at the perfect means adopted by Thee to deliver us from the bondage of sin. "With the merciful, Thou showest Thyself merciful. With the upright Thou showest Thyself upright. With the pure Thou wilt show Thyself pure, and with the froward Thou wilt show Thyself froward." And yet Thou art unchangeable in Thine own nature, but Thou accommodatest Thine appearance unto man, that he may thereby be brought to know Thee, in Thy pure, merciful, and upright nature, when man shall himself have ceased to be froward. Ah! how often have we mistaken Thy character, and looked at Thy perfection through our own corruptions. Immersed in evil and selfishness, we have imagined Thee angry with us, and knowing how we have felt toward those who have trespassed against us, we have conceived that Thou wouldst display the same anger towards us, when sinning against Thee. How little have we learnt to know Thee, How imperfectly have we understood the Word of Thy Truth. O may we for the future feel and know that Thou art the Lord; Thou dost not change, therefore we sons of men are not consumed. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY EVENING.

THOU, O God, art from everlasting. Thine eye, ever watchful, has presided over us, and has brought us to the conclusion of it in peace. Thy goodness has fed, Thy providence has preserved, Thy power has protected us. The shades of evening again close around us, Thou spreadest abroad the curtain of the night, and man returning from his labour, seeks repose to his wearied limbs, and trusts himself with confidence to Thy protection.

How cheering it is to the wearied frame of man, to know that he has in Thee an all-powerful God, and at the same time an all-merciful Father, a redeeming Lord, mighty to subdue His spiritual adversaries, and yet a pitying Saviour; One who has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows, and has yet subdued death and hell; One who knows our frailty, and who has in mercy declared—I will never forsake you, I will be your guide even unto death. "O God, Thou art our God, ever will we seek Thee." In the morning, at noon, and in the evening will we call upon Thee, and offer up our prayers unto the Lord, whence cometh our help.

Aid us, we humbly entreat Thee, to repose unlimited confidence in Thee. May Thy character be our model for imitation. May we submit ourselves implicitly to Thy wise commands; and whatsoever we do, may we do it to Thy glory.

We look back with sorrow and regret upon the years that are gone by. How little have we improved the time. We have spent our days as a tale that is told. Lord, help us to repent of our evils and to take heed and be watchful, and strengthen the things that remain, that are ready to perish, for our ways have not been perfect before Thee. Lord, we desire to humble ourselves before Thee for our sins, to remember that Thou lovest us, and those whom Thou lovest (and they are all Thy creatures) Thou rebukest, Thou chastenest. We humbly implore Thy grace, that we may submit to Thy divine chastisements, for we know that love alone raises the chastening rod. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY MORNING.

ALMIGHTY and most adorable Lord Jesus our Saviour, Thou makest the going forth of the morning and of the evening to praise Thee; and we approach Thee this morning with an humble tribute of prayer and thanksgiving. Thy mercies are ever new towards us, and Thou hast again refreshed us by the sweet repose of sleep. Continue, we beseech Thee, to guard us under the shadow of Thy wings; our nature is frail, and we are prone to turn aside to evil; without Thy preventing grace, therefore, we should be sure to fall into the snares of our own sensuality. How destructive to our eternal interests, how subversive of our happiness, is the reasoning of the sensual principle, if not sanctified by Thy truth. We see the corruption to which it led in the expulsion from Paradise. How false and yet how insinuating and subtle are all its pleadings; how plausible in placing before us the appearance of good. How does this sensuality entwine itself around our affections, entering still into the will principle, thus tempting our affections, now, as of old, to gratify themselves and transgress Thy righteous commands. O help us to subdue the unholy cravings arising from this sensuality; and while in this world we see the necessity of being prudent as serpents, may we at the same time acquire the innocency, the guilelessness of the dove.

Lord, help us to perform the duties of this day; we wait upon Thee day by day that our strength may be renewed, and that grace to help in every time of need may be vouchsafed unto us. Hear us, O Lord, and grant us Thy grace that we may be enabled to do Thy will. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY EVENING.

O LORD Almighty! Our Father in the heavens; Saviour, Redeemer, and Regenerator, in whom alone we live, and move, and have our being; who shall not fear Thee, righteous Lord, and glorify Thy Name, for Thou art holy.

We approach Thy mercy-seat this evening; we bend our knees before Thee with devout thanksgiving and gratitude. We are again safe in our humble habitation and surround our family altar. How innumerable are the blessings Thou hast showered down upon us, who can count them? But Thy blessings are made double by the troubles which might have fallen on us but for Thy divine protection. Day unto day uttereth Thy speech; night unto night showeth forth Thy knowledge. How great is Thy goodness, and how great Thy mercy. Thou hast bestowed upon us Thy Word and hast through its medium made Thyself manifest before us. The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; the statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever; the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether; moreover in keeping Thy precepts there is great reward.

O how precious, how inestimable a gift is this Word which Thou hast bestowed upon us; and by Thy Word have we been withheld all the day long from the snares of our spiritual adversaries.

O Lord Jesus Christ, as we have been privileged by the light of day,

and in it have engaged in and performed our natural and temporal duties, grant that the illuminating influence of Thy Spirit may be with us through this night. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY MORNING.

O THOU who art the King, invisible, eternal, the only wise God our Saviour; with adoring love and gratitude we desire to approach Thee this morning, and with the company of the just in Thy kingdom, we would at an humble distance unite in one general act of praise and thanksgiving. How excellent is Thy name in all the earth, Thy glory is above the heavens. Great and marvellous are Thy works, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are Thy ways, Thou King of saints.

This morning, O Lord, has renewed Thy mercy. We have slept in peace, we have risen again, for Thou, Lord, hast sustained us; and now, O Lord, we commend ourselves to Thy protection during the present day. Keep us, we beseech Thee, from presumptuous sins, let them not have dominion over us; then shall we be upright, and shall be innocent from the great transgression. O grant that the words of our mouth and the meditation of our heart, may be always acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord our strength and our Redeemer.

O Lord, we pray for a greater degree of steadfastness in Thee. How often have we proved, to our discomfort, that there never can be peace to the soul until Thou, O Lord, art settled in the midst of it. O teach us to abide in Thee, that Thou also mayest abide in us, for without Thee we can do nothing. May we hear Thee speaking to our souls, "Look unto Me and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth, for I am God and there is none else." "Come unto Me all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Lord, help us to be obedient to Thy divine expostulations! For in Thee only have we redemption, even the forgiveness of sins. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY EVENING.

O LORD our heavenly Father, be with us, we beseech Thee, while we draw near to Thy mercy-seat, and help us to serve Thee in newness of spirit.

We would that we could acquire a character worthy to be denominated Thy disciples. Assist us, we beseech Thee, to acquire this. Be Thou, O Lord, our constant Guide in all our undertakings, and everything that we begin, may we begin in Thy love and fear. In all that we do, may we remember that Thine eye is upon us, that THOU GOD SEEST US. May we be ever watchful over our passions; against the inroads and desires of evil and self-love. May we constantly wait upon Thee for strength to be enabled to resist every evil inclination, every unhallowed propensity of mind. May our conduct in all things be such as can be approved by the precepts of Thy Word, and may we pray that Thy blessing may accompany all our labours.

We glorify Thy high and holy Name, O Lord, for the protection and

manifold comforts of this day. We have not been smitten by the wicked; we have not been interrupted by trouble or sickness, but Thy good providence hath preserved us, and we meet in safety around our family altar.

Blessed be Thy Holy Name, O Lord, Thou hast showered down Thy benefits upon us this day; Thou hast fed us with the nourishment suitable for the sustenance of our bodies; Thou hast continued unto us our personal comforts and family enjoyments; the friendship and affection of our relations, and all the comforts of bodily existence. And now that Thou hast brought us to the hour of repose, we desire to commit ourselves to Thy gracious keeping, knowing that Thou wilt watch over us and be our protector through time even to eternity. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SEVENTH WEEK.—SABBATH MORNING.

O LORD, the Shepherd of Israel, whose ears are ever open to the petitions of Thy creatures; we approach Thee this morning, and desire with humility to commence the duties of this day by a consecration of all our powers to Thy divine service. We pray Thee, O Lord, so to dispose our hearts and minds, that a spirit of humility and reverence may possess us, and that no obstruction be offered to the influences of Thy Spirit from entering in and taking entire possession of us.

O enable us to keep this day holy, and sanctify it by the exercises of piety and devotion. Help us to prepare our hearts and understandings for the reception of a portion of the bread and the water of life; and may the early services of this family prepare us for the more public duties of the Church.

Enable us to devote all our energies this day to Thy service. May we lay aside all worldly thoughts and desires, and may our minds by spiritual contemplation be prepared for the perception and enjoyments of the eternal realities of Thy kingdom. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SABBATH EVENING.

FATHER of mercies, God of all consolation, the sacred duties of the Sabbath are now drawn to a close with the day itself. We yield Thee our humble and hearty thanks for its privileges. Thou hast enabled us to attend the house of prayer, and we have heard the message of eternal life proclaimed in our ears. O Lord, we feel that Thou art the Good Shepherd; we know we shall not want. Thou hast made us to lie down in green pastures, Thou hast led us beside the still waters. This day hast Thou spread before us a table in our wilderness state; Thou hast anointed us with the oil of gladness, and given us to drink of the cup of Thy salvation. Thou hast been merciful unto us, and though we have felt the seductions of evil, Thou hast delivered our soul, and Thou ledest us in the paths of righteousness for Thine own name's sake.

Blessed be Thy name, O Lord, for the privileges we have this day enjoyed, and if we be obedient unto Thee, we feel assured that we shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Great Lord of all things, aid us to watch with assiduous care against

the secret influences of the spirits of darkness. Our hearts, too easily drawn aside, and enticed by their own lusts, are open continually to the wiles of the adversary. O Lord, we trust in Thee! Help us to fight the good fight of faith. Be near us, we beseech Thee, for Thine own name and mercy sake, O Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY MORNING.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Lord, our heavenly Father, we draw near to Thee this morning under a deep sense of Thy manifold mercies; they are ever new towards us, and the evening and the morning alike proclaim Thee abundant in mercy, and plenteous in goodness and truth.

The necessary duties of another week now devolve upon us, and we draw near to Thee with humility to seek that aid which shall enable us to perform them.

We pray Thee, O Lord, enable us in whatsoever state we are, therewith to be content; and while we are daily the recipients of Thy bounty, O suffer us not to be envious of those who are endowed with greater possessions or with greater talents. We acknowledge, O Lord, with shame, that we have too often envied others; and instead of admiring the goodness or the talent they have shown, we have, like Cain, hated our brother. O teach us to reflect upon the fearful consequences in which envy too frequently results. We see it must be injurious; if not to the person who is the subject of it, at least to ourselves: we confess that it eats away all the tender risings of goodness within the soul, and gives to the eye the fearful malignity of malice. O impress us with the certainty of the truth uttered by a good man of old—"If there be an evil heart, there will be an evil eye; and if both, there will then be an evil hand."—O deliver us, we beseech Thee, from evil; help us, O Lord Jesus Christ, to live soberly, righteously, and godly in this world. Lord, we trust in Thee; deliver us for Thy name and mercy sake. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY EVENING.

ALMIGHTY God, the day is far spent, the night is at hand, and we, in a humble duty, present ourselves before Thee; to offer our united thanksgivings in Thy presence, for the blessings we have enjoyed.

Look down upon us, O Lord, we beseech Thee, and, all unworthy as we are, let Thy presence be felt among us; that our minds may be composed to a sense of Thy goodness and condescension, and that a deep and all-pervading sense of gratitude may possess us. Be merciful unto us, O Lord, be merciful unto us! Unto Thee do we cry daily, our King and our God.

Thy goodness we have ever proved. Thou art plenteous in mercy to such as call upon Thee, to such as call upon Thee in truth. Unto Thee, O Lord, do we lift up our souls this evening. O God, our trust is in Thee, suffer us not to be ashamed. We long to tread Thy courts, and to enjoy more fully Thy divine presence. But, O Lord, while thus expressing

ourselves, it is our duty to look within our souls, and see how far we have prepared ourselves, should we be called.

With humility we ask, Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord, who shall stand in His holy place? And Thy Word answers us,—He that hath clean hands and a pure heart, who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully, he shall receive the blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY MORNING.

ALMIGHTY God, our Heavenly Father, unto Thee we present our humble petitions, unto Thee do we lift up our souls. Open Thou our lips this morning, and our mouths shall show forth Thy praise. Thou delightest not in sacrifices or burnt offering, but a broken and contrite heart, O Lord, Thou wilt not despise.

O teach us to remember that Thou desirest truth in our inward parts, and that, if we worship Thee, it must be in spirit and in truth. Create within us, we beseech Thee, a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within us. O teach us to come into Thy presence with humility, to prepare our minds by self-examination and confession of sin, remembering that Thou art of purer eyes than to behold iniquity, and that the ungodly shall not dwell in Thy presence. Having assembled before Thee, O grant unto us fervid spirits, that our worship may not be cold, formal, or lifeless; but that a flame of pure devotion may burn upon the altar of renewed and sanctified hearts.

In meeting together and uniting our petitions as one family, aid us to surrender our entire persons to Thy government. In all we do or say, may we regard Thee as the beginning and the ending of all our thoughts and actions. Remember not the sins of our youth, we beseech Thee; but show us Thy ways, O Lord, teach us Thy paths. Lead us in Thy truth, and teach us, for Thou art the God, the only God we adore. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY EVENING.

ETERNAL, omnipotent, and glorified Redeemer! we approach Thy mercy-seat this evening, and desire to magnify Thee for the blessings we have enjoyed during this another day. Thou hast upheld us in our going out and in our coming in. No casualty has injured our bodies, no plague has come near our dwellings. Thou hast preserved our souls from death, our eyes from tears, our feet from falling.

Teach us to approach Thee with becoming reverence, and may our evening sacrifices not go forth out of feigned lips. May sincerity and godly simplicity ever accompany our approaches to Thy mercy-seat.

For Thy name's sake, O Lord, pardon our iniquity, for it is great. We have all erred from the way of Thy commandments; not one of us hath wrought righteousness, no, not one; and if we should say, We have no sin, the truth would not be in us. But if we confess our sins, Thou art faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all un-

righteousness. We desire to humble ourselves before Thee; wash us, we beseech Thee, that we may be clean.

We are assured by Thy word, that all Thy paths are mercy and truth, unto such as keep Thy covenant and Thy testimonies. O let Thy covenant be ever before us, Thy testimonies our constant contemplation.

What man is he that feareth the Lord, him shall He teach in the way he shall choose. His soul shall dwell at ease, and his seed shall inherit the earth. Watch over us this night, for Thy name and mercy sake, O Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

O LORD God Almighty, we humbly approach Thee in prayer this morning. We would lift up our hearts with our hearts unto Thee in the heavens. We would join the multitude of worshippers now before Thee, in ascribing unto Thee glory and strength; we would that, with angelic hosts above, we could worship Thee in the beauty of holiness.

Our sins press heavily upon us; we feel and know that we have done wickedly; and if Thou shouldst enter into judgment with us, who among us could be justified? O enable us to become truly penitent for our past offences; and let the remembrance of Thy mercy impress upon us the duty to sin no more.

O Lord God Almighty, when we look abroad in the universe, everywhere we see that Thou art present: Thou hast set Thy seal upon all the works of Thy hands, and yet are men so corrupt that frequently they deny Thine existence altogether. "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God." But can this really be believed by those who utter it? or does it originate in our pride and selfishness, and in our desires to enjoy, unrestricted, the sensual pleasures of evil? Alas! what is man, if left to himself? If Thou, O Lord, uphold us, none of our steps can slide; but if we turn aside from Thee, immediately evil assails us. Help us, O Lord, we beseech Thee, to contend against our evils, and grant us the grace of repentance, for Thine own name and mercy sake. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

O THOU who art ever near to such as call upon Thee in truth, let Thy gracious presence be near unto us, and grant that we may ever assemble in Thy love and fear.

Thou hast brought us to the close of another day: Thy bounty has fed us; Thy providence has preserved us; Thy power has protected us; and we meet in peace around our family altar. May Thy high and holy Name be magnified and adored! The whole creation proclaims Thine eternal power and Godhead. All Thy works praise Thee, and Thy saints shall bless Thy Name for ever.

Thou hast indeed been very gracious unto us this day. In Thee have we put our trust, and Thou hast delivered us. Thou art our rock, and our fortress; our times are in Thy hand; deliver us, we beseech Thee, from

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them that hate us, from them that are too strong for us. We desire to rest ourselves wholly upon Thy mercy.

Lord, may Thine example be ever before us! Thou didst associate with the despised and rejected of men, and didst humble Thyself to be the least of all and the servant of all. Fill us with this true spirit of nobleness, and from the works of Thy hands may we learn meekness of wisdom. All Thy works are stamped with humility: and in Thine own person Thou hast set us such an example as showeth that the Lord bringeth down high looks, and establisheth the meek among the princes of His people. Help us to learn of Thee,—to be meek like Thee. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY MORNING.

GREAT Lord of all things! ineffably wise and good God! The morning light awakens us to a sense of Thy goodness and mercy; Thou hast in love permitted us to awake, after having blessed us with calm and refreshing sleep. Is there anything, Lord, that we can do, to show forth our gratitude? All that Thou requirest at our hands is obedience to Thy wise and just commands; and this, not to show Thy power, but to enable us to receive with greater freedom the treasures of Thy truth and goodness. Impress us, Lord, we beseech Thee, with this spirit of obedience, and may we delight to do Thy will, O God of our salvation. We can only attain to a life of holiness and purity by slow and almost imperceptible degrees. As Thy glorification was accomplished, so must also be our regeneration. Innumerable were the temptations endured by Thee: Thou wast made perfect by suffering; and by suffering alone can we become regenerate. O teach us obedience and resignation under the purifying process. We cannot expect to attain excellence but by attention and diligence. All the works of Thy divine hands bespeak progression and order. Help us, O Lord Jesus Christ, to be perfect, even as our Father who is in heaven is perfect. O fulfil Thy gracious promise unto us, that as we receive Thee and Thy righteousness, all things needful shall be added unto us. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY EVENING.

O MERCIFUL Redeemer, Saviour, and Regenerator; Thou art the God of all consolation. Thou hast preserved us this day; Thou hast brought us through all our trials and difficulties, and safely we assemble in Thy presence once more, and at our family altar offer the united tribute of prayer, praise, and thanksgiving. O Thou who art good to all, may we and all that bow the knee this night before Thee be filled with Thy truth, and glorify Thee for Thy never-failing love.

O Lord Jesus Christ; our confidence, our hope, is fixed alone on Thee. Increase and perfect our faith, we beseech Thee, and suffer us not to rest in the mere belief of Thy power, mercy, and love; but teach us to do Thy will, O God. If really we have faith in Thee, it is enough for us to know that Thou art everywhere present. It is a comfort to a regenerate man, wherever he may be placed, and in whatsoever circumstances, to

know that he can at all times have the *Most High* for his guest. He that inhabiteth eternity dwelleth also with the poor in spirit. Didst Thou accompany and prosper righteous Abraham, and wilt Thou abandon us? Nay, O Lord; if we listen to Thy call,—are obedient to Thy commands, and follow Thee whithersoever Thou leadest,—we never need fear but Thou wilt provide.

Increase our faith, we beseech Thee. If we be the sons of Abraham, true children of Thee, we have Thee ever near us. While we sojourn upon earth, THOU, O LORD, art our LAND of PROMISE. While we seek our way to Heaven, Thou, O Lord, art our way. While we delight in Thy truth, Thou also wilt be our Truth. We resign our spirits into Thy hands. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY MORNING.

IF it had not been for Thee, O Lord, if it had not been for Thee, our enemies had been too strong for us; they had swallowed us up alive. For we know and feel that while we sleep our enemies are most watchful. But Thou, Lord, hast been with us, and in the night of trial Thou dost not forsake us; for though weeping may endure for a night, joy cometh in the morning. Thou turnest our mourning into rejoicing; Thou takest away the spirit of heaviness and girdest us with the garments of praise. O Lord our God, we will give Thee thanks for ever and ever.

Thou hast revealed Thyself unto us as the Lord God, merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and of great goodness; and we desire with humble gratitude to acknowledge that Thy goodness and mercy have followed us all the days of our life.

Lord, we approach Thee this morning, and humbly entreat Thee for a renewal of Thy goodness; and while by Thy word we are instructed in our duty to Thee, may we, by Thy power, be preserved in the faithful performance of it.

Help us, O Lord, we beseech Thee, to regard with conscientious integrity the obligations which belong to us in the family and in the world. If we have the government of the house entrusted to our care, may we mildly, gently, but firmly, exercise the authority entrusted unto us. May Thy fear be before our eyes, and in Thy fear may we go forth this day, and faithfully do our duty. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY EVENING.

O LORD our God, how excellent is Thy loving kindness! Thy throne is in the heavens. Thy kingdom ruleth over all. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever Thou hadst founded the earth or the world, even from everlasting to everlasting Thou art God. Who can enumerate all Thy excellencies, O Lord? Thy wisdom is unsearchable; Thy power is omnipotent; Thy purity is immaculate; and Thy goodness and mercy are over all Thy works. Glory be to Thy holy name, O Thou Most High!

O Lord, in approaching Thee this evening, we feel our utter unworthiness, and our sin is ever before us. O aid us to keep watch against the

encroachments of evil ; for it is sin alone which prevents a full enjoyment of communion with Thee. Let not our evils have dominion over us, but pardon our iniquity, O Lord ; for it is great.

Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile. O how many sorrows encompass the wicked, but he that trusteth in Thee, O Lord, mercy shall compass him about ; therefore shall the righteous be glad in the Lord, and all the upright in heart shall rejoice in His name.

As the evening calls us again into Thy presence, we feel how good it is to retire from the world, and enjoy that communion with Thee which brings peace and rest unto our souls. Lord, we commit our spirits to Thy gracious keeping, for in Thee only are we safe. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, Thou art the sole protector of all them that trust in Thee. Thou knowest what is needful for us before we ask Thee. Teach us then so to pray, that our words may be few and well-chosen, and our petitions such as can be granted. For Thou, O Lord, art right, and all Thy works are done in truth : O may all the earth fear Thee, may all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Thee.

The present day's duties calling us to active business, remind us that another week of our existence has nearly run its course, and cause us to reflect upon the rapid motion of time. How many thousands have been summoned into eternity during the last seven days ; but we are still spared, time given us for repentance, and our existence prolonged, doubtless for wise purposes in the inscrutable workings of Thy providence. O may we be preserved this day in the exercise of true charity and usefulness ! May we do no injury to others in thought, word or deed ! For what are the formalities of religion, if our lives be a scandal to our profession ? One injury inflicted upon our neighbour is but the precursor to a thousand others, as one falsehood begets another, till thousands succeed. How certainly do our own evils lead to the oppression of others, and of injustice towards them, until by continual perversity our affections and thoughts become polluted and darkened. Help us, O Lord, we beseech Thee, to walk in the straight and narrow way which leadeth unto everlasting life. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY EVENING.

MOST merciful Lord God, our Saviour, by whose gracious providence we have been brought in peace and safety to the end of another week, we desire to adore Thee for Thy providential care. The angel of Thy presence has encamped round about us, and has delivered us. We have tasted and seen that Thou art good ; blessed are all they that put their trust in Thee.

O Lord, we desire to acknowledge that we have in many instances been too much occupied with the things of time and sense, and that the world

and its concerns holds too much dominion over us. Help us, we beseech Thee, to awake to newness of life. Disclose to us by the light of divine truth the glories of the unseen world, that the objects and pleasures of time may appear in their secondary character. Aid us, we beseech Thee, to acquire a relish for divine things, that our thoughts and affections may have such tendencies as are spiritually profitable.

We feel our own weakness, O Lord; we are easily drawn aside to the indulgence of our natural inclinations; our hearts are evil, and our spiritual adversaries incessantly watch to induce indulgence in actual sin. O teach us that whatsoever is dearest to the merely natural principle must be sacrificed to our duty towards Thee. We can never enjoy true peace until our inclinations to evil are subdued. Help us to know, love, and fear Thee. Guide us in all our affairs, and lead us into Thy heavenly kingdom. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

EIGHTH WEEK.—SABBATH MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, we, as a family of Thy people, humbly implore Thee that we may be enabled to render some service in the cause of truth this holy day. And if our abilities are such as to unfit us for public teaching, may we by simple obedience show forth in our lives the reverence with which we regard this sacred day. We pray that our light may so shine, and our good works be so seen, as to glorify Thee our Father who art in heaven.

O Lord, give to the ministers engaged in the services of this day wise and discerning spirits, that they may learn the states and conditions of the people entrusted to their care, and deal out to them accordingly their portion of spiritual nourishment. May the darkness of error give place to the light of truth, and on those who fear Thy name may the Sun of Righteousness arise, with healing in His wings.

O give unto Thy ministering servants tongues of eloquence and persuasion, and understandings for the discrimination of truth. May they speak the truth in love, and awaken, by their fervid appeals, the consciences of their hearers. May we respect them for their works' sake. May we receive their rebukes with humility, and remember that they are placed as watchmen over us,—as those that must give an account unto Thee, the Great Shepherd of our souls, and give due diligence to deliver their own souls.

May we enjoy the services of this day; and may we and all our fellow-worshippers unite in a general ascription of praise to Thee, the Lord God, the Omnipotent, who reigneth for ever and ever. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SABBATH EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, unto Thee do we address ourselves on the evening of this sacred day. We acknowledge, O Lord, that our "hearts are deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked." Guard us against the unhallowed workings of our own corruptions, and keep us steadfast in Thy truth. He that walketh wisely walketh surely. But as

all wisdom is of Thee, he who would pursue the right path must commit his way unto Thee, O Lord, and Thou wilt bring it to pass.

O God, enable us to place ourselves entirely at Thy disposal; and yet we pray Thee to instruct us experimentally that "we must work out our own salvation with fear and trembling." If we are but patient, we know that Thou wilt be profitable to our souls. The times, the means, must be left to Thy disposal. Help us to be diligent, fervent in spirit, and unremitting in our duty, knowing that Thy providence will provide, not, perhaps, what we may desire or choose, but what shall be infinitely better for us.

O God, teach us to shun presumption; knowing our finite condition, fill us with hope and steadfastness in Thee.

And now, O Father, shed Thy blessing upon this family; let it softly descend as the dew of the evening. Imbue our hearts with kind and gentle feelings; teach us to repress harsh, loud, and angry expressions. Enable us to walk together in love. In peace with Thee, with each other, and with all the world, may we resign ourselves to repose, and may we finally obtain the rest of saints above. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, we have been in Thy word instructed to love Thee with all our hearts, and our neighbour as ourselves. We have been protected by Thee in the night season. With the return of day, help us to show our charity to all men, and to love one another as Thou hast loved us.

How often do Thy tender expostulations tacitly address our souls in the language of the ancient days: "*O man, where art thou?*" What a salutary enquiry is this? We feel it softly speaking when our anger, or our envy, or any of our bad passions would seek indulgence. It is Thy voice walking through our souls, lamenting our waywardness, and by its pleadings striving to bring us to a sense of our danger. O may we listen to Thy pleadings, and with humility and thankfulness place ourselves under the perfect government of Thy love and wisdom; so shall we in patience possess our souls, and enjoying the temporal and spiritual benefits with which Thou hast endowed us, shall rejoice when we behold our brethren endowed with any of Thy good gifts.

O Lord, we desire to unite in praise to Thy holy name for the blessings of the past night, and for the cheerful light of the present morning. Enable us to enter upon the duties of this week with alacrity of spirit, and zeal and energy of body. May we never be slothful in business, nor mere eye servants, but fulfilling the royal law according to the Scriptures. May we love our neighbour as ourselves, and pursue the great duty of usefulness and charity with cheerfulness and energy. And unto Thee, from whom we derive all power and ability, will we ascribe all praise for ever. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY EVENING.

O HEAVENLY Father, we thank Thee that Thou has preserved us through the day. Help us, we beseech Thee, in the work of purification; for without Thee we can do nothing. Day by day we wait upon Thee; day by day we be nearer to Thy divine person, and feel that true blessedness which is the reward of those who love and fear thee and do Thy commandments.

We would dedicate ourselves, soul and body, all that we have and all that we are, to Thy service. Whether Thou bestowest abundance or permittest us to exist in poverty, we would still glorify Thee in our bodies.

We feel and know Thou hast given unto us emulous spirits, and thus is there no evil in our attempts to better our condition. But O impress us with the remembrance that the active spirit which Thou hast bestowed upon us was given that we might be constantly striving after perfection. And, as Thou only art perfect, we should be continually drawing nearer and nearer unto Thee.

Help us to covet the best gifts. May we strive to increase our temporal substance that we may be endowed with greater power to do good. While we pray for that true spirit of resignation which shall enable us, in whatsoever state we are therewith to be content, may our greatest and most anxious care be how we can best show forth Thy glory by imitating Thee in all things.

Thou hast brought us safely to the end of this day; and now, gracious Lord, we pray Thee, protect us through the night. May the angel of Thy presence have charge over us! May our bodily frames find refreshment and repose. If watchfulness be upon us, may we meditate upon our beds and be still. May Thy word, or some portions of it, be near at all times to comfort us and to bless us. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY MORNING.

“GOOD and upright art Thou, O Lord, therefore wilt Thou teach sinners in the way. The meek wilt Thou guide in judgment—the meek wilt Thou teach Thy way; and all Thy paths are mercy and truth unto such as keep Thy covenant and Thy testimonies.”

O teach us to prize spiritual above temporal blessings. While we eat our daily portion, grant unto us a portion of the true bread that endureth unto everlasting life.

O Lord help us to delight in works of piety and usefulness, and make us sensible that even our worldly pursuits may be sanctified to noblest uses; “for to do good and to communicate” is to worship Thee; and “with such sacrifice Thou art well pleased.”

May the calm serenity which Thy spiritual influences spread around the righteous, be felt by every member of this family. May the heartfelt satisfactions which lie treasured in godliness communicate their peace to those who now kneel before Thee; and may we so use the benefits Thou hast given us that others may be partakers with us of Thy bounty.

Aid us to seek after and to ask for the best gifts. If we have not wealth, it is noble not to covet it. If we have it, direct and aid us to do

good with it, not from ostentation, but from truly upright and spiritual motives; so shall we act as Thy stewards, making all Thy creatures to rejoice that Thou hast appointed us to dispense Thy benefits.

Preserve us this day, we beseech Thee, in Thy love and fear, and aid us to perform our duties with willing minds and cheerful countenances. These things we ask, O Lord, for Thy own name sake. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY EVENING.

O LORD God, our Saviour, Thou hast brought us to the close of another day, and the great business of temporal activity is for a time suspended. Fit opportunity for calling to our remembrance the still more important business of eternity. Thou hast reminded us that "the night cometh, in which no man can work." O teach us the true meaning of these important words. May we remember that they refer to the day of preparation for our eternal change. That in this state all the necessary processes of the regeneration must be passed through, that at its conclusion no change can take place in our state, and that "as the tree falls so will it lie." O suffer us not to procrastinate the awful business of eternity. May we consider our first duty is to "seek Thee and Thy righteousness." Silence the anxieties of the natural man, we beseech Thee, by a more steady reliance on Thy providence; may we remember that "sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." O assist us to silence the anxious enquiry, of "What shall we eat, or what shall we drink, or wherewithal shall we be clothed?" May we trust in Thee and do good; so shall we dwell in the land, and verily we shall be fed. May we seek the one thing needful, and leave every other care to Thy providence.

We commit ourselves, O Lord, to Thy divine protection this night. Guard us from evil, we beseech Thee. Speak graciously to those who are in bitterness of spirit. Visit the widow and fatherless in their affliction, and comfort all the sons and daughters of suffering and disease. These things grant, O Lord, for Thine own name sake. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, we pray Thee to strengthen us that our duty may be faithfully performed; aid us, we beseech Thee, to discern the best means of rendering ourselves acceptable in Thy sight. Thy great forerunner upon earth did not only preach repentance, but the necessity of bringing forth fruits meet for repentance. This, then, is our duty—to be fruitful. Thy word has instructed us, that goodness is never unproductive; it lies not concealed; in the heart of the regenerate it is still increasing, and still sending forth its power to strengthen the weak hands and confirm the feeble knees. Its good works and good instructions are the generative acts which, by going forth, bring new converts into the true Church of the Lord; and we feel, O Lord, that the everlasting gospel is best propagated as we obey Thee, and "let our light so shine before men that they may see our good works," and Thee, our Heavenly Father, glorified therein. O aid us to be of the number of Thy

true disciples, who constitute the city set upon a hill. We feel that nothing can prove the soul more truly affected towards Thee, than the desire to bring *many* souls into the same tranquil and happy state with ourselves. We acknowledge, O Lord, that Thou hast established the precept "none of us liveth to himself." Our duty is rather to sacrifice self to make others happy, than bury benefits that a multitude might profit by. Thus didst Thou instruct us. Thousands were fed by Thee, that we might learn to feed each other. The bread of heaven increases the more it is distributed, and so too does virtue. Aid us, therefore, we beseech Thee, in this important work, and grant unto us diligence in the execution of it. These things we ask for Thine own name sake, O Lord. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

O GLORIFIED Redeemer, Thou art the Resurrection and the Life. And while we anticipate the period of passing from death unto life, Thou, O Lord, art with us; Thou art the very Life of our souls. Our heaven in prospect is even enjoyed upon earth by the heaven we have within us. For if we possess Thee, we possess heaven, and though by reason of the cumbrous nature of the flesh we cannot fully enjoy Thee, yet we know when this earthly house of our tabernacle is dissolved we shall inhabit a building not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. O Lord, increase our faith.

What lessons of confidence does Thy Word read unto us! What monuments of faith are erected to cheer us on our way! In all our straits, trials, and difficulties, the obelisk of confidence rises up before us through the medium of some passage in Thy Word, some shining character who has proved the heights and depths of Thy power and goodness. Thrice has the natural state of science evidenced before us the power of faith,—in Abraham, in Jacob, and in Thee, O Lord, prior to Thy glorification. We cannot have more useful models. Lord, teach us to trust in Thee alone. Our faith is not yet sound. Lord, we believe; help Thou our unbelief! Strengthen us by Thy truth; Thy word is truth. Give unto us the faith which works by love. With Thee, profession availeth nothing, neither circumcision nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.

Aid us this night, we beseech Thee, in perfect confidence to resign ourselves to Thy keeping. Pardon our evils, O Lord, and teach us to receive pardon with gratitude, and to expect it only in the same proportion as we forgive men their trespasses. Permit us to enjoy tranquil and refreshing sleep, and preserve our souls and bodies from evil. Into Thy hands we resign our spirits. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, Thou art a God of order, and hast instructed us in spiritual progressions,—“first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear.” In a state of reception, at twelve years

old, Thou didst enter the Temple, didst converse with the Jewish doctors, and Thus didst show us the importance of exercising our reason; and in the fulness of manhood, Thou didst show us the effect of gathered and matured knowledge in going about doing good.

And so, O Lord, is progression and order manifest in all Thou doest.

The fructifying shower descends not in floods, but in gentle drops; so let Thy doctrine distil like the rain in us; so let our souls expand to virtue under the softly falling dew of heaven. We cannot become good, or wise, or perfect, at once; but as Thou givest us, day by day, the bread that perisheth with our bodies, so Thou givest us, day by day, state by state, the bread that endureth unto everlasting life. To-day we abhor vice, and Thou instructest us in virtue; to-morrow Thou givest us power and endowest us with strength to practise virtue. It is for Thou, O God, to display omnipotence; but even Thine omnipotence is exercised only by the fixed laws of order. So teach us to remove stumbling-blocks out of our ways, that we may walk wisely and securely.

Endow us, we beseech Thee, with perpetual vigilance and watchfulness, without which all good things will recede and fall away. Aid us to subdue our vicious inclinations; aid us to progress in the knowledge of Thy truth, and in the practice of goodness; aid us in all the trials necessary for the accomplishment of our regeneration. O watch over us for good this day, and perfect us eventually by Thy truth, for Thine own name sake. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY EVENING.

LORD Jesus Christ, we are instructed from Thy word, that though weeping may endure for a night, joy cometh in the morning. In the morning will we look up, we will contemplate Thy divine perfections. We behold them displayed in all that Thou hast made. In Thy beauteous earth we can inhale the freshness and odours, the innocence and loveliness that covers it with verdure and with beauty. And then in the evening to meet with gladness in our home of peace, and show our sense of all Thy mercies by the humble tribute of prayer, praise, and gratitude,—to know that the Majesty of heaven, descending from the palace of divine splendour, will assemble with the poor in their humble cottage, and gladden their souls by His divine presence,—O how refreshing is this to the wearied spirit, how fraught with tranquillity, how fitted to bring all the affections and thoughts into stillness and spiritual repose! The most exalted pleasure the mind is susceptible of, is the contemplation of Thee, O God! and of the works of Thy creative hands. O Lord, our Saviour, we glorify Thee, that Thou accordedst unto us this privilege. We feel, O Lord, that were justice and mercy preserved with integrity, earth would be a comparative heaven to live in, and the life of man on earth would only be a little lower than the life of angels in heaven.

O teach us faithfully to pursue the *two great duties* of a Christian's life,—to shun wrong, and to do what is right; and these form one great united precept, "*Eschew evil and do good.*" May we keep this precept before us continually, and may we in all things commit our way unto the Lord, trust in Him, and do good. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, through Thy holy word Thou instructest us to be temperate in all things. And Thine apostle has warned us "to be overcome with wine, wherein is excess." O help us, Lord, we beseech Thee, to keep our hearts with all diligence, to watch over our corrupt inclinations, and to guard against the indulgence of our passions. He that gives himself up to wine or intemperance is not wise. He layeth bare all the hideousness of his former evils, and those of which he is then guilty; too frequently he repents not. Help us, therefore, we beseech Thee, to uphold ourselves in temperance. Intemperance is a sin which debilitates our bodies; it vitiates and gradually destroys us; it deadens the faculties of our souls, and throws around us the chains of the most debasing slavery. O how should we avoid all that tends to enslave either our souls or bodies, and sin is the most abject of all slavery. And we can only escape the slavery of sin by looking constantly unto Thee for aid. May we take up the language of a good man of old* and say, "Though I were sure man could never know it, and that God would certainly pardon it, yet I would not intentionally commit a sin, on account of the baseness and dishonesty of the sin itself."

O Lord, Thou hast brought up our souls from the grave, Thou hast kept us alive that we should not go down into the pit.

We thank Thee for the blessings of the past night, and for the cheerful light of this another day. Keep us, we beseech Thee, this day from evil, preserve us in the path of holiness and duty, sustain us in our trials and bring us safely through them, for Thine own name's sake. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, Thou didst at all times set Thy disciples an example of humility. Thy counsel was, "Learn of me, for I am meek and lowly, and ye shall find rest to your souls."

Teach us therefore, we humbly beseech Thee, to subdue pride, and to live in the spirit of humility. May the example of what pride led to in ancient times teach us the constant lesson of lowly-mindedness.

"Come let us build us a city, and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven," was the impious exclamation of the proud men of old. Alas! how closely are the builders of Babel imitated by degenerate men of the present day. How do we fancy our own power the all-sufficient principles of our support; how do we plan and determine what we shall do, and how we shall accomplish it! In our self-sufficiency we fail, and it is just that our arrogance should be so punished.

O God of love, we confess this great sin, and again we humbly supplicate Thee, aid us to "learn of Thee, that we may find rest to our souls."

We feel and know that our pride alone divides us into innumerable sections, and Thy professing Church is a complete Babel, speaking many languages. We all think we know Thee well, and yet where is the humility found among us, which stamps us as Thy true disciples? Alas! nowhere. God be merciful unto us, for we have very grievously erred. O

* Seneca.

shield us against pride for the future. Uphold us in the path of righteousness, and deliver us from temptation. Into Thy hands we commend our spirits. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, help us in all things to make Thee our model,— that which may be copied by all. May we watch the first risings of sin in ourselves, and pray constantly for aid from Thee to resist it. May we discountenance evil, yea, the appearance of evil, in all those who are subjected to our authority, or committed to our care, knowing that Thou, our Master, art in heaven, and wilt not fail to require of us an exact account of our stewardship. Lord, teach us, we beseech Thee, to bring up our children in Thy nurture and admonition. Help us to train them to habits of obedience and self-denial, and to remember Thy gracious promise, that to honour their father and their mother is to secure long and happy days in the land.

We entreat Thy divine blessing upon the various avocations and pursuits of this day. As our occupations are lawful, so may all our dealings be, that we may in uprightness pursue our course, and with integrity conduct our affairs, renouncing all usurious gain, resisting all temptations to dishonesty, having Thy fear constantly before us, and walking blamelessly, humbly, and circumspectly before Thee. May our engagements originate in purity of motive, and suffer not even the love of usefulness itself to prove a snare to us. But in all our works, begun, continued, and ended, may we keep Thee before us, and glorify Thy holy name, and finally, by Thy mercy, obtain everlasting life. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, our great exemplar, help us to keep Thee ever before us, to follow Thee, and learn of Thee, as Thou hast desired. Suffer us, O Lord, we beseech Thee, not to be weary in well doing, for in due time we shall reap, if we faint not. Thou, O Lord, art nigh unto them that are of a broken heart, and savest such as be of a contrite spirit. We may have seen that many are the afflictions of the righteous, but Thou deliverest him out of them all. "The Lord redeemeth the soul of His servants, and none of them that trust in Him shall be desolate."

Accept, O Lord, our humble gratitude this evening for all the mercies of the past day, for the temporal blessings we have enjoyed, for health and strength, our food and raiment, and the comforts and pleasures of bodily existence. Strengthen us this night in the inner man. May we be rooted and grounded in Thy love. May the approaching Sabbath be the joy and rejoicing of our hearts, the glory and the lifting up of our heads. May it be a day of spiritual refreshment to our souls; a day in which the Lord may be magnified!

We resign our spirits into Thy hands this night, O Lord, our strength and our Redeemer. Refresh our bodies with quiet repose, and aid us to

rise with renewed spirits, that we may glorify Thy holy name, and enjoy the spiritual privileges of communion with Thee. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

NINTH WEEK.—SABBATH MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, Thou art the Lord of the Sabbath. It was made for man, and was sanctified and set apart for the holiest uses, that we might learn to know, love, and worship Thee; that we might read and hear Thy word, and thus hold conversation with Thee; and that while our spirits enjoyed the refreshing influences of Thy presence, our bodies might repose from labour and gain new strength.

This day may works of goodness, love, and mercy, occupy and engage our hands and hearts; and O dispose our minds to receive with delight the religious instruction which is so freely offered unto us.

How gracious were the words, O Lord, that flowed from Thy lips, when on earth Thou didst instruct the people; how full of love, mercy, and condescension!

And Thou art still the same! And Thy gracious accents still declare, "Lo! I am with you always, even to the consummation of the age."

O Lord, Thou canst not change. "Thou art the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever." May Thy ministers, therefore, look unto Thee, learn of Thee, imitate Thee, and be as shining lights in the midst of their generation. May their accents be those of love, and O crown with success the teachings of all who labour in Thy vineyard.

Lord, enable us to improve the hours of this day; may we worship Thee in spirit and in truth. As we enter the house of prayer, may we compose our minds to its solemnity, knowing that the Lord is in this place. May we begin this week with Thee, and, if it be Thy will, finish it in Thy love and fear, till we join the great congregation in one eternal Sabbath in Thy kingdom. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SABBATH EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, on this evening of the Sabbath we desire to approach Thy footstool, and to worship toward Thy holy temple. O Lord, consider and hear us. Lighten our eyes, lest we sleep the sleep of death.

Heavenly Father, though we have beheld numerous worshippers in Thy presence, and Thy churches in all places have doubtless collected many who have feared Thee and sought after Thy truth, yet are there many who say in their heart, "There is no God." We pray for these, O gracious Lord. O let the righteous dispensation of Thy providence find them! "Awake, awake, put on Thy strength, O arm of the Lord!" For they that deny Thee know nothing of Thy goodness.

Send forth Thy word and try them. Let Thy righteous dispensations penetrate into their inmost souls, until they know that the Most High ruleth over all, that doubtless there is a God that judgeth the earth.

May all believers be ultimately brought to see and to acknowledge that

Thou, Lord, hast shown them the path of life; that in Thy presence there is fulness of joy, at Thy right hand pleasures for evermore.

O Lord, accept our humble services this day, and pardon whatsoever Thou hast seen amiss in us. In retiring to rest, we would with humble confidence place ourselves entirely at Thy divine disposal, for Thou art the portion and the refuge of our souls. Bless the whole of the members of this family. Bless them with Thy love, and let Thy law be before their eyes. May we be at peace with Thee, and with all mankind. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, without whom nothing was made that is made, we draw near to Thy footstool, and adore Thee, for creating us in Thy own image and likeness. Thou hast created us to become gradually perfect in a finite degree; and by a contemplation of our wonderfully constructed frames, we may form an idea of Thee, our great original.

We contemplate the head, and it ascends to heaven; it rises toward Thee, who art the Sun of righteousness. It is adapted to ascend continually into the spheres of heavenly blessedness; and we are filled with all those affections and thoughts which, with Thine assistance, enable us continually to ascend into still more interior degrees of love and wisdom, and to attain an excellence second only unto Thee, O Lord!

When Thou sayest, "Seek ye My face,"—Thy face, O Lord, we will seek; for Thou wilt cause Thy face to shine upon us, and we shall be saved. And, with a perfection of wisdom, Thou hast arranged the eye to behold Thee: how marvellous an instrument, adapted to how noble a use! By it all earthly objects of beauty and of use are placed before the mind, and by the soul's eye we can constantly behold the beauty of Thy divine countenance accommodated to our weak perception. O grant unto us that aid which may enable us to keep our eye single, that our whole body may be full of light. How useful is the member Thou hast endowed us with, for speech! How melodious are the tones frequently uttered by it; how worthy to be exercised in Thy praise; how admirably adapted for all the purposes of taste! O may we, from this, taste and see how good Thou art, O Lord: blessed are all they that put their trust in Thee.

The hand, too,—how great in ability; how noble in structure; how powerful in strength! O God, Thou hast indeed most wonderfully constructed us. Aid us, we beseech Thee, to serve Thee with all our powers, talents, and faculties. May we go forth this day, with Thy divine aid, under a settled determination to glorify Thee in our bodies and in our spirits, which are Thine. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, the High and Holy One, that inhabiteth eternity, yet hast Thou declared Thou wilt dwell with the humble and the contrite in heart,—how full of instruction are Thy divine words:—"If I, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet, ye ought also to wash

one another's feet." O Lord, we adore Thee for Thy divine condescension, and, looking on the magnificence of the starry heavens, and knowing all this to be the work of Thy fingers, we are lost in admiration that Thou shouldst so far remember man as to clothe Thyself with his very body, that by glorification, all, yea, the humblest of the humble, might have conjunction with Thee, and be one with Thee as Thou art one with the Father.

Nor are Thy wonders only visible in the worlds above us. "They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters; these see Thy works, O Lord! Thy wonders in the deep."

We marvel at its comparatively boundless extent. Nor are the multitudinous beings who inhabit it less wonderful than the element itself; and yet Thou holdest the waters in the hollow of Thy hand. Those fearful billows which cause the ship to rock to and fro, which make the hearts of the mariners sink within them for fear, which send them aloft to heaven, which plunge them again into the deep, so that their souls melt because of trouble,—Thou restrainest them with Thy word, and, "PEACE BE STILL," makes the heart of the mariner glad, and brings him to his desired "haven."

O Lord, how wonderful are Thy works, in all the world! in wisdom Thou hast made them all, and all these things Thou hast put under our feet. Can we do other than trust Thee? O make us more deserving of these Thy blessings. Cause us to exercise constant watchfulness over our souls. Help us to do our duty this day and every day with faithfulness and zeal; and unto Thee alone shall be ascribed all the glory. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY MORNING.

O LORD Almighty, when the angels sing Thy praise, they unite in the song of Moses and the Lamb; and Moses was Thy servant, filled with Thy spirit, one of the wisest of statesmen, one of the greatest of philosophers, one of the most valiant generals, endowed with the power of working miracles, and yet, though the leader of a great and numerous people, was one of the humblest of men. O fill us with this humility. May we be valiant in the cause of Thy truth, but still may Thy truth place before us the simplicity of lowly-mindedness. May the innocency of childhood rest upon us, with the intelligence of manhood, to be strong in the work of the Lord; but O may humility be our distinguishing virtue. May we be accounted humble, meek, and lowly.

Thou, O Lord Jesus Christ, dwellest with the meek, and Thou wilt beautify the meek with Thy salvation.

O gracious Lord, our Saviour, enable us to acquire such a temper and spirit as may class us with the number of Thy true and faithful disciples.

Preserve this family, we beseech Thee, in peace and harmony with each other. May we live as becomes brethren. May we dwell together in unity, and regulate our lives by the laws of order. May we be each other's counsel, solace, and friend. May we strive to live the life most pleasing to Thee, O Lord, and most useful to mankind. May we pursue the orderly course of virtue, and look unto Thee, and pray unto Thee that we

may be preserved in it. May we have humble hope, and confidence of heaven; and may we eventually find a place therein. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY EVENING.

ACCCEPT, O Lord, our Saviour, our thanksgivings for Thy watchfulness over us this day, which Thou hast crowned with Thy loving-kindness and tender mercy.

O Lord Jesus Christ, our Heavenly Father, truly our hope is in Thee; and under the shadow of Thy wings do we desire to repose ourselves.

Watch over us this night, we beseech Thee; for only by Thee can we be preserved in safety. Our spiritual adversaries are ever watchful to enthrall us, and when our bodies lie prostrate, and our senses are steeped in utter forgetfulness, who could deliver us from their power, unless Thine eye beheld and watched over us? It is while men sleep, that the enemy sows his tares, and too surely do we know that, unless Thou, Lord, keep our spiritual house, the watchman watcheth but in vain. But Thy love, untiring, never sleeps. Thou givest Thine angels charge over us. It is Thou repellst the influence of our spiritual enemies, and as we abide in Thy love so Thou givest Thy beloved sleep. We therefore, O Lord, reposing our entire trust and confidence in Thy mercy, and knowing that Thou art near at all times to defend us, commit ourselves to Thy care with humble confidence. Refresh us, we beseech Thee, with calm and tranquil repose. May we be at peace with Thee, and with all our fellow-creatures; and may we be permitted to rise again and to renew our useful labours.

Free us from all cares and anxious thoughts for the future. May we feel and know that Thou art our portion, and that to be blessed by Thy providence, it becomes us constantly to trust Thee. May we be able to apply Thy words to our spiritual edification,—“Trust in the Lord, and do good, so shall we dwell in the land, and verily we shall be fed.” Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

IN Thee, O Lord Jesus Christ, we have redemption, even the forgiveness of sins. Thou art Love itself and Wisdom itself; and we may at all times draw near to Thee, and find grace to help in every time of need. O remove from us every false idea of Thy divine perfections: Thou art immutable, the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever. We praise Thee for the comfortable assurance contained in that sentence of an Apostle, “God is Love.”

How fully and how frequently have we proved that “like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him, and delivereth them out of their distresses.” Yea, “Thou considerest our frames, Thou rememberest that we are but dust.”

We acknowledge, O Lord, that Thou permittest trial to assail us; but still Thy love is all-operative upon us, and we acknowledge the comforting truth of Thy divine words, when we pass through the fire, the flame kindles not upon us, or through the water, the waves overflow us

not. For Thou wilt save the afflicted people; Thou wilt enlighten our darkness. By Thee shall we run through troops of our spiritual enemies, and by Thy strength we shall overcome them. Yea, Lord, we have known and felt that Thy way is perfect. Thou art a buckler to all those that trust in Thee. Thou guidest us with wisdom and strength; Thou enlargest our path, none of our steps shall slide. We glorify Thee, Thou all-perfect, all-wise, all-good, all-just, unchangeable, immutable God! May Thy name be magnified!

Aid us this day to keep Thee ever before our eyes. If temptation assail us, may we look unto Thee for help; if rapacity or a thirst for unlawful gain urge us to sin against our neighbour, may we resist it, and remember that this is also sin against Thee. O teach us to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with Thee, O God. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, Thou only art the source of true contentment, peace, and happiness; they who trust in Thee, in patience possess their souls. They who desire conjunction with Thee, and so live as to attain it, in peace enjoy Thy presence, and taste of happiness here, which they shall enjoy in perfection hereafter.

Often have we attempted to secure happiness without consulting Thee, nay, to seek it apart from and even in opposition to Thee. We confess, O Lord, that we have aimed to make Thee altogether such as ourselves, and to bring Thy purity to our worthless standard of it; and although we have acknowledged Thee an immutable Being, the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever, yet have we repeatedly declared Thee changeable, and have asserted that "the way of the Lord is a hard way." But we confess, O Lord, it is our way that is variable: as for us, "our ways are unequal." O may we lay to heart the solemn truth, that Thou, Lord, wilt judge us, every man according to his ways.

From this day forth may we seek our happiness in Thee alone. Aid us, we beseech Thee, to feel the delightful assurance, that Thy ways are ways of pleasantness, and all Thy paths are peace. Aid us to redeem the time, knowing the days are evil. Aid us to hallow, sanctify, and adore Thee in all we say and do.

And now, Lord, what hope have we? Truly our hope is in Thee. Thou art the portion of our cup, in Thee alone do we trust. Guard us this night, we beseech Thee, from the encroachment of our spiritual foes. Deliver us from our enemies and from those that are too strong for us; and teach us to walk uprightly before Thee, and to keep ourselves free from iniquity and unspotted from the world. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, Thou alone art the source of all joy and happiness. Who will show us any good! Lord, lift Thou up the light of Thy countenance upon us.

We have tasted of worldly delights, and found them only a weariness

of the flesh. We have sought after riches, and imagined, if these could be possessed, our happiness would be within our grasp. But wealth and power and fame bring with them only care, anxiety, and vexation of spirit, envy from others, and too frequently discontent and peevishness unto ourselves. There is neither peace nor happiness for us, O God, but in Thee alone! Whether we look upon the rare gems of the East, or contemplate nature in its loveliness, whether we listen to the music of the feathered songsters, or gaze upon the loveliest forms existing in the wide creation, while we behold, the fashion of them passeth away, and there is nothing settled and perfect and beautiful but Thou alone. For all the loveliness of nature is but a faint image of Thy transcendent beauty. Where in any of Thy creatures or in any of the works of Thy hands can we find the perfection that constitutes Thy divine character?

O Lord, Thy perfection is spread abroad throughout all Thy works. If we find anything in one of Thy creatures that is amiable, we know that it exists in all its purity in Thee; yea, Lord, Thou dwellest in everything that is good, and beautiful, and lovely, and true, and useful. Therefore do we pray, O God, give us settledness in Thee! Teach us to ascribe the power to do good, to believe truth, to perform acts of charity, piety, and use, all—all to Thy power within us, and aid us to give all the glory unto Thee alone.

While some trust in modes of faith and doctrine, while others pride themselves in their wisdom and knowledge, may we trust in the name of the Lord our God, and may our settled hope and steadfastness be in Thee alone. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, our Saviour, assured Thou delightest to see Thy creatures happy, though they know Thee not, who often think to please Thee by making themselves miserable, we acknowledge that Thou art ever beneficent. No herb, no flower, no tree, or plant, either for beauty or for use, for odour or for taste, but that hymns Thy praise in its beauty, its use, its fragrance, or its delicious taste. Thou in Thy creating love didst not merely study our necessities, but our comforts, our recreations, yea and our pleasures also. O God, all bountiful, all liberal, teach us to enjoy Thy blessings without abusing them.

How mercifully hast Thou dealt with us, O Lord. In Thine own person Thou didst exhibit a life of labour, and yet Thou madest it a life of doing good, as though Thou shouldest set us an example not to be glotliful in business. Thy word teaches us that the doctrine of charity is the love of usefulness. If happiness consisted in doing nothing, man had never been furnished with hands; if in one continued act of oral prayer, praise, and worship, man had been endowed with such appliances only as aided in the acts of oral adoration. But the constitution of our being proves we are made to labour, that none of us liveth to himself, that to do good and to communicate is an acceptable sacrifice, and with such sacrifice Thou art well pleased. Never could we be happy in a state of idleness, nor indeed in the pursuit of one duty only. Thou hast, therefore, endowed us with a multitude of faculties and

talents. Thou hast bestowed upon us these talents for our own and our fellow-creatures' good, and Thy words are now sounding in our ears, "*Occupy till I come.*" May we therefore labour with cheerfulness, and enjoy our privileges with contentment. It is our labour which promotes health, which makes repose sweet and unbroken, and which performs one of the highest uses of charity. We pray Thee therefore, O Father, to sanctify all that we do to Thy glory, and our fellow-creatures' happiness. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY MORNING.

FATHER of all! God of love! Assist us that we may pursue our course with order and propriety, for no advances can be made in the regenerate life, unless we constantly and regularly pursue the path of truth. May we therefore constantly practice self-denial; and while we are severe and self-denying to ourselves, O aid us to look upon the failings of others with an eye of charity that shall think no evil, and with a heart of affection which shall do good, and by doing good draw them unto Thee. And to the love which is due to our neighbour, add, we beseech Thee, a spirit of the deepest reverence unto Thee; and grant that this last petition may be the first in order of importance; for to be filled with reverence to Thee, and to be influenced by Thy love and fear, is to be put in possession of that grace which shall render our other duties easy of performance.

O God, shower down Thy blessings on this family, on the religious community with whom they are connected, and on all mankind. How sweet and refreshing to the wearied soul of the pilgrim is the intercourse between beloved friends, where every one is each other's counsellor in trouble, solace in affliction, and helper in distress; where each one helps his brother, and every one encourages his neighbour with the words, "Be of good cheer!" O preserve us in this spirit, we beseech Thee. Teach us to live in peace with all men, so shall we not fear the world, for we shall do nothing to offend it; and O fill our souls with a serene confidence, and with humble hope of heaven.

Mark out our course this day, we beseech Thee; guide our footsteps, and lead us in the way everlasting. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY EVENING.

OLORD Jesus Christ, our Redeeming God, Thou hast sustained us, and though we cannot but acknowledge even our best efforts have been but imperfectly performed, yet hast Thou borne with us,—we have not been cut down as cumberers of the ground. A sudden and unexpected stroke might this day have sundered the thread of our natural existence, and unprepared we might have been hurried into Thy presence. But Lord, Thou hast preserved us; we are among the living who praise Thy holy name. O let each member of this family be penetrated by a sense of Thy mercy, and deeply impressed by a recollection of all Thy boundless goodness. Thou hast been very gracious unto us; and we have a goodly heritage.

Almighty and adorable Lord, our Saviour, grant that we, as a family, may feel the sanctity of Thy divine presence; and grant that these our family devotions may tend to promote a reverence for Thee in our hearts, and perpetually keep Thy fear before our eyes. Teach us, O Lord, to look back upon the past day with seriousness; for though we have been brought safely to its termination, we are conscious of having very imperfectly performed its duties. Forgive, for Thine own name's sake, *all* that Thou hast seen amiss in us this day,—our rash and hasty words, our actions which have been at variance with Thy holy word, and every thought that has tended towards evil. Preserve us this night, we beseech Thee, from danger, and make our family circle to rejoice in Thy protection. Into Thy hands we commend our spirits. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY MORNING.

O LORD God Almighty, who art ever ready to succour Thy creatures, and to counsel them when they are in difficulty; there is none whom we can approach with greater certainty of being mercifully considered than Thee. In the morning, therefore, do we pour forth our petitions, and in the evening still our approaches are made unto Thee. We desire to kneel in Thy presence this morning; we confess we have grievously sinned, and our best efforts have been stained by the infirmities of our nature. O assist us in the work of sincere and genuine repentance: may the solemn words of Thy truth be kept in our remembrance, "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." When any temptation to evil presses itself upon us, and when the specious reasonings of the sensual principle whisper, "Ye shall not surely die," then may we be doubly watchful, and strengthen the things that remain, that are ready to die; for unless we repent, we must all perish. O aid us to comprehend the truth, that genuine repentance, which worketh godly sorrow, is the very commencement of the Church within us. Lord help us, we beseech Thee, for without Thee we can do nothing. Watch over us this night, for in Thee alone, O Lord Jesus Christ, do we trust. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY EVENING.

AS our labour has again been brought to a close, and the season of rest and peace approaches in the duties of the Sabbath, may we prepare ourselves for its due and faithful performance.

Open up before us, we beseech Thee, the treasures of Thy truth; for Thou givest unto all that ask, and they who seek Thee will be found of Thee. All our necessities are known unto Thee; Thou knowest what is needful for us, before we ask it; Thou canst determine what is best for us. We thank Thee for this day's spiritual enjoyments, and with entire and humble resignation to Thy providence, we commit ourselves, all our interests and all our cares, into Thy hands. We would bear with patience the trials Thou seest fit to allot unto us. We feel the certainty of that truth which declares, that "All things shall work

together for good to them that fear Thee, and keep Thy commandments."

Lord, help us to remember with becoming gratitude the innumerable benefits showered down upon us in times past; and as Thou hast graciously again and again pardoned us, may we have compassion on our fellow-servants, and pardon them; cleanse us, we beseech Thee, from all evil, and suffer us not to harbour malice in our hearts. O take us under Thy divine protection this night, and permit us to awake to the joys of another Sabbath. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TENTH WEEK.—SABBATH MORNING.*

O ETERNAL and Omnipotent Jehovah, help us, we beseech Thee, to lift up our hearts with our hands to Thee in the heavens, from whence cometh our help. With heartfelt joy and gratitude we hail the returning day of rest, and pray that it may be a blessing to our souls,—a season of spiritual refreshment. Help us to consecrate every hour of it to Thy service. May our thoughts dwell upon Thy wisdom, and our heart's best affections be pervaded with Thy love; and in charity to all mankind may we enter upon its duties, and be brought through them with benefit to our souls.

We acknowledge Thee, O glorified Lord and Saviour, as our only Creator and continual Preserver. We are confirmed in this belief by the sacred pages of Thy Word, and by that inmost experience, that constant influx in our hearts, which teaches that there is a God, and that He is One. O preserve us in this acknowledgment, and at the same time open up before us a view of Thy divine attributes and perfections. Thou art high, and inhabitest eternity. Thou art infinite in wisdom, goodness, and power. Thou art in all space without space, and in all time without time. The very heaven of heavens cannot contain Thee, and yet Thou dwellest in the hearts of the humble to raise them, and to revive the spirits of the contrite ones. Thou art ever present with us; in every enlightened thought, in every virtuous deed, in every useful act, Thou art the life and soul! To Thee, therefore, we render praise and thanksgiving, for ever and ever. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SABBATH EVENING.

ETERNAL, ever blessed, and glorious Lord God and Saviour, Thou hast brought us to the conclusion of another Sabbath, and now with humble, penitent, and grateful hearts we desire to approach Thee, and to adore Thee for the instruction we have received. How divine the theme which has occupied our attention! We have been instructed in Thy Divinity, and in the Divinity of Thy humanity as well as in the great and glorious work of Redemption! In Thy great and tender love to mankind, "in Thy love and in Thy pity Thou didst redeem us, and art

* The Prayers in this and the following week illustrate the first steps in the Regeneration. These steps are illustrated more fully in Arbouin's "Dissertations on the Regenerate Life," from which work much is here gleaned.

become our Saviour." Glory be to Thy holy name, O Lord! Abide in us, we beseech Thee, and aid us to abide in Thee, for without Thee we can do nothing. Lord, assist us, we entreat Thee, to understand thoroughly the important and truly glorious work of our redemption, and oh, may the causes which led to the necessity of redemption, be so constantly present before us that we may avoid falling into the snares still spread for us by our spiritual enemies. When we look back to the period in which Thou didst personally appear, clothed in flesh on earth, dwelling with us as the "*Word made Flesh*," we are struck with amazement at the extent of Thy love. The whole earth was filled with violence, and had corrupted itself before Thee; darkness covered it, and gross darkness dwelt with its people. Then, as in the fulness of time, Thou, Lord, looked, and there was none to help, therefore Thine own arm brought salvation unto Thee, and Thy righteousness sustained Thee. Glory to Thy name, O Lord! Thou hast redeemed us, O Lord God of truth. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY MORNING.

ALmighty and most merciful Lord, our Heavenly Father, impress our minds this morning, we beseech Thee, with fervent love and gratitude for the blessings and protection of the past night, and enable us to draw near unto Thee with pure and spiritual feelings. Thou art a spirit, and they that worship Thee must worship Thee in spirit and in truth. May singleness of eye pervade our devotions this morning, and still calling to remembrance the wonders of Thy redeeming love, may we dedicate all our talents and faculties to Thy service.

As beings created to enjoy an eternity of happiness in Thy kingdom, we desire above all things to gain a true knowledge of Thee, the one everlasting God and eternal life. Thy word discloses unto us the ineffable goodness of Thy nature; yea, Thy nature and Thy name is love, and Thou manifestest the perfection of Thy love by Thine all-glorious truth. Thy truth is the form of God. Thou dost clothe Thyself with light, or truth, as with a garment. As truth divine didst Thou appear in the world the express image of the Father's person. Thy Word of Truth instructs us in Thy nature, Thy quality, and Thy attributes; therefore art Thou ever present in Thy Word, and it is Thy presence which constitutes its divinity. O God of truth and love, abide in us that we also may abide in Thee. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY EVENING.

O THOU that hearest prayer, unto Thee shall all flesh come. Praise also belongeth unto Thee, O God, and unto Thee will we pay our vows. O let our prayer arise with acceptance unto Thee, and incline thine ear to the voice of our supplication. Another day has passed, and still has Thy goodness crowned us with blessings, Thy mercy protected us in the hour of danger; for though every thing has appeared safe unto us, we know not with what secret dangers we may have been surrounded. Lord, we desire to acknowledge our unworthiness. We have very im-

perfectly performed the duties of this day, and we desire to acknowledge in Thy presence our continued inclination to indulge in our own selfish gratifications. Thy truth has frequently risen up in judgment against us, and condemned us: it has discovered to us the hideous deformity of evil, and O how often have we stifled its convictions, and still pursued the course which we have known to be opposed to our true interests. We have considered Thy truth as a tiresome monitor, always ready to condemn, and always imposing new restrictions upon our pleasures; and often have we desired to close our minds against Thy silent pleadings, and, like the early disciples, to walk no more with Thee. But Thou, Lord, art good, and plenteous in mercy; Thou hast not left us to perish in our perversity, but, still seeking for our eternal happiness, Thou hast permitted us to be visited by some severe visitation of Thy Providence, that Thou mightest save us, even though it be by fire. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY MORNING.

O MERCIFUL Lord our Heavenly Father, our souls wait upon Thee, from Thee alone cometh our salvation. Thou only art our rock, our defence; whosoever trusteth in Thee cannot be moved. O God, Thou art our God, early will we seek Thee. Our souls thirst for Thee in a dry and barren land where no water is. Be near unto us, O Lord, we entreat Thee; let Thy mercy hold us up. O cause Thy face to shine and we shall be saved.

Thou hast added yet another night to our existence; the morning has dawned upon us, and in renewed health and strength we are among the number who may go forth to their daily labour, and show a due sense of Thy loving-kindness by performing our duties faithfully. In our journey through the wilderness of this world, we feel and know that in the fountain of our hearts and understandings are to be found the bitter waters of our own manifold corruptions. How do we now need, as did the Israelites of old, that our bitter waters of Marah should be sweetened by the tree of genuine goodness! How are we, like them, drawn down to the earth, and chained to our worldly possessions, using even the truths of Thy word in a misapplied manner. O sweeten Thou by Thy love our bitter waters, enable us to see that truth was given us for the purification of our souls; teach us, O Lord, by experience, that all worldly possessions, and all worldly attainments, and all worldly honours, must end in disappointment, if temporal views be not made living by those which are spiritual. Cleanse us, O Lord, by Thy truth, and let not any evil have dominion over us. Hear us, O Lord Jesus Christ, we beseech Thee, for Thy name and mercy's sake. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY EVENING.

INFINITE, Omnipotent, and Beneficent Jehovah, we draw nigh to Thee this evening, deeply impressed with Thy fatherly love towards us. Thou art unspeakably happy in Thyself, and Thou alone art the source of happiness in Thy children. But Thou movest in a mysterious way to keep

us in order, that our happiness may be secured and rendered permanent. Now, O Lord, we entreat Thee, enable us to acquire the temper and spirit which shall at all times bring us to a devout submission to Thy Divine dispensations, for all the dispensations of Thy providence are designed to remove evil from us, and to advance us on the way to heaven. Thou wilt persuade us by Thy truth, and when brought into the wilderness, Thou wilt speak comfortably unto us; and if our confidence rest upon Thee, thou wilt make even the valley of Achor to be a door of hope unto us. We are never so deeply tried, but that we possess some comforts; and in all the trials necessary for our purification, it is our duty to remember the Hand that permits the infliction, and to acknowledge that there must be some special evil which retards our progress, and which must be removed ere we can go forward in the regenerative march. Therefore, O Lord, we beseech Thee, aid us to acquire the temper and spirit which shall enable us, in whatsoever state we are, therewith to be content. Who cannot pray for daily bread, when it is in plenty beside him? Then we *profess* to trust in Thee, O Lord!—But it is when provision fails, that the truest act of faith becomes obvious, which sees at the time that Thy providence extends to all and singular things, which can with humble confidence exclaim, “The Lord will provide.” O Lord Jesus Christ, increase our faith, for Thy name and mercy sake. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

HEAR our prayer, O God, attend unto the voice of our supplication. When our hearts are overwhelmed, unto Thee will we lift up our voice; O lead us, and place our feet firmly upon the rock of Thy truth. We desire to make acknowledgment that it is Thy truth alone which can enlighten us, and lead us to goodness, and establish us in righteousness, and it is a love of goodness that can alone make us satisfied in whatsoever station of life we may be placed. We acknowledge, O Lord, that when truth has enlightened our understanding, and from Thy holy Word our affections begin to feel the kindling influence, the struggle between good and evil commences within us, and thence arise dissatisfactions and doubts and fears and even to ourselves there is an appearance that we never shall be satisfied. We are never so full as not to want something; yea to be full of wants. Either we lack health, or quietness, or children, or wealth, or company, or friends; and we know not the want of rest and peace and joy in Thee, until many or all of these have been withdrawn, or shown to be but before us as of minor importance when compared with the possession of that goodness which to have is to know no want beside. Sometimes we see Thy love to be all in all, and then we submit ourselves to Thy righteous guidance, and find our tranquillity therein. Sometimes our stubborn wills, so difficult at all times to submit, prevail over even Thy love, and then are we in misery, and know no peace, for there is no peace to the wicked. We desire, O Lord, above all things, that our wills and affections may be brought under Thy control, and that Thy visitations may be submitted to as the only sure means of our becoming regenerate. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, whose goodness and mercy have followed us all the days of our life, Thou art God, and God alone. Thou hast brought us safely through this day, and the evening again calls us to Thy footstool, to offer up our praises and thanksgiving, and to pour forth our supplications in Thy presence.

With humble gratitude we thank Thee for Thy fatherly protection. Thou hast given us strength to bear our burthens, Thou hast aided us in all our duties, and Thou only hast brought us safely to the present moment. We desire to glorify Thy high and holy name, O Lord.

O grant unto us a reflecting and discerning spirit: now that we are in Thy especial presence may we look back upon the past day with a calm seriousness, and placing ourselves at the bar of our own consciences, may we enter into judgment upon every thought, word, and deed, by which this day our conduct has been distinguished; and while we have not been visited by external trials and sufferings, O give us to perceive the benefit of internal trials and temptations. To learn to overcome evil with good, to learn to forgive injuries, is more difficult than to bestow bounties, and we know from sad experience that injuries will abound, when adversity prevails, and when many false friends, from whom it is expedient that we should be separated, will fall away and walk no more with us. Teach us, O Lord Jesus Christ, that our regeneration demanded the separation, and Thy providence has alone brought it about. Lord, we have been allured into this wilderness of trial for our good. Now we pray Thee, speak comfortably unto us. O cause Thy face to shine, and we shall be saved. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY MORNING.

HEAR our voice, O God, in our prayer, preserve our life from fear of our spiritual enemies. Hide us from the secret counsel of our own evil affections, which are continually prompting us to indulge in sensuality, which insinuate doubts of our soul's happiness, and whisper that there can be no hope for such as we. These are the enemies of our own household, which wander among the good thoughts and affections of our souls; these are the accusers of the brethren, which accuse them day and night, before Thee. But, O Lord, we beseech Thee, let the power of Thy truth silence them, so shall our souls be freed from their insinuations; we shall declare the glory of the Lord, and shall wisely consider that our deliverance is of Thee. Then shall we be glad in Thee, O Lord! we shall trust in Thee; and shall rejoice that Thou hast brought us up out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and hast set our feet upon the rock of Thy truth; and hast established our goings.

O how inestimable a gift is Thy holy Word; how necessary as a guide, protector, and friend for those who traverse the path of the regeneration! As we, day by day, peruse it, and bring our minds under the serenity and quietude which it inculcates, we gather new views from it, and increased light shines through all its divine precepts. It is indeed a lamp to our feet and a light to our path to guide us from this world of trial to one of rest, joy, and peace, in the heavens. As our affections and thoughts

are introduced to a knowledge of its internal beauty and purity, O aid us so to live that our actions may correspond with its sacred dictates. Teach us to remember how much we gain by bringing our lives under its divine guidance, internally and externally. And unto Thee will we render all honour and glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY EVENING.

O GOD of love, as our minds become more and more instructed by the truth of Thy Word, presented to us through the medium of its internal sense, we are led to behold Thee in all the perfections of Thy Divine nature, not as man, the subject of change, but as the immutable God, who art the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever. Now, as Thou hast revealed Thyself unto us, we worship no more at the shrine of an "Unknown God," but are enabled to behold Thee in Thy divine humanity, as the Lord, the Lord merciful and gracious, forgiving iniquity and sin, and blotting out our transgressions for Thy own name sake.

As we step onward in the path of the regeneration, we are presented with a more sublime view of Thine infinite love, of Thy divine wisdom, and of that sanctifying influence by which the graces of Thy Holy Spirit are communicated to the souls of the righteous; and thus do we behold the Trinity comprised in Thee, the manifested Jehovah, the glorified Redeemer, the Saviour and Regenerator of the world. And from the clear perfection which Thou hast given us of Thy divine person are we enabled to learn more of our own nature, and of the manner in which our duties are to be performed. Thou hast created us in Thy own image, after Thy likeness; and as regeneration progresses, are we enabled to see the exalted and refined operations of charity, and the necessity of letting our charity be known of all men. So too are we instructed, that our faith must not be merely nominal, but living. We must believe that Thou, O glorified Redeemer, art God, and God alone; and this belief must be accompanied with a life of holiness. Help us, we beseech Thee, to devote our whole lives unto Thee. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY MORNING.

O LORD God Almighty, we desire to bless and praise Thy holy name for the light of another day. Thou makest the outgoings of the morning and of the evening to rejoice. Thou visitest the earth; Thou greatly enrichest it with the river of God. Thou crownest the year with Thy goodness, and all Thy paths drop fatness.

While we praise Thee for the light of another day, we desire to glorify Thee for that better light, the light of the eternal truth; faint image of Thee, the true light which enlighteneth every man that cometh into the world.

As this day again calls for our mingling with the world, and we are commanded not to be slothful in business, O grant that our eyes may never lose sight of Thee, the true God and eternal life. May we keep Thee ever before us. May we possess Thee in all our thoughts; then how

uncongenial soever to our spiritual desires the avocations of natural life may be, we shall patiently bear with them; and all the difficulties that beset us we shall endeavour to turn into blessings. For if we be usefully employed, everything in which we engage imparts a blessing, and all things have their use. When Thou, O Lord, art in all our thoughts, we can only show our love to Thee as we make it manifest by love to our neighbour; and by this love shall all men know that we are Thy disciples. We thank Thee, therefore, that Thou hast given us strength to go forth to our work and to our labour until the evening. Prosper Thou the labour of our hands, and unto Thee will we ascribe all glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY EVENING.

O MERCIFUL Lord and Saviour, at the close of another day our souls wait upon Thee; Thou art our help and our shield. As our hope and trust is in Thee, O Lord, and in Thee alone, let Thy mercy be upon us. Again has Thy watchful and tender care preserved us, and the evening calls us together to Thy footstool, to unite in thanksgivings and praise. We would humbly approach Thee, O Lord, and seek Thy countenance and favour. How rapidly speeds our natural existence away! Each returning morning resurrects us anew, and each returning evening reminds us that here we have no abiding city; this is not our rest. The evening of our life in this world, many of us have entered upon, and the night will soon close upon us, and while our bodies return to the dust, our spirits must return to God who gave them: may death, when it approaches, not find us in the midst of our sins; but may it find us, as faithful servants, waiting and watching for the coming of our Lord.

Thine eyes, O Lord, are upon the righteous, Thine ears are open to their cry. O may our prayers ascend up before Thee as the evening sacrifice.

In looking back upon the past day, and in remembering our expressions in prayer this morning, we desire, O Lord, to review our conduct under the light of Thy truth. As regeneration advances, all the animal passions become less and less fierce, and we can learn of the progress we have made by the spirit of gentleness and forbearance with which we meet opposition. As "truth from good is soft and gentle [A.C. 6359] so may we feel the spirit of gentleness animate us in all we do." Lord, help us to acquire this spirit. Help us in all things to learn of Thee. And unto Thee will we render all the glory. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY MORNING.

O ALMIGHTY God, the Protector and Friend of all them that trust in Thee, deign to look down upon this family now prostrate before Thee, and upon every family who humble themselves in Thy presence let Thy grace descend. O shed abroad Thy love in all their hearts.

O Lord God of our salvation, who art near to all who call upon Thee in truth, grant unto us an inward perception of Thy presence. Tran-

quillize all our anxieties, and impart unto us confidence in Thee. Enable us to acquire in our inward parts the true spirit of the regeneration, and may that mildness and forbearance which gives evidence that the truth has taken root within us, bring forth the fruits of a truly religious life. O impress upon us the conviction that while truth led on by worldly principles is loud, imperious, impatient, and self-applauding, arrogating all power to itself, and using the self-sufficiency of the Pharisee; truth which has taken root in our inward parts is as mild and gentle, as patient and yielding, as it is sincere and stedfast. Aid us to perceive, O most merciful Father, that this spirit will give to us a certain assurance that we have made some advances in the regenerate life, and that though these are but feeble steps, they yet evidence that by patient continuance in well doing, we shall go on from strength to strength. Aid us, O Heavenly Father, to keep our corrupt propensities in abeyance, so that we may agree with our adversary while we are in the way with him, and grant that no spirit of retaliation or of returning evil for evil may ever attach itself unto us. Lord, how limited soever may be the distance we have travelled in the way of the regeneration, still we pray, that Thou wilt help us onward; and to Thee be all the glory. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY EVENING.

O THOU that dwellest in light and glory inaccessible, and yet at the cry of the humblest of Thy creatures dost bow the heavens, and condescend to things of low estate, O God of love and mercy, be with us this evening. Thou hast in safety brought us to the close of another week, and while sickness, disease, and death have walked among us, we are still spared. Still is time given unto us. Still is Thy voice sounding in our ears, "Are there not twelve hours in the day?" If any man neglect the season of labour, the night cometh when no man can work. Lord, we confess it is the same with our souls. Every day has its state of trial, and each state is but as one day, which is ushered in by the twilight of truth, carried on towards its meridian, gradually descending into its completion of evening, until it ends in the night of preparation for the morning of a new and more important state. Thus time wasted can never be recovered, since each day brings with it its own labour. Lord, give unto us a desire and a relish for spiritual things, alienate our affections from the world, and enable us to set them upon things above.

While mingling with our fellow men, we see how differently their minds are affected: carnal minds are for the flesh-pots of Egypt, though bought with servitude; but spiritual minds are for the presence of Thee, O Lord, though redeemed with famine. Better is a dinner of herbs where peace is, than a stalled ox with strife and contention. But while we witness these diversities of state we pray Thee to renew a right spirit within us, and to lead us in the way everlasting. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

ELEVENTH WEEK.—SABBATH MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, the Lord of the Sabbath, confirm within us, we beseech Thee, a full conviction of Thy creating and redeeming love; of thine Omnipotent power to save; of Thy ever-present watchfulness; of Thine infinity and immensity; and of all Thy divine perfections and attributes. We desire to adore Thee as our Creator, Redeemer, and Regenerator, in whom alone all fulness dwells, as God over all, blessed for evermore.

Lord, be Thou with every member of this family during the day. In our approaches unto Thee may there be no divided hearts, no distracted minds; but in fervency of spirit, and in reverent fear, may we worship toward Thy holy temple. If we can perform any use in Thy Church, Lord help us to do so; and may we do our duty with singleness of purpose, as the servants of Thee, our God and Saviour, doing Thy will from the heart.

As we enter the house of worship may we remember to whose service it is consecrated, and humbly falling on our knees, pray for the sanctifying influences of that spirit which cometh from above, that we may be enabled with meekness to receive Thy message of salvation to our souls.

Bless him whom Thou hast given to us to minister in sacred things, and prosper the labour of his hands. May we treat his office with respect, and remember that he stands between the living and the dead to stay the plague. May we listen to his exhortations with meekness, and repent and turn unto Thee, and bring forth fruits meet for repentance, so shall this Sabbath be a foretaste of the rest which remaineth for the people of God. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SABBATH EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world, while we remember Thee as the Son of Mary suspended from the ignominious cross, suffering that death which in those days was [considered as] most infamous, most painful, most accursed, we remember too, that this last and most direful temptation, though not redemption itself, was the crowning act which sealed that great and important work; "and when the Son of Mary died, the Son of God arose." Then was the great, the glorious work finished. Then was the host of man's enemies brought into subjection. Then did the divine Redeemer, even Thou, O glorified Lord, rise in all the majesty of a mighty conqueror, and asserting all power in heaven and on earth didst ascend high above all heavens, and didst receive all homage, every knee bowing, every tongue confessing that Thou art Christ the Lord. Thus was man enabled triumphantly to exult in the mighty deliverance wrought out, and in holy triumph to exclaim, "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" "The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law, but thanks be to God, even to our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath given us the victory." Thou art God over all! blessed for ever.

Lord, we adore Thee for the instruction we have received, we will praise Thy holy name for ever and ever, we will give Thee thanks con-

tinually, as our Creator and perpetual Preserver, as our Redeemer, Saviour, and Deliverer. May we now and henceforth take up our cross and follow Thee. May we crucify the flesh with its affections and lusts. May we die unto sin and live unto righteousness, and look unto Thee continually for help, O Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, our Heavenly Father, we can know nothing of Thy purity, goodness, and holiness, but as Thy truth reveals it unto us; the only-begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, can alone disclose it, make it manifest, and bring it forth to view. It is by Thy truth that we learn the immortality of the soul. Truth is living. Because I live, Thou hast said, ye shall live also, and where I am, there also shall my servant be.

O blessed assurance of an eternity of happiness! Preserve us, we beseech Thee, in this conviction, that when our trials here are ended, and have accomplished all for which they were permitted, Thou wilt cause our trials to cease for ever, and receive us into a world where trial and suffering can never come.

Lord! help us to keep Thy commandments; help us to lead a life of truth, and let Thy commandments be our delight, so that we may be brought under the influence of Thy perfect goodness.

In the spirit of this prayer, O Lord, we enter upon the duties of another week. Preserve us, we beseech Thee, in integrity and uprightness. Suffer us not in thought, word, or deed to encroach upon the rights or the properties of others, but to learn, and labour diligently, and in whatsoever state we are, therewith to be content; and, having food and raiment, to be grateful unto Thee, the giver of every good and perfect gift, to whom be glory and dominion, for ever and ever. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, the God of all consolation; Thy nature is unchangeable, Thy love unwavering has borne with our frowardness; and in some encouraging precept of Thy Word, Thou hast assured us that Thou "desirest not the death of a sinner, but rather that he would turn from his wickedness and live." Then are we brought to see and condemn our evils; then do we insensibly espouse the cause of the wonder-working power of truth within our souls; gradually do we feel the force of Thy love, and are brought at length to acknowledge that goodness and mercy have followed us all the days of our life. And as our will becomes more confirmed in the desire to cease from doing evil, Thy grace takes possession of our affections, and urges us onward in the desire to learn to do well, and every evil resisted and overcome makes room for the residence of the opposite good, increases the desire for new truth, and fills the soul gradually with serenity and peace.

O Lord, we feel a conviction within us that truth has no abiding place with man, till it is received into the affections, and becomes operative

upon the life, therefore do we do fervently pray, that we may be sanctified by Thy truth.

Lord, be with us this night, and let the angel of Thy presence watch over us. Shield us from the imputations of our spiritual enemies, and let our sleep be calm and refreshing.

Let Thy soothing consolations be extended to the sick and to the afflicted, and Thy saving health to all nations. These blessings for them, for us, and all mankind, we humbly ask for Thy own name sake. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, help us, we beseech Thee, to be obedient to Thy divine injunction, and seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.

We have seen the wicked in great power, and flourishing as a green bay-tree, but they have quickly passed away, and the poor in spirit alone have possessed their souls in peace. O teach us, we humbly entreat Thee, and confirm the truth within our inmost souls, that there is no satisfaction but in immortal possessions; that the real treasures, those which we should most diligently labour for, are the treasures of Thy righteousness, of Thy love and truth. All things that begin and end temporally are only so far valuable as they tend the better to prepare us for the enjoyment of eternity. When we have made some progress in the regenerate life, though our steps are still tottering and feeble as the steps of infancy, yet, how unsatisfactory unto us appear the joys and the pleasures of the world, and in the little we have attained, how much of solid comfort we possess.

O Lord Jesus Christ, every day's existence convinces us of the necessity of regeneration. Help us, we beseech Thee, to perform this great work. In Thy help alone can our regeneration be effected.

As years advance, O God, let us ever feel Thy presence; may we not only seek Thee daily, but may Thy fear be ever before our eyes; may all our thoughts, words, and actions have eternal purposes in them; may we be more and more useful to our fellow-creatures, more and more faithful unto Thee: for Thy loving-kindness is better than life, and true wisdom teaches that Thou alone canst safely guide us from this world to the heavens. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.

FATHER of eternity, blest Source of life and light; O feed our souls with conscious peace, and virtue pure; sacred, substantial, never failing trust in Thee. Teach us, O Heavenly Father, even while we live in time, to know and feel that to be fed with virtue is to be fed with the bread of life. For virtue is eternal, and the soul impressed with its dictates will look constantly unto Thee for assistance to enable us to practise it.

O God of all consolation, when trial comes upon us, may virtue, a love of truth, a love of goodness, a desire to be useful, bear down all minor considerations. O keep our souls open to instruction, from all with

whom we come in contact. Should the aged advise us, may we with reverence listen to their counsel; and while we behold in them, the calm and sober satisfaction which a life of virtue has stamped upon their venerable brow, may we rejoice that such models of virtue are permitted to be our instructors. Or should the young advise us, may we listen to them with calm approval of their virtuous exhortations, and thank Thee, our God, that Thy heavenly influences have so early impressed their souls. Thus whatsoever our trial may be, may we be enabled still to elevate our affections above the things of the world. May a humble dependence on Thy providence be the secret for soothing us in all our states of trial and adversity; then will the wheels of time, how swift soever in their revolution, only tend to increase our enjoyment by a speedy translation to life eternal. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

LORD, we acknowledge with shame and confusion of face, that though we are willing to accept the overtures of Thy mercy, and would gladly become partakers of heavenly joys, we still desire to traverse the road to heaven in our own way. We are not willing to part with worldly station, worldly wealth, or worldly friends and connections, and yet Thou hast expressly declared, unless we forsake ALL that we have we cannot be Thy disciples. We are more afraid of the censures of the world, than filled with the assurance that all-sufficiency is of Thee.

Great Father of eternity whose glance is not measured by things present, whose dispensations are not regulated by worldly friends, or worldly connections, or worldly wealth, but sees into the future, and so orders and arranges, that the eternal good of Thy creatures may be secured: God of love, God of mercy, help us, as we see Thy truth, to bring our wills under Thy supreme control. Are we in poverty? aid us to be content; for how easily is the soul ensnared at the table of luxury. Are we humbled? by Thy righteous dispensations give us grace to submit. And are we by Thy guidance able to walk soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world? O may we never wish to throw off Thy easy yoke, for how dangerous to our progress is the voice of flattery, and how apt to beget spiritual pride!

Aid us, then, O most merciful Father, that we may acquire the temper and spirit which at all times and under all sufferings possesses the soul in peace. Bind this family and all mankind in the ties of brotherhood and of Christian love. While truth shines abroad through the medium of Thy word, displaying Thy wisdom and the perfection of Thy love, may we and all mankind be brought to surrender ourselves to Thy divine guidance, so shall we be safely conducted from this world to the heavens. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, the great Head of Thy Church, we pray for its establishment throughout the world. O may we, who profess to

have received the truths of Thy new dispensation, be constantly looking within, constantly examining ourselves, and in our retirement to hold communion with Thee; may all worldly trials and all worldly privations draw us the more closely to Thee, and teach us that Thy grace is sufficient for us. May Thy Word be the ever-living source of our instruction, and may we constantly repose ourselves upon its Divine consolation. Lord, as we travel through the wilderness, when our hearts faint, and we become weary under our temptation-trials, O let some ray of Thy divine countenance beam upon our benighted souls, so that in humble dependence upon Thee, we may in the hour of our greatest need receive manna for our affections,—water from the Rock for our understandings, and thus refreshed may pursue our way with renewed strength.

Lord, Thou knowest best what is fit for us, and temporal comforts Thou wilt at all times provide for those who labour for them; while the heavenly food, the milk and honey, will await us when our trials are past, and the scene of our triumph shall be the land of divine beauty, where Thou discloseth Thy perfections, filling the hearts of adoring angels with joy, love, and peace, for ever and ever. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, Thou art of purer eyes than to behold iniquity. The ungodly shall not dwell in Thy sight. We pray that, while we inhabit this world of trial, Thou wilt be pleased by the all-wise dispensations of Thy providence, to soften our asperities that they may be smoothed down, our tempers mollified and softened by the oil of Thy divine love; our selfishness subdued, and our souls brought into the peaceable and child-like state of obedience to which the heavenly kingdom is likened.

May we be cheered onward by the recollection that our free spirits are the inhabitants of that bright and glorious sphere which knows no restriction; which wing their happy flight to wheresoever beauty exists, and truth divine and perfect love reign for ever triumphant. While our temptation-trials make constant inroads upon our perishable bodies, and bring them down rapidly to the dust; there is no decay that can touch the free spirit, nothing pertaining to the kingdom of death can bind the soul while it pursues the path of the regeneration. O God of love and mercy, impress upon us the conviction that while we live in this world, one of our greatest privileges is to know that we shall soon leave it for another and a better, and that our present light afflictions work out for us an eternal weight of glory. With this conviction, may we this day go forth to our several duties, secure in Thy presence, protected by Thy power, preserved by Thy providence, with minds resigned to Thy will. Father, we cast all our care upon Thee. Make our duties not a weariness, but a pleasure, and enable us in whatsoever stations we may be, to discharge the duties of them with fidelity, remembering always that Thou God seest us. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, Thou hast encouraged us in Thy Word, by assuring us that "the steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, and he delighteth in His way; though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down, for the Lord upholdeth him with His hand. I have been young and now am old, yet have I never seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread."

O gracious words for the afflicted and tempest-tossed; how full of divine consolation! How encouraging to the soul, how comforting in the hour of the bitterest suffering, and associated as they will be with the further encouragement of "Fear thou not, for I am with thee; be thou not dismayed, for I am thy God!" All the necessary trials through which we must pass can be borne under the surest evidence, that the Lord is ever with us, and by Him shall we prevail.

O Lord Jesus Christ, as our days become shorter in this world, and the glory of the future gradually unfolds itself before us, may we be brought nearer and nearer unto Thee, may our love become more ardent, our worship more animated, and our charity more active and fervent. What though we can bestow nothing of worldly wealth upon others, the charity of the spiritual man lies in the gifts of the soul. How many beautiful truths can we quietly inseminate into the minds of others. How much of the flame of heavenly love can we enkindle, by the gentle and unobtrusive benevolence which is always kind and long-suffering; by looking constantly unto Thee for aid, and preserving a vigilant watchfulness over our own states; how much good may be accomplished by example. Lord, let these be our aims; these charities our chief delight, and while engaged in them, preserve us, we beseech Thee, from Phariseeism and spiritual pride, and may we ever render unto Thee all the honour and all the praise for ever and ever. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, Thou hast enjoined us to love one another as Thou hast loved us. This is the new commandment which Thou hast given us. O may the remembrance of these divine and encouraging words teach us not to be weary in well-doing. May we be satisfied that our dependence on Thy providence, O Lord, will remove every fear, silence every murmur, and chase away doubt and despondency from our minds, until the peace of God which passeth all understanding keepeth the heart and mind. O may we prize above all things the spirit and the life of Thy holy Word, and it will be a sure sign unto us that we love Thy Word, if we possess our souls in patience under all trials, and when whatsoever may happen unto us tranquillity reigns within. It is inward peace alone that can sustain us. It is communion with Thee, O glorified Lord, that can still the tempest that rages without in the natural man. And when Thou, O Lord, art in the inmost temple of our regenerated affections and thoughts, when our inmost desires are but to do good and to submit to Thy will, when our understandings wait for guidance and look to Thee for counsel, and bow to all Thy divine admonitions with meek reverence, then will the earth of our natural minds keep silence

before Thee, and the still small voice of Thy love will be ever satisfying us that Thou art near to aid us and to bless us. Under the influence of this spirit, we now go forth to our daily duties. Sanctify them, O God, we beseech Thee, to the good of our neighbour and of our own souls. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, who art good to all and whose tender mercies are over all Thy works, we confess that Thou art essential good: and as all goodness from Thee enters into our inward parts, it soothes all the turbulence of our natural appetites, and brings us into a state of peace, to whatsoever Thy dispensations shall lead. In this way we are instructed that every natural affection, as it ascends towards interior principles, that is, towards heaven, becomes milder, more gentle, more serene, until it become changed into heavenly affection [A.C. 3909], and consorts with the spheres of angelic beings who are alike gentle with itself.

O God of love, aid us to acquire, we beseech Thee, this temper. May we feel the full force of the divine words, "Unless your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven." O teach us by happy experience that goodness of disposition manifests itself by gentleness and sweetness,—by gentleness in that it is afraid to do hurt, and by sweetness in that it loves to do good.* O Lord, may Thy example be ever before our eyes. Too often do we display a resentfulness and a soreness quite in opposition to our Christian profession, and, like the early disciples, we are open to Thy just rebuke, and know not what spirit we are of." Alas! all this proves what small advances we have made in the regeneration; and while we display a spirit of contention and violence, of self-conceit, of impetuosity, of the love of dominion, and the love of self, we are still under the insidious government of evil, and display the very spirit of Anti-Christ. O Thou meek and humble Saviour, yet the High God, that inhabiteth eternity, create with us, we beseech Thee, a clean heart, renew a right spirit within us, and lead us in the way everlasting. Fill this family with true humility, grant us the grace of Thy good Spirit, preserve us from the perils of the night, and suffer us to repose in peace and safety, for Thy own name's sake. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, who hast taught us in Thy word, that we must be born again, and that all our sufficiency is of Thee, help us, Heavenly Father, we beseech Thee, to become in all things imitators of Thee, as dear children.

While we read Thy holy Word, or hear it read by others, enable us with reverence to listen, and with seriousness to ponder its grave and mighty truths.

May a spirit of contention be sunk in a spirit of obedience, and O im-

* "Earths in the Universe," 50.

press us with the certainty that the pure love of truth can never abide with any form of the self-seeking principle. Lord we draw nigh to Thee in prayer, that we may acquire strength from time to time to subdue the love of self and the world, these being the great barriers that oppose our progress in the regeneration. O aid us to resist all disorderly tendencies to which our affections are so generally prone.

Go forth with us this day, we beseech Thee, and let Thy fear be before our eyes. Teach us to set a watch upon our lips, and aid us to curb the first ebullition of anger and of restlessness. If we keep Thee ever before us, Thou wilt enable us to subdue our otherwise unruly tempers. This day may we be calm amidst trial, and temperate amidst provocation. May we resolve more and more to keep ourselves under the guidance of the living truths of Thy word, so shall we acquire that calm and tranquil state, which meets the world and its difficulties with an even mind, knowing that they all tend to promote our regeneration. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY EVENING.

O LORD, Thou hast graciously promised that he who overcometh in spiritual temptations shall inherit all things, and how severe soever may be our trials, O give us to perceive their necessity, that our fortitude may be exercised at the period when it is most needed, and that we may be brought through the trial under a deep conviction that it has been instrumental in advancing us one step in the way of the regeneration.

Lord, we desire to thank Thee for the blessings of freedom and civilization which we enjoy in this happy land of our birth; where we can meet and enjoy the privileges of domestic worship, none daring to make us afraid. Strengthen Thou in the bonds of holy love and friendship this family: and may our attachment to each other soften the asperities of life and teach us to bear one another's burdens. From the turmoil of business and the cares of the world, how sweet it is to compass Thine altar, O Lord! Help those that compose this family to aim at each other's edification and improvement. May we work out our salvation with fear life and trembling. May we constitute a church in the house, a temple in which Thy presence is always nigh to bless. Aid every member of our little community to perform some spiritual use, and may we all discharge our duties to each other, to the world, to the Church, and to Thee, with zeal, prudence, and fidelity.

In the multitude of Thy tender mercies, O Lord, pardon what Thou hast seen amiss in us during this week, and as we retire to rest, take charge of us during the night season, refresh our souls and bodies by the sweet repose of sleep, and prepare us for the rest and spiritual enjoyments of the Sabbath. Hear us, O Lord, for Thy name and mercy's sake. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TWELFTH WEEK.—SABBATH MORNING.

O LORD God of the spirits of all flesh, we approach Thee this morning with humility and reverence. Another Sabbath has dawned upon us,

and brought with it many important duties, accompanied with the promise of many great and precious blessings. Enable us to prepare our minds for the faithful performance of the one, and for the devout reception of the other. O give us to perceive Thee, merciful Father, in every duty in which we engage this day; and in all our duties may we glorify Thy high and holy name.

“Thy voice, O Lord, is upon the waters;” and Thy Word is a fountain of living waters. Open Thou our eyes, that we may behold a few of the wondrous things contained within Thy Word. Thy Word, O Lord, is full of majesty, full of the majesty of truth; it sendeth forth light for the illumination of all orders of Thy intelligent creatures; it adapteth itself to all capacities, making wise the simple, and still more wise those who have been instructed in its hidden wonders. Thy voice of truth awakeneth us in our states of desolation, and urgeth us to go forward; and Thy truth is the cruse of water to refresh us as we pass through the wilderness of this world of trial. Thy Word it is that imparts to our inward souls our portion of the bread of life, and through it have we constant access unto Thee, as the hearer and answerer of prayer. O guard us against profaning any of its hallowed truths. With devout thankfulness, we acknowledge the gift of the divine Word, as the greatest of all Thy blessings. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SABBATH EVENING.

MOST blessed and glorious Lord God our Saviour, we humbly approach Thy mercy-seat, at the close of another Sabbath; and in approaching Thee, we would desire that fervent spirit which may show that we delight in Thy service. How many and how precious are the benefits we have this day enjoyed! We have been made to lie down in green pastures, we have been led beside the still waters. We have been fed with the finest of the wheat; our souls have been filled with the fatness of Thy house. Thy servant, our pastor, has laboured to make us acquainted with the things which pertain to our peace. O that the benefits we have derived may be equal to the means of culture employed! Where we have been reproved this day by the searching power of Thy truth, O teach us submissively, and with humble and penitent hearts, to bow to it; and let the righteous dispensations of Thy providence be so exercised toward us that we may not again relapse into our evils. As the tide of instruction has flowed forth into our minds, O may that water *lave a fruitful ground*, and in due time bring forth fruit, some thirty, some sixty, some an hundred fold. As our weary souls have been comforted and refreshed,—as we have been raised from depression of spirit and heaviness of heart,—so may we learn never to lose sight of Thee as the Rock of our salvation, our God in whom we may trust, our buckler, and the horn of our salvation. Into Thy hands, O Lord, we desire to resign our spirits. In Thy hands alone shall we be safe. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, the God of all consolation, we approach Thee this morning with humility and gratitude. We will magnify Thee; we will exalt Thy name for ever and ever. We will seek Thee, O Lord, for Thou wilt deliver us from all our fears. It is a great consolation to Thy people when they have seen the hand of Thy providence as their guide.

O glorified Redeemer, who hast undertaken to carry us from the spiritual Egypt to the land of promise, how faithful to Thy gracious promise, how powerful in the hour of danger, have we found Thee. How fearlessly should we go forward in our trust upon Thee. Lord, when difficulty besets us on every side; when contempt and hatred and poverty, yea, and even death itself, surrounds,—still aid us to keep the eyes of our spirit open, that we may elevate the interiors of our minds to a contemplation of Thy divine perfections, and through the long vista of toil and care and suffering, still behold Thee beckoning us onward. O may we with humble confidence always exclaim when trouble assails us,—Lord, if it be Thou, bid me that I come unto Thee through the water of this trying affliction.

Another week of trial has opened upon us, and again, O Lord, we supplicate Thine aid, for we know Thou wilt lay no other burthens upon us than such as we are able to bear, and those burthens only that tend to promote our purification. Lord, we trust in Thee; help us to go through this week's duties, for Thy name and mercy sake. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, who art ever merciful and gracious, let our prayer come up unto Thee in an acceptable time; and in the multitude of Thy tender mercies hear us, and answer us from Thy holy habitation.

Another day has passed of our natural existence, and the evening reminds us of that important period when time with us shall be no more, but shall usher us into the commencement of eternity. As time speeds rapidly onward, the necessity of regeneration becomes every day more obvious; and we are led by the divine dispensations of Thy providence to see the pursuits of the world as necessary spheres of usefulness while here below, but conducive to our regeneration only as they lead to a more perfect desire for the things above. Where the affections are set upon worldly possessions, and the mind toils only that bodily delights may be secured, as though they were to last for ever, how can we become regenerate? how can we attain that new birth without which it is impossible to enter heaven? Surely in this condition men of high degree are vanity, and men of low degree are a lie; and men of every degree who fondly cling to the present as their chief good, are but in the deceptive mazes of insanity.

O how wisely dost Thou deal with us. As human and divine knowledge is acquired by "line upon line and precept upon precept," so is man brought to see the necessity of regeneration by trial upon trial; and Thy righteous dispensations are so exercised, that our trials are

perpetually varied, that we may be convinced that it is better to trust in the Lord than to put any confidence in man. O Lord, we resign our spirits into Thy gracious keeping. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY MORNING.

O GOD, who hast raised us again from sleep, and hast renewed our existence, our voice wilt Thou hear if we approach Thee in sincerity. In the morning will we direct our prayer unto Thee, and will look up. Our souls wait upon Thee for their daily portion; O feed us with the bread of life, and give us to drink of the streams of Thy truth. The continual supply of spiritual nourishment whereby our souls are preserved in perpetual existence, is indeed a miracle of miracles, and was shadowed forth in the miracle of the manna. And while the Israelites had the types, we, O Lord, are blessed with the substance. The bread which perisheth cometh from the earth, and with the body of man returneth to the dust; but the bread which endureth for ever cometh down from heaven, and unto man's soul is a living bread. The bread which perisheth is limited in quantity and earned with the sweat of the brow; but the bread which endureth unto everlasting life is unlimited in quantity, and every man may gather of it as much as he will, for it descends to the very threshold of his soul (as the manna fell especially about the tents of the Israelites), and he may gather much or little according to his need. O Lord, we feel that in this wilderness state of our existence, the bread of life is rained upon the tabernacles of our souls, that we may gather it, and eat, and live for ever. O Lord, evermore give us this bread. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY EVENING.

O THOU who art the great Captain of our salvation, "plead our cause, we beseech Thee, with those that strive against us, fight against them that fight against us." O suffer us not to remain in ignorance of the true meaning of this prayer of the psalmist; but teach us that as he was surrounded by natural enemies, and had no power to subdue them, except as he trusted on Thee for aid; so do our spiritual enemies surround us, and so malignant is their influence, that without help from Thee we must perish. We have felt, O Lord, and even now feel, that there is no looking for favour at the hands of malice; the worst that either fraud or force can do must be expected at the hands of our spiritual enemies. We must have constant war with Amalek; and the power of Amalek is none other than the malignant evils which dwell within us, and which, unless our hearts with our hands are lifted up to Thee our God in the heavens, must prevail against us. O teach us, then, we beseech Thee, the importance and the efficacy of prayer; teach us to look continually unto Thee for help. While we are in the valley of warfare, be Thou our spiritual Moses on the hill; and as we look to Thee, and behold Thy hands lifted up for our deliverance, so may we go forth to the battle against our spiritual enemies, and by strength from Thee overcome them.

In our prayers unto Thee may we "be not faithless but believing;" knowing that only the prayer of the righteous availeth much. Lord, help us, for in Thee alone do we trust. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

O LORD God our Saviour, "how excellent is Thy loving-kindness, therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Thy wings. They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of Thy house, and Thou shalt make them drink of the river of Thy pleasures. For with Thee is the fountain of life; in Thy light shalt we see light. O continue Thy loving-kindness unto them that know Thee, and Thy righteousness to the upright in heart."

At the opening of a new day, permit us to approach Thee, and render unto Thee that reverential homage which is due to Thy name. O God, Thou art our God; early will we seek Thee. Lord be with us, we beseech Thee, this day, that in faithfulness we may perform our duties; and may the true spirit of holiness penetrate all our thoughts, words, and actions. We would enter upon the engagements of another day in Thy love and fear. It is by Thy strength only that we can be kept from evil, and it is only by Thy preventing grace that we can discharge with fidelity those duties which Thy providence has assigned us.

Lord, suffer us not this day to be ensnared by our besetting sins, nor to fall under the influence of our corrupt appetites and propensities. Arm us by Thy truth, that we may resist the subtleties of our great adversary. Let Thy fear be constantly before our eyes that we sin not. To the heads of this family communicate that knowledge and wisdom which shall enable them to guide with prudence those whom Thou hast entrusted to their care. We ask these things, O Lord, for Thy name and mercy sake Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

LORD God and Saviour of all mankind, as we through Thy mercy have been brought through this day, we would humbly approach Thee, praying that Thou wouldest also bring us safely through the night.

How great are the privileges conferred upon us, enabling us to draw near unto Thee at all times, confessing our infirmities, our errors, and evils, and still finding mercy from Thee, and grace to help in every time of need.

If we have committed evil, shall not the Lord of all the earth search us out? O Lord, we may not have indulged in any open violation of the letter of Thy commandments, but Thy law, O Lord, is spiritual, and they who truly serve and worship Thee, must worship and obey Thee in spirit and in truth. O Lord Jesus Christ, aid us, we beseech Thee, to become spiritually minded, and to serve Thee, not in oldness of the letter, but in newness of spirit, for Thou hast taught us that unless our righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, we cannot enter into Thy heavenly kingdom. We confess, O Lord, that

we have neglected the counsel of Thy servants who have spoken in Thy name; too frequently have we hardened our hearts, and while we have been externally moral, "our hearts have been deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked." Create within us a clean heart, we beseech Thee, and lead us in the way everlasting. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY MORNING.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Lord God our Saviour, who art the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever, Thy goodness is extended unto all, and Thy tender mercies are over all Thy works. O that our souls may be stirred up within us to praise and magnify Thy holy name. Lord, help us, we beseech Thee, to draw near Thy mercy-seat, and let the words of our mouth and the meditation of our hearts be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, our strength and our Redeemer.

O Lord, we desire to unite in praise and thanksgiving to Thy holy name for all the mercies of the past night. Thy love is not confined to such as are of lofty estate, it dwelleth with the poor in spirit, to revive the hearts of the contrite ones.

Preserve us from envy, and from repining at the condition in which Thou hast placed us. Thou knowest what is best for us; teach us, with thankfulness, to submit ourselves to Thy divine disposal, and to be content in whatsoever station of life Thou shalt place us. May we trust in the Lord and do good, so shall we dwell in the land, and verily we shall be fed. May we delight ourselves in the Lord, and He will give us the desires of our hearts. May we rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him. May we cease from anger, and forsake wrath, and fret not ourselves in any wise to do evil, so shall we secure the loving-kindness of the Lord, and dwell in the courts of the Lord for ever. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY EVENING.

ALMIGHTY Lord God our Saviour, help us, we beseech Thee, with becoming reverence to draw near to Thy mercy-seat, and with holy fear to worship at Thy footstool. Again, under Thy divine protection, has this family ended another day, and they would renew their thanksgivings, seeing that Thy mercy is ever new unto them. Enable us, O Lord, to show our love to Thee by devout obedience to Thy Word. May we be able to join the adoring song of gratitude, "O how I love Thy law, it is dearer unto me than thousands of gold and silver." As we love Thee, everything in Thy Word will be dear unto us; all Thy laws and dispensations will be viewed through the medium of Thy love. We shall glorify Thee for Thine innumerable benefits, we shall partake of no blessing without perceiving that Thou art the centre of it, and even those dispensations which visit us, and appear as Thy chastisements, will be viewed but as merciful calls, to wean us from the arm of flesh, and teach us that "it is better to trust in the Lord, than to put any confidence in man."

O Lord, we desire to acknowledge in Thy presence how prone we are

to indulge our self-will, and to pursue such gratifications as are pleasing to the natural man. Help us, O Lord, we beseech Thee, to subdue our subtle enemies within. Send forth Thy light and Thy truth, that they may lead and conduct us to Thy holy hill. This assistance, O Lord, we ask for Thy name and mercy's sake. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY MORNING.

O ALMIGHTY and most merciful Lord Jesus Christ, the Father, the Friend of Thy people, Thou hast permitted the morning to dawn upon us, and hast refreshed our wearied frames, making us strong to "go forth to our work and to our labour until the evening."

Lord! accept our united thanksgivings for Thy divine protection, and with hearts deeply affected by Thy goodness, aid us to come before Thee "to offer the firstlings of our flock and the fat thereof." We acknowledge the unworthiness of the gift, and indeed we feel that of ourselves we have nothing to bestow, for Thou art in everything that is good, and if in our present offering there is aught of good, Lord! it is Thine: Lord! accept it as Thine own.

Aid us, O Lord, to go forth this day to the due performance of our duties under the influence of Thy love and fear, with a sincere desire to benefit our fellow-creatures. Next to the command to love Thee above all things, which command was given for no other purpose than that we might ever receive strength from Thee, and "grace to help in every time of need." Thou hast commanded us to love our neighbours as ourselves; and Thy Word instructs us that if we truly love our neighbour we shall never cease to seek his benefit. In the ordinary duties of our calling we shall keep Thy love ever in our hearts, and seek the temporal interests of those who employ us, knowing that they are Thy stewards, and that they must give an account unto Thee: and if we be not just to them in our labour, if we be not faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to our care the true riches? To Thee, O Lord, we look for help. Aid us, we beseech Thee, to do justly. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY EVENING.

O LORD God of our salvation, whose divine goodness is still with us, Thy gracious hand has sustained us during another day; and the evening has again closed upon us, bringing us in comfort to our habitation, and enabling us in peace to enjoy Thy bounty. Blessed be Thy holy name, O Lord.

We would assemble around Thy mercy-seat to adore Thee for that watchful and kind providence by which we have been upheld and blessed. For all the temporal benefits incident to our natural condition, Lord, we desire to thank Thee. Day by day hast Thou sustained us, and like as a father provideth for and pitieth his children, so the Lord provides for and pities those that trust in Him. "He will help them and deliver them; he will deliver them from the wicked, and save them because they trust in Him." Lord, in return for Thy temporal benefits, enable us to depart

from evil and do good, to seek peace and pursue it; that we may prepare our souls for those greater benefits, which, being spiritual, bring us to the enjoyment of holy communion with Thee. For what are temporal blessings compared with those which are eternal? what is the bread which perisheth compared with that which endureth unto everlasting life? We pray, therefore, O Lord, that Thou wilt so deal with us, that our spiritual states may be advanced, and that each day of our natural existence may be instrumental in introducing us into more interior degrees of the regeneration. We pray that our steps may be ordered by Thee, and that we may daily grow in Thy knowledge, love, and fear.

Lord, hear us, we beseech Thee, and grant our petitions for Thine own name and mercy's sake. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY MORNING.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Lord Jesus Christ, we desire to wait upon Thee this morning; Thou art our help and our shield; our soul would trust in Thee, for there is no want to them that fear Thee. Thou hast renewed our existence. The morning hast dawned upon us, and still are we among the living to praise and bless Thy holy name. Lord accept our humble gratitude for Thy care of us during the past night, and bless us by Thy divine protection during the present day, that while the world employs our hands, we may keep eternal ends in view, and may still continue to advance in the regeneration.

Lord, help us to shun every evil as sin against Thee. While we too often abstain from evil because it is likely to injure our worldly reputation, our hearts meantime retaining their deception, O may we be brought to see that, though in the eye of the world our conduct may be blameless, in Thine eye, it is still sinful; for the righteous Lord searcheth the reins and trieth the heart, and will reward us, not according to the fair seeming of our outward profession, but according to the real quality of our inward affections.

We pray Thee, O Lord, to impart unto us a clear perception of those minute shades of distinction between good and evil which may place our duty in the clearest possible light, so that the new will and the new understanding may be formed, the clean heart and the right spirit be renewed, which may lead us in the way everlasting. Lord, aid us in all things to commit our way unto Thee, sensible that Thou canst not mislead us, and whatsoever is for our good Thou wilt bring it to pass. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY EVENING.

LORD God, the Creator and Preserver of our souls, Thou hast conducted us safely to the close of another week, and Thy benefits and blessings have been renewed every day of our existence. We desire to adore Thee, and to offer our united thanksgivings in Thy presence, for all the varied enjoyments of this our natural condition. We have been trained to know Thy Word. Make us grateful to the parents who have instructed

us, and teach us to honour and revere them. Thou hast cast our lines in pleasant places, and we have a goodly heritage. O may we think of those less favourably situated, and treat them with sympathy, and render that aid which their necessities require and our superfluities enable us to bestow. Thou hast endowed us with bodily health and with all the comforts and blessings of bodily existence; for these and other Thy innumerable benefits we desire to glorify Thy holy name, O Lord.

It is fit that we acknowledge Thy benefits and glorify Thy name for all the mercies Thou hast showered down upon us in a temporal sense of the word. But great as these are, how are they exceeded by the promise of eternal happiness and eternal enjoyments if we prepare for them! Aid us, therefore, we beseech Thee, to bring our minds into such states, that we may seek after and secure the one thing needful. O teach us, Heavenly Father, not merely to say "Thy will be done" when we are in prosperity, and when "all men speak well of us," but at all times and in all seasons to bring ourselves completely under the influence of Thy love and fear. Aid us, therefore, we earnestly entreat Thee, to keep ourselves in a constant state of submission to Thy will, whatsoever may happen unto us. Thou leadest us by a way we know not; our ways are not as Thy ways, nor our thoughts as Thy thoughts. We may see the wicked in great power, flourishing as a green bay-tree; but if we consider them, their prosperity is evanescent, and if we seek them after many days, they are not to be found; but if we mark the perfect, and behold the upright, we shall find the end of that man to be peace.

Finally, O Lord, if even death itself threaten us at a time when our affairs assume a more prosperous appearance, may we still consider that our true home is in a brighter a more glorious sphere, that this is not our rest; and may we, whether in prosperity or adversity, sickness or health, life or death, still repose our whole trust and confidence in Thee. Amen. Our Father, etc.

THIRTEENTH WEEK.—SABBATH MORNING.

O LORD God, our Redeemer and Regenerator, omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent Thou art from eternity! and we humbly desire to approach Thee, and worship Thee as the essence of all that is excellent, true, and good.

On this day of rest our souls would desire to contemplate Thy perfections, and to meditate on all Thy marvellous acts. Help us, we beseech Thee, to trace Thee in Thy wonders of old, so that we may have respect unto Thy commandments, and observe all Thy precepts, and do them. Open our eyes, we pray Thee, and show us, as Thou didst the primitive disciples, a few of those wondrous things contained within the letter of Thy Word.

In the promulgation of the law, as in every divine act, we are convinced there is no one subject noticed, no one incident recorded, but that is of importance for us to comprehend; and on this day, when we assemble in Thy presence, and Thy commandments are read in our ears, O grant us a perception of their true and spiritual meaning.

Lord, Thou didst Thyself inscribe these laws with Thine own finger on the tables of stone, and thus didst Thou significantly teach us that the

stone, representative of Thy truth, inscribed upon by the wonder working power of Thy omnipotence, represented pure truth filled with the life of Thy love; so that if a man keep Thy sayings he shall even live by them.

O may we worship and adore no other God than Thee, the Lord Jesus Christ, the beginning and the ending, the first and the last, the Almighty, the only wise God our Saviour. Preserve us, O Lord, that we may not only never fall into the worship of senseless idols, but that we may never presume in our fallible states to canonize men, or worship the creature instead of the Creator. O Lord, we beseech Thee, keep us free from idolatry. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SABBATH EVENING.

O THOU from whom cometh our help, we humbly lift up our hearts with our hands to Thee in the heavens. 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 Thee, O Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour, until Thou have mercy upon us. We have trodden the precincts of Thy house this day. Our feet have stood within thy walls, O Jerusalem. Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces.

And now, O Lord, we approach Thy mercy-seat in our family temple; and on the evening of Thy day of rest, we implore Thy blessing upon what we have heard. {O may Thy truth have fallen upon our understandings as upon a fruitful land, and enable us to bring forth fruit, according to our state, some thirty, some sixty, some an hundred fold. As the rain cometh down and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it to bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater; so let Thy Word be that has this day gone forth out of Thy mouth. Let it not return unto Thee void, but let it prosper in the thing whereunto Thou hast sent it. As the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth, so, O Lord, may Thy Word bud in us, and may we be fruitful trees fit to grow in the garden of the Lord.

O Lord, aid us in the important work of self-examination, so that we may discern whether we have duly honoured Thee this day. For when Thy divine precept enjoineth honour to our father and mother, unto Thee, O Lord, it is first our duty to render homage, for Thou art the Father and Friend of Thy people, and no good thing wilt Thou withhold from them that fear Thee. And by honouring Thee we shall be careful to render a willing obedience to Thy divine precepts, and gratefully surrender all our thoughts and affections to Thy wise directions. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY MORNING.

O LORD our Saviour, the Sabbath is past, and our week of labour commences; but before we commence our duties this morning, help us to examine ourselves. We would in all things submit to Thy divine

government. Help us to honour Thee in Thy holy ordinances in Thy Church; and as Thy Church is Thy spiritual bride, help us to honour our Father and mother in the supreme sense of Thy Word. But as the going forth of Thy divine commandments is from inmost principles, even to externals, O help us to render due homage and respect unto our earthly parents. May we reflect upon their patience and labour of love in training us to maturity. May we strive to show our gratitude by ministering to them in their states of feebleness, as they in tenderness watched over our infant hours. May we listen to their admonitions in a spirit of love and reverence, for they watch for our souls as they that must give an account unto Thee. May we be supports to their declining years; and may the pillow of affliction, on which they repose their weary heads, find us near, so that their spirits may depart in peace, and we be not charged with the horrible ingratitude of bringing down their grey hairs with sorrow to the grave.

O Lord, aid us we beseech Thee to be watchful over our passions, that we harbour not revenge in our hearts, nor indulge in the violation of that love and charity with which Thou hast enjoined us to love one another. Preserve us from indulging in those fleshly lusts which war against the soul, and O may we be guarded against falsifying, profaning, and adulterating the sacred truths of Thy Word. Aid us, we entreat Thee, to be just in all our dealings, to refrain from unrighteous gain, and to keep ourselves from the polluting and debasing love of gold. And O grant that we may never attempt to deprive our neighbour of those truths whereon his soul's salvation depends. Preserve us from dissimulation, fraud, violence, and covetousness; and grant that in singleness of eye and purity of heart, we may be enabled to progress in paths of regeneration, until we enter into the rest which remaineth for the people of God. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY EVENING.

AL MIGHTY Lord God our Saviour, another day has passed of our existence, another day of unmerited mercy. Thine eye has still watched over and preserved us, and brought us safely to its conclusion; and now again do we humbly bow ourselves before Thee to offer the evening sacrifice of gratitude and thankfulness for every past instance of Thy love and goodness. O who can show forth all Thy loving-kindness; who can declare the goodness of the Lord, and His wonderful acts to the children of men! Aid us, O Lord, we entreat Thee, to examine ourselves this evening, that we may see from what motives we have engaged in the temporal duties of this day; that we may discover whether the love of our neighbour or the love of self has impelled us onward to the fulfilment of our duties. Lord, aid us to keep in remembrance the words of Thine apostle, that "none of us liveth to himself." O may we ever remember that the love of self is indeed the foundation of the kingdom of darkness within the soul. Assist us, then, O Lord, we beseech Thee, that the love of our neighbour may be constantly before us; that our chief desire may be first to seek Thee and Thy kingdom; and that we can only show our love to Thee by our love towards each other, for "by

this shall all men know that we are Thy disciples, if we have love one to another." Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY MORNING.

O MOST holy, most gracious, and adorable Lord God our Saviour, we adore Thee as the High and Holy One that inhabiteth eternity, who sittest enthroned in the centre of the sun of heaven, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and whose kingdom shall not pass away.

We adore Thee, we magnify Thy holy name, for Thou only art holy. Help us, we entreat Thee, so to express our gratitude, that in approaching Thee this morning, after the blessings and refreshment of sleep, we may draw down Thy divine benediction, may feel how gracious Thou hast been unto us, that Thou hast renewed our existence, hast continued us in health, and still endowest us with power to go forth into the field of use, and perform the several duties allotted unto us.

Lord, enable us this day to keep our eyes fixed upon Thee, and to strive to bring ourselves into a state of devout obedience to Thy divine laws; that we may acquire that serenity of mind which flows from an advancement in the regenerate life.

We see and acknowledge, O Lord, that there is no true peace in the pursuit exclusively of worldly delights or of worldly pleasures.

We confess we have thought differently, and have pursued the world and its delights with all the avidity and ardour of our natural affections; but we have found by repeated experience those delights to end in satiety and disgust; and, borne onward as we have frequently been to the gratification of our sensual appetites, we have also found that such gratifications have ended in vexation of spirit. It has been in states of mind such as these that Thy providence has prepared spiritual sufferings to purify us; and we acknowledge that blessed is the man whom Thou chastenest, that Thou mightest teach him out of the law. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY EVENING.

O LORD of heaven and earth, again hast Thou in Thy mercy preserved us through another day, and brought us in peace to its conclusion. Though "Thou art high and inhabitest eternity," yet art Thou our indulgent Father, as Thou art also the great God of heaven and earth. "We are Thy people and the sheep of Thy pasture;" unto Thee we owe our life, our health, our every good; glory be to Thy holy name, O Lord! "The day is Thine, the night is also Thine;" Thou watchest over us by night and by day. "Thou art about our path and about our bed, and spiest out all our ways."

We approach Thee this night, and kneel before Thee at our family altar, that we may render due praise unto Thy holy name, express our gratitude for Thy marvellous loving-kindness, and humbly implore Thy pardon for our manifold transgressions.

We have sinned, O Lord; and if we should say that we have not sinned, the truth would not be in us. We have not been sufficiently watchful

over our corrupt nature : the angry thought, and the revengeful feeling have found place within us, and if Thou shouldest mark iniquity **who** among us could be saved. Help us, O Lord, to repent, and may we hear Thee whisper peace and pardon to our souls. O Lord, hear us. O blot out our iniquities we beseech Thee, and remember our sins no more. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Lord, our heavenly Father, whose goodness is ever new towards us, we desire to approach Thy mercy-seat this morning, and to offer the early sacrifice of praise, for the blessings of sound repose, and for the refreshment and invigoration of our bodies.

O God Thou art our God, early will we seek Thee ! Be pleased, O Lord, to be with us through this day, and let Thy fear be before our eyes that we sin not. O help us to cultivate every Christian grace and virtue, that so, while pursuing our earthly pilgrimage, we may have a foretaste of heaven within our souls, and by the perception of heavenly blessedness, as a state, be preparing for the enjoyment of true blessedness in that exalted kingdom of love and use which shall be our place of residence to all eternity.

Hearken unto the voice of our cry, our King and our God, for unto Thee do we pray. Thou art our God, we will praise Thee ; Thou art our God, we will exalt Thee ; we will magnify Thy name for ever and ever. When we look back upon the years through which we have passed, when we call to remembrance how many dangers we have escaped, and that notwithstanding trials and sufferings and sicknesses we are yet continued in the land of the living, we are constrained to adore that goodness and mercy which has followed us all the days of our life. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

OMNIPOTENT, immutable, and eternal Jehovah, as "day unto day uttereth speech and night unto night showeth knowledge," so does Thy loving-kindness and tender mercy visit Thy creatures ; so is Thy love as unfailling as Thy wisdom is infinite ; so does Thy providence exercise itself in devising that which is good, and ordering and arranging all things for the present benefit and future happiness of Thy creature man.

This day has again evidenced Thy parental care and watchfulness, for though there has been no apparent danger unto our view, we know not the dangers which Thy watchful providence may have averted. We draw near to Thee, therefore, this evening, with humble gratitude, and unite in thanksgiving to Thy name. We join the inspired man of old by exclaiming, " Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless His holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits, who forgiveth all thy iniquities, who healeth all thy infirmities, who crowneth thee with loving-kindness and tender mercy, so that thy youth is renewed as the eagle. Bless the Lord, O my soul."

O Lord, when we consider the design Thou hast in placing us in this probationary state, namely, that we may be prepared to inhabit Thy heavenly kingdom above, it becomes us so to employ our time that the end of our creation be not frustrated. Thou hast bestowed upon us such talents as are best adapted to fit us for moving in the sphere of use. Grant us Thy grace, O Lord, that we may so exercise the talents Thou hast blessed us with, that we may use them for our fellow-creatures' happiness, and glorify Thee our Father in the heavens. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY MORNING.

O LORD, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and of great goodness, we approach Thee this morning acknowledging that Thy mercy is ever new towards us. "Our voice shalt Thou hear in the morning; in the morning will we direct our prayer to Thee and will look up;" we will dedicate our lives to Thy service this day; O direct us in our duties that they may be properly performed. How abundant is Thy loving-kindness unto us! O teach us that the greater the blessings conferred upon us, the greater ought to be our attention and kindness to others; for what are we more than others, or what have we done that we should receive more than others? Alas! if we were dealt with according to our deserts, suffering and trial would be our constant portion.

O Lord, while we view Thy divine bounty, and profess our gratitude for all Thy goodness; suffer us not to be inflated by pride or self-conceit, nor to imagine that we are "rich and have need of nothing;" teach us to keep within due bounds our natural and sensual appetites and gratifications, so that we may always have it in our power to assist those who are in necessity. O assist us, we beseech Thee, to practise self-denial, and in this as in everything else to "learn of Thee." Hear our prayers, O Lord Jesus Christ, and answer them for Thine own name and mercy sake. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY EVENING.

O GOD of all the families of the earth, as day after day brings us nearer to our eternal home, may a sense of our immortal destiny keep us ever in the straightforward path of duty, and may the knowledge that these are the last days, impress us with the necessity of redeeming the time, seeing that the days are evil.

Lord, we desire to praise Thy holy name, for the outpouring of light and knowledge. The prophecy in Thy Word is brought to our remembrance, "the light of the moon shall be as the light of the sun;" Thou hast indeed visited us, and we individually behold that knowledge is pouring out upon all flesh. But, O Lord, while we take pleasure in the acquisition of the truths of natural science, may we at the same time take care that they are not elevated above the spiritual principles with which at all times they ought to be filled. O teach us that sciences are but the containing vessels, into which are to be poured spiritual truths, which alone can vivify or render them living. Help us also to discern

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that truth itself can only be valuable as it is rendered vital by charity, the good of heavenly love. It is then that our science becomes the knowledge of heavenly things; it is then that our science becomes a mirror in which we can see the truth and beauty of divine things; it is then that "the invisible things from the creation of the world, are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even Thy eternal power and Godhead." Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY MORNING.

ALmighty and eternal Lord God Almighty, in arising from refreshing sleep and again surrounding our family altar, we desire to acknowledge Thy love towards us as infinite and unchangeable, and we approach Thee as a tender and beneficent Father, as One from whom we can receive advice and safe counsel, and who will be our Guide even unto death. We have indeed need of Thy divine aid, for we are weak and sinful, and prone to fall into the gratification of our sensual appetites. Lord, enable us to resist our evil propensities, let Thy divine Word check us in all sinful inclinations, and render us submissive to Thy will, and to Thy divine dispensations.

Blessed be Thy name, O Lord, for the inestimable gift of Thy holy Word. By this we have constant access to Thy divine majesty; by this can we effect a holy conjunction of life with Thee; by this eternity is brought to our view, and all our hopes of happiness are confirmed by its sacred truths. But not only is it unto us a guide to the mansions of eternity; it is a friend, a counsellor, an instructor in this our low estate. Here are we instructed to do unto all men as we would they should do unto us. O blessed precept which inculcates the suppression of self-love! May we ever guide our lives by its purity, remembering that, as Thou hast loved us, we ought also to love one another. Lord, accept our humble and hearty thanks for Thy protection of us during the past night, and help us faithfully to perform the duties of this day. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY EVENING.

O LORD God Almighty, the Creator, Redeemer, and Regenerator of all mankind, the universal Father and Friend of Thy people, we desire to bless and praise Thy holy name for all the wonderful display of Thy providence in our behalf.

Another day has been added to our existence, and has been crowned with Thy mercy, and we have been abundantly fed by Thy bounty. We desire, therefore, unitedly to offer our thanksgivings in Thy presence. The return of the evening, which brings us to Thy footstool, brings with it the necessity of self-examination, and the portion of Thy Word which we have read shows how necessary such examination is; lest we deceive ourselves in the belief that we are doing our duty, when we merely profess a formal knowledge of it. Thy Word instructs us that our own minds are as the field, necessary to be cultivated. O how long this field has remained fallow; how negligent have we been of Thy divine exclama-

tion, "Break up your fallow land"! our sensual appetites have kept us grovelling in the earth, or our self-derived intelligence has filled us with pride and self-conceit. But when Thou, O Lord, didst appear in flesh on earth, and didst call man to repentance, preaching the kingdom of heaven to be at hand, Thy Word penetrated into our souls; Thou didst awaken new desires, Thou didst quicken new hopes, pointing out the immortality of the soul, and calling all men to come unto Thee that they might have life. O blessed day when life and immortality was brought to light by the Gospel! To Thee, O Lord, we devote it. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY MORNING.

OMNIPOTENT, eternal, and immutable Lord God, our Saviour! With hearts humbled by a sense of our demerits we would approach Thee this morning. We would glorify Thy high and holy name for the blessings we have enjoyed during the past night, for the health and strength communicated unto us this morning by the refreshing influence of sleep. O may we unceasingly praise Thee for Thy unwearied love towards us, and strive to evince our gratitude by holiness and usefulness of life.

In the wonder-working power of Thy providence, Thou only, through the infinity of Thy wisdom,—through Thy knowledge of the past, the present, and the future,—canst order all things right; help us humbly and submissively to bow ourselves to Thy will. How truly marvellous are all Thy dispensations! Thou indeed workest mysteriously; Thou bringest us to Thyself by a way we know not of.

Thou allurest us, Thou bringest us into the wilderness, and then Thou speakest comfortably unto us. Sometimes Thou removest our worldly supports suddenly and violently from us, and while we are humbled, and trouble enters into our bones, Thou withdrawest us from our dependence on the arm of flesh, and teachest us that it is better to trust in the Lord than to put any confidence in man. But O how frequently have we murmured against Thee, charging Thee with being a hard master! With what bitterness of spirit have we complained against Thee; forgetful that Thy hand is raised eternally in love, never in anger, we peevishly exclaim: "What have we done to deserve this severe visitation?" O Lord, pardon our murmurings, and help us to say from the heart, "Not our will, but Thine be done." Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY EVENING.

O ALMIGHTY God, we humbly approach Thy mercy seat to offer up unto Thee our thanks and praises for the blessings and protection afforded to us this day, and for the mercy which has brought us to the conclusion, in health and safety, of another week.

The rapid revolution of time reminds us of the approach of eternity, and Thy Word admonishes us also to prepare to meet Thee our God. Our bounden duty is frequently to meditate upon that eternal state of

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existence to which we are all so rapidly hastening. Our duties here are but temporary, and, like our bodies, will soon have an end, but the consequences of our duties will be eternal, and, like our spirits, will be eternal in their effects upon our souls. O Lord, at the close of this, another week, aid us to reflect solemnly upon our everlasting states. To what have our lives tended hitherto? What have been the effects deduced from them; what will be the consequences to us in another state of existence? O Lord God our Saviour, assist us to explore ourselves while we answer these questions in Thy immediate presence. Thy Word assures us that death is in reality the continuation of life. Our bodies wax old as a garment, and at length die and perish, but our souls are designed to live for ever in Thy heavenly kingdom or in the kingdom of darkness and despair. O God, assist us to watch over our souls, that we may resist the first pleadings to evil.

May we remember that it is an insensibility to minor evils, or those so considered by us, that gradually prepares the soul for the commission of the most glaring sins. Lord help us to watch and pray, and prepare for that eternal state that may bring us into Thy divine presence. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FOURTEENTH WEEK.—SABBATH MORNING.

MOST beneficent, gracious, and merciful Lord God our Saviour! on the dawn of this another Sabbath, we with reverence approach Thee, and consecrate our family altar with the sacrifices of our hearts and of our lips. Help us to enter on the duties of this day with teachable and humble spirits, remembering that unless we become converted and as children, we cannot enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Kindle within our affections a flame of pure love and devotion, and let the light of Thy truth so permeate our thoughts, that our whole souls may feel a pleasure in the delights of spiritual worship, and that we may consider this day as a refreshment of our souls, and regard it as holy of the Lord.

How pleasant to the humble of soul is the return of the Sabbath after the six days of labour. May we so improve its precious hours, that it may give a foretaste of heaven, and assist in preparing us for the enjoyments of eternity. May our meditations of Thee, O Lord, be sweet, and may a contemplation of Thy divine perfections bring joy and rejoicing to our hearts.

We have passed through another week. O may it be instrumental in advancing us onward in the regeneration.

Bless the instruction from Thy Word which we may this day hear. Grant it may sink deeply into our hearts, and bring forth in us a holy and religious life, to the honour and praise of Thy divine name. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SABBATH EVENING.

O LORD God and Saviour Jesus Christ, while we thank Thee for the privileges of this day, we humbly implore Thy gracious pardon for

the imperfect manner in which our duties have been performed. Often have our thoughts wandered, our minds turned to the world and its concerns, though we have again and again been reminded that there is no safety for us unless we abide in Thee.

We behold ourselves speeding onward in the journey of natural life, our day of labour hastening to a close, and still we are idling in the market-place of our sensual corruptions. O assist us to remove this indifference of mind, this apathy of spiritual things. "Awake, awake, O arm of the Lord," and while we are sensible of our evils, may the knowledge of them stimulate us to repentance. O assist us to become more spiritually minded.

O Lord, we desire to thank Thee for all our family enjoyments. Make us the objects of Thy paternal care, we beseech Thee; and fill us with love and forbearance towards each other. Make us grateful for the privileges we have this day enjoyed, and teach us to be kind and charitable according to our means to all our fellow-creatures.

In retiring to rest we commend our spirits unto Thy gracious keeping. Preserve us, we beseech Thee, from evil thoughts and desires; and refresh our bodies by the sweet repose of sleep, so that, when we arise, if it be Thy good pleasure, we may be strong to go forth to our work and to our labour with cheerfulness. These things we ask for Thine own name's sake. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY MORNING.

IF it had not been for Thee, O Lord, now with humility and gratitude may we say,—if it had not been for Thy providential and protecting care,—our enemies had been too powerful for us, and we might never have awakened in this world. But, blessed be Thy name, O Lord, Thy mercies are ever new towards us, and the morning has renewed Thy mercies, and has again dawned upon us and brought us before Thee in "humility, love, and devotion."

We desire to express our humble praises and thanksgivings for Thy protection of us in the night season, and for the renewal of our strength, by which we are enabled to go forth to our work and to our labour.

As Thou hast renewed our strength, so do we trust in Thee for the supply of our temporal wants, and with humble confidence we place ourselves, all that we have and all that we are, at Thy supreme disposal.

O Lord God our Saviour, help us, we beseech Thee, in this our early act of worship, in this our morning sacrifice. We come not into Thy presence as in the representative age, with sacrifices and burnt offerings, but with a desire to offer spiritual worship,—the sacrifices of broken and contrite hearts. Thou hast breathed into our nostrils the breath of life, the life of Thy love and the life of Thy truth; and when under a lively influence of Thy truth and goodness, we consecrate our souls to Thee, the fire of Thy love will descend and fill us with its fervency. O Lord Jesus Christ, accept our service, we beseech Thee, for in Thee alone do we trust. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY EVENING.

O LORD God of peace and love, the evening has once more closed upon us, and brought us again before Thee; we kneel at our family altar. Let our prayer come before Thee as incense, and may the lifting up of our hands be as the evening sacrifice.

In Thy Word of truth Thou hast instructed us that men ought always to pray and not to faint. Truly this is a blessed, an encouraging precept, and but for many such, how often would our weak frames faint under the trials which, severe though they be at the time, are so necessary for our purification.

We know not what is best for us. Gloom and doubt too often hang around us; the black clouds of adversity hover over our heads, and threaten to discharge themselves, and overwhelm us with desolation. How often has sad despondency whispered, "Thou art born to trouble as the spark flies upward." Then are we almost driven to despair. But in the midst of all our anxiety, we remember that Thou art a refuge from the storm, a covert from the blast, a stronghold in which we may find safety; then we call unto Thee in our trouble and Thou deliverest us out of our distress; Thou makest the storm a calm, and stillest the billows that would otherwise overwhelm us. O Lord, we desire to acknowledge the necessity of such trials. But for these how often would spiritual pride take possession of us, how would our self-love bear rule and triumph; and lifted up with vain conceit of ourselves we should thank God that we were not as other men. Fill us with humility, we beseech Thee. O bring us out of our trouble, for on Thee alone do we trust. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY MORNING.

O LORD God of our salvation, we desire to draw nigh to Thy mercy-seat, and humbly to plead with Thee as a man pleadeth with his friend. As children can approach their parents with confidence, making known their wants, so do we with the confidence of children humbly approach Thee, our heavenly Father; and this we do because Thy encouraging voice is heard in the words, "Draw near unto me, and I will draw near unto thee."

O Lord, we desire to acknowledge that our present well-being, our present peace, our future happiness, depend entirely upon the intercourse we hold with Thee, and upon the sincerity with which we desire to follow Thee and learn of Thee. May we strive to imitate Thee, to dwell in Thee, that Thy love may dwell in us. Teach us in whatever state we are, therewith to be content; aid us to suppress every feeling that has a tendency to excite envy.

Thou art the fountain and source of all knowledge, and in Thy inscrutable wisdom, knowest the persons of all men, and those best fitted for particular situations, Thou raisest up. "Thou bringest down the proud, and exaltest men of low degree." "Thou fillest the hungry with good things, but the rich are sent empty away." O help us, then, to subdue the enemies of our own household, that we may avoid every

tendency to strife and emulation. It is indeed lawful for us to covet the best gifts, and Thy Word points out the duty to strive after and obtain them, and only as we *strive* to enter in at the strait gate shall we be able to surmount all opposing difficulties; we must labour after every thing that is excellent, and according as we labour so will our reward be. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY EVENING.

O LORD, who art ever ready to hear such petitions as flow not forth from feigned lips, let our prayer ascend up before Thee, our King and our God. With lowly reverence we bow before Thee; may Thy fear be ever before our eyes, that we sin not. May our fear not be servile, but may it be a fear that springs from love.

Thou hast urged us to seek after Thy truth under the assurance that they who seek shall find. O may Thy truth free us from all error. But, Lord, while Thy truth imparts unto us an humble confidence, that through its power we shall be able to resist evil; suffer us not to be misled by a presumptuous boldness; but in all things may we remember that our sufficiency is of Thee, and that without Thee we can do nothing. With this truth as our guide, as our spiritual Moses, we would go forth in our journey towards the promised land. O aid us to acquire a holy confidence to pursue this journey from earth to heaven; remove all doubt from our minds respecting its ultimate possession; and impress us with the certainty that it is the glory of all lands. Knowing that we have a trying wilderness to press through, nerve us with Thy strength, and give unto us a portion of the bread and the water of heaven that we faint not by the way. Our land of promise lies before us; it is above; we know, though the passage be rugged, though direful persuasions, the dread sons of Anak, oppose our progress, yet Thy description is that this land is the glory of all lands—a land flowing with milk and honey; and Thy promise is that Thou wilt go before us, and remove every obstacle out of our way. In Thy power, O Lord, may we go forth, for we can do all things through Christ Jesus that strengtheneth us. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

ALMIGHTY Lord God our Saviour, the great, the only Potentate, to Thee all the hosts of heaven continually look, they offer their adorations to the King, eternal, invisible, immutable, the only wise God our Saviour. And unto Thee the company of the just made perfect offer their tribute of praise, as unto the Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty. With this glorious company, O Lord, unworthy as we are, we would yet humbly desire to unite, and to adore Thee as our Redeemer and Saviour, who hast brought life and immortality to light by Thy everlasting gospel.

We desire to approach Thee this morning, and to glorify Thy name, for Thou art holy. We thank Thee for Thy protection of us during the past night, and we pray Thee let Thy goodness and mercy follow us through

the present day. O Lord, enable us this morning to explore our thoughts and affections, that the concealed evils and errors of our inner man may be discovered and ejected. Of ourselves, O Lord, we confess we are more prone to nurture than to cast out the evils which infest us. We acknowledge that these evils are often like the raging sea, full of the unquiet billows of discontent; they rise and fall, each striving to be uppermost. O God, help us to dislodge them. Who shall understand his errors? cleanse Thou us from secret faults. Suffer us not to be lifted up by the pride of our own understandings; for what is man that he should presume to direct his own steps? Save us from the evil devices of our own sinful hearts, from the corrupt pleadings of our wills; we trust alone in Thee, O suffer us not to be confounded. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

ALMIGHTY Lord, unto whom every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Thou art Christ the Lord,—before whom all the hosts of heaven cast their crowns, and in profound gratitude and adoration sing, “Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive blessing, and honour, and glory, and power,”—permit us, the members of this family, to approach Thee, and to join in humble adoration for all the mercies we have this day enjoyed. O how tranquillizing to the careworn frame is the meeting with Thee in the church in our house. In Thy favour is life, and Thy favour is withheld from none that earnestly seek it. There is nothing in life worthy of enjoyment if Thy presence be withdrawn. To whom, then, can we approach with so perfect a prospect of peace as unto Thee. Thou hast the words of eternal life, and Thou wilt always speak peace to Thy people. O fill our souls with a humble thankfulness for all Thou hast done for us. May we with gratitude enjoy the blessings showered down upon us, and not murmur for those which Thou hast wisely withheld. Teach us not to be high-minded but to fear. To obtain true contentment of mind, may we never envy the stations of those who are placed above us, but strive to better the condition, temporally and spiritually, of those below us. And if at any time we are induced to think we are hardly dealt with, may we be led to reflect upon the innumerable benefits Thou hast showered down upon us, and glorify Thy holy name, who hast dealt so bountifully with us. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY MORNING.

O THOU great and adorable Saviour, whose goodness and mercy hath followed us all the days of our life; “we give Thee thanks, Lord God Almighty, because Thou hast taken unto Thee Thy great power.” We join in the song of the blessed, “Alleluia, for the Lord God, the omnipotent, reigneth.” All heaven and its mighty hosts glorify Thee, and acknowledge Thy power and goodness. And O may all the families of the earth unite in adoring Thee for Thy wondrous display of divine love and mercy. May we repose in humble confidence on that guiding Providence which orders all things well.

O Lord of life and glory, Thou hast poured forth from the orb of day a flood of light into our dwellings, Thou hast awakened us from refreshing sleep, and made us strong for labour. May we be grateful for Thy merciful and protecting care. May we say continually, The Lord be magnified. May the light of the Sun of righteousness shine with equal brightness upon our souls, and give to us the necessary strength to pursue our path to heaven. As the glorious luminary above continues his course with unabated ardour and regularity, so may we pursue our course in the way of the regeneration: neither murmuring at its length or difficulty, but pressing onward with undiminished fervour to the mark of the prize of our high calling. And, O Lord, grant us Thy grace, that impatience and fretfulness be not companions of our journey. Our trials are permitted but to lead us more certainly to Him from whence cometh our help. O aid us to acquire so much settledness and stedfastness of purpose, that we may ultimately reach in safety Thy heavenly kingdom. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY EVENING.

O LORD whose goodness and mercy has followed us all the days of our life, we approach Thy mercy-seat this evening; we desire humbly to adore Thee for Thy fatherly care and protection. O that man would praise the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men! May the thoughts of Thy goodness towards us this day stimulate us to serve Thee with greater fervency of spirit and purity of heart, and as Thy professing disciples may we so let our light shine, that Thou our Lord, our Saviour, may be glorified.

O Lord, we humbly implore Thy divine blessing upon all those who kneel before Thee this night. O hasten the period when a church shall exist in every house, when every family shall surround its household altar, when every father shall become a priest in the service of the Lord, until the knowledge of the Lord shall go forth as brightness, and the salvation of our God as a lamp that burneth; when all shall know Thee from the least even unto the greatest; when there shall be One Lord and His name ONE.

But while we pray that every family may build an altar unto the Lord, we pray also for the universal diffusion of truth, for the building up of that true Church, the members of which shall acknowledge and worship Thee, O Lord Jesus Christ, as the Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier, God over all, blessed for evermore. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY MORNING.

HOLY and righteous Lord our Saviour, unto Thee do we lift up our eyes, and unto Thee do we direct our prayers; not that Thou art unacquainted with our wants; but Thou requirest that we confess our sins, and make known our wants, because Thou wilt deal with us according to the sincerity of our petitions.

O Lord, we desire to thank Thee for the privileges we enjoy in permit-

ting us to make known our desires ; knowing that if we trust in Thee and ask that which is most conducive to our eternal interest, Thou wilt give us the desires of our hearts.

O how excellent is Thy name in all the earth ! Thy glory is above the heavens. We desire to commence this day with Thee, by dedicating our lives afresh to Thy service. Let Thy hand restrain us from the commission of evil ; let Thy Providence overrule that which is designed for mischief, and do Thou, O Lord, order our steps, so that in all our ways we may be directed by Thy wisdom.

We desire to acknowledge our evils, and we deplore the readiness with which we run into sin. If we should say we have no sin we deceive ourselves, but if we confess our sin, and truly repent, Thou art faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. O help us to perform this most important duty of repentance ; sprinkle clean water upon us, that we may be cleansed from all our filthiness and from all our idols. Enter not into judgment with Thy servants, for in Thy sight can no flesh living be justified. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY EVENING.

O THOU who art the true God and everlasting life, our fast Friend in distress, and One " that sticketh closer than a brother," enable us to draw near unto Thee this evening, to worship and adore Thee in all Thy divine perfections, under a deep sense of our own unworthiness. May we reflect well upon the immutable perfections that constitute Thy nature, ere we venture to address Thee ; and not presume to come before Thee in a thoughtless or irreverent manner.

Thou hast established Thy throne high above the heavens, and all the works of Thy hands declare Thy great wisdom and goodness, and shadow forth Thine eternal power and Godhead. The earth is full of Thy glory.

Who is like unto Thee, O Lord ? Who among the sons of the mighty can compare with Thee ; glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, continually exhibiting the wonder-working power of Thy providence ? We adore Thee, gracious Father. We magnify Thy name, ever glorified Redeemer. We reverence Thee as our beneficent Saviour, God over all, blessed for evermore. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY MORNING.

O THOU who art the hearer of prayer, who regardest the petitions of the destitute, and wilt not despise their prayer,—O Thou who hast promised that Thy house shall be the house of prayer for all people, and in every house Thy presence is felt,—be with Thy servants this morning. Fill our understandings with Thy Word of truth, enlarge and purify our affections by Thy heavenly goodness, and make us joyful in this our solemn act of worship. While we praise Thee, may our hearts be made glad by Thy presence. While we offer our thanksgivings for the blessings of the past night, may we in spirit behold the light of Thy countenance lifted up upon us ; and may this family and every family rejoice in the presence of Thee, the God of all consolation.

Amidst the mercies showered down upon us, amidst the innumerable blessings we are privileged to enjoy, no blessing can be more beneficial to our souls than that which enables us to approach and hold conversation with Thee in prayer. It is a blessing to be permitted to withdraw the soul from earthly cares and worldly anxieties. It is a blessing to listen in patience to Thy Word, and then sink in humiliation on our knees, and hush our thoughts into quietude, so that we may wait to hear what Thou, Lord, shalt speak to our inward souls. And O how great the blessing which tranquillizes the passions, pours the oil of goodness over every angry feeling, every bitter thought, and gently presses down the whole soul into grateful adoration and devoted love. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY EVENING.

FATHER of mercies, God of all consolation, Thou hearest, Thou answerest prayer. We look up unto Thee in our seasons of affliction, for Thou art our great Physician, and vain are all the remedies of the healing art, if Thy blessing accompany them not. We pray this evening that Thy healing hand may be extended to Thy suffering children. How grievous are the maladies which afflict mankind, and O how grievous are the evils which first introduced suffering and pain into the world.

When Thou didst take upon Thee our nature, that Thou mightest redeem us from the power of our spiritual enemies, Thy compassion also was extended to the sick and palsied in body, as well as to the diseased in spirit; and Thy hand is not shortened that it cannot save, and Thy gracious promise has gone forth, Whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive. We pray Thee, gracious Father, let Thy healing hand be stretched forth to the sufferers of pain and sickness, visit them with Thy consolations; put Thou their tears into Thy bottle, raise them up from the couch of suffering, and enable them again to resume their different labours of usefulness, and with returning health; help them to serve Thee with newness of life. But while affliction visits us, O most merciful Father, grant us resigned spirits: while we are permitted to pray for deliverance out of our trouble, still may we pray, Thy will, O Lord, be done. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FIFTEENTH WEEK.—SABBATH MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, we desire to acknowledge that no real purification can be accomplished but by passing through the fire of trial and temptation. Whether we look at Moses, as the representative of the law; or at Elias, as the restorer of the laws; or at Thine own glorious person, who didst magnify the law and make it honourable, we behold the previous trials and temptations indicated in the forty days of fasting. O Lord, we behold in this how necessary it is that we should be tried, and that our light affliction may work out an eternal weight of glory. May a contemplation of Thy Word render us diligent in performing the duties of this day. O lighten our understandings; open our eyes that we may behold wondrous things out of Thy law. May Thy

messages of love melt our obdurate hearts; may the two-edged sword of Thy truth divide the true from the false, and by the wounds made in our self-love, may there be an application of the leaves of the tree of life, so that we may die unto sin and live unto righteousness.

From the Church in our house may we proceed to the more open services of the sanctuary. May we rejoice at the summons which calls us to go up to the house of the Lord.

Be with Thy servants, Thy ministers, that they may set forth Thy truth with power, that they may instruct men how to subdue the enemies of their own souls—those enemies that lurk within; that they may assist in pulling down the strongholds of spiritual wickedness in the high places of man's selfishness. Assist them, Lord, to disseminate Thy Word in its purity. May Thy doctrine drop as the rain, Thy speech distil as the dew, and may many souls be this day drawn unto Thee through the united labour of the teachers of Thy truth. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SABBATH EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, we beseech Thee let Thy divine blessing rest upon the labours of this day. Bless Thou all who in Thy name minister unto us. Looking to Thee for help, opening their hearts to Thy love, and their understandings to Thy truth, may Thy ministers be filled with Thy spirit, and deal out Thy Word of truth to their hearers with fervour and with power. May they be instrumental in strengthening the weak, in comforting the afflicted, in opening the mental sight of the darkened mind, and in raising the souls deeply immersed in evil to repentance and newness of life; and may all their teachings be animated by that spirit of love, which by tenderness and forbearance makes the deepest impression on the soul. O may Thine own words influence all Thy ministers: "Love one another as I have loved you."

Lord, surround the teachers in Sunday-schools with the sanctifying sphere of affection. May the children who await their instruction be docile and teachable, and may the instruction of all teachers be filled with an earnest desire so to train up their young charge that they may acquit themselves in Thy sight, always depending on Thine aid, as humble servitors feeding the lambs of Thy flock.

Thus may we all wait upon Thee, to hear what Thou, through Thy Word, shalt say to us. Thus may ministers and people, teachers and children, be individually and collectively blessed, and filled this day with the bread which cometh down from heaven and giveth life to the world. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, who art good to all, and whose tender mercies are over all Thy works, assist us, we beseech Thee, to acquire that heavenly goodness and purity which is the essence and source of true wisdom. As without holiness no man can see the Lord, so without that

genuine goodness which proceeds from Thee, and which ought to be immoveably fixed in the centre of our affections, there can be no radiations of heavenly truth. O Lord, we pray Thee, fix this Thy love in the inmost of our wills. Let it be unto us as our spiritual sun. Let it arise and shine within us; let it, by its fervent heat, melt our cold hearts into love and gratitude; let it warm us with charity and heavenly-mindedness, so that we may be constantly engaged in diffusing its pure principles to all who come within our sphere; and thus may the goodness which we acquire be as diffusive as the warmth of Thy love, which everywhere permeates the universe, and descends equally upon all.

The great and precious privileges which we enjoy ought to stimulate us in the work of winning souls to Thee. Lord, help us in this most important duty. Prepare those who are in darkness and ignorance for the outpouring of Thy truth. May all who know Thy truth as it is revealed in Thy holy Word be active in diffusing it according to their ability, and thus hasten the predicted period, when the knowledge of the Lord shall cover the earth as the waters cover the sea. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, Thou art a God of providence. Blessed be Thy name that Thou inspirest us with trust in Thy dispensations, and amidst our several trials that we can hear Thee speaking in Thy Word, "Fear thou not, for I am with thee; be thou not dismayed; I am thy God; I will comfort thee, I will sustain thee, yea, I will uphold thee, with the right hand of my righteousness." O God, may we ever remember Thy precept, *Men ought always to pray*. Prayer is conversation with Thee. If trial assail us, Thou art mighty to deliver. If sickness come upon us, Thou art our great Physician. If prosperity crown our efforts, Thou wilt teach us how to bear it, and to rejoice with trembling.

And having uttered the aspirations of our hearts and of our lips, may we never be anxious, but wait patiently until we hear what the Lord shall say unto us.

Lord, we beseech Thee, elevate as well as purify our affections; assist us to make our hearts altars, upon which the fire from heaven may constantly burn. As our understandings have reflected upon Thy truth and led us to perceive its divine origin, may that truth now be led to deliver up the government to the divine love, so that we may no longer dispute about truth, but have a clear, a tacit perception of its power and divine origin. And, O Lord, so prepare our hearts, that they may be refined and purified to receive Thy divine influence; and so humbled, that in all that is permitted in the way of trial they may still be consoled by the divine benediction, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, Thou knowest the state of all men. Thou givest to every man according to his ability. May we, therefore, never

envy others, but "learn of Thee," for never did envy show itself in any of the actions of Thy life while tabernacling in the flesh. O may we be instructed from Thy Word, that envy has its origin in self-love, and that love of self is the bane of every virtue. It is self-love that renders us unreasonable. It is self-love that teaches us to despise others. It is self-love that diminishes our own faults, and magnifies those of our neighbours. O God, we confess in Thy presence, and we abhor ourselves while we confess, how often we have erred from Thy ways,—how often we have stood in the path of our neighbour, how often we have exaggerated his failings. Pardon our iniquities, we beseech Thee, and teach us to be humble, penitent, and patient, and to acquire a quiet and contented spirit. How beautiful is the truth, how worthy of imitation, "I seek not mine own glory." How instructive the command, and how great a preventive of envy, "See thou tell no man." O may we put forth all the powers and talents we possess to seek the glory of Him that endowed us with them; and when we have brought that to a successful issue with which we were entrusted, may we not blazon the deed as though our own power and skill had accomplished it, but "see that no man know it;" so shall we avoid that deadly passion, envy, and wherever we behold high endowments in others, shall glorify Thee, O Lord, for bestowing so many excellencies upon a fellow-creature.

Now Lord, be with us, go forth to the duties of this day; be nigh unto us, and sanctify all our efforts to the good of our fellow-creatures and to the glory of Thy holy name. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, in the warfare from bondage to freedom, from Egypt to the land of Canaan, we greatly distrust our own power. The power of our spiritual enemies is indeed very great. O Lord, we earnestly invoke Thine omnipotent aid. Weakness is *our* strength; but **THY NAME**, O Lord, is a strong tower! Therefore we trust in Thee; Thou wilt subdue our enemies before us, and in Thy name alone, and under Thy banners, will we go forth. As evil besets us on every side, and as evil can only be subdued by resolutely contending against it, arm us, O Lord, we beseech Thee, with Christian fortitude; teach us not to regard the number or the power of our spiritual opponents, but the righteous cause in which we are engaged. Impart unto us the valour of the true believer, and bestow upon us a portion of that perfect love which casteth out all fear.

We confess, O Lord, our feeble-mindedness, that we have frequently turned back when difficulty has crossed our path; that we have forsaken the narrow, and sighed for the pleasures of the broad, path. Give unto us the faith which worketh by love. May a remembrance of thy wonder-working power in behalf of Israel teach us that Thine arm is still mighty to save, that Thy hand is not shortened, but is stretched out still. Though the dire persuasions of error strive to overwhelm us, let the rock of Thy truth be the foundation upon which we rest. Though when we look to ourselves we are ready to faint, yet in looking unto Thee we find a very present help in time of trouble. Leave us not, therefore, O Lord, we beseech Thee, but go before us.

Arise, O God, the ark of our strength; let our enemies be subdued before us. O strengthen our weakness by Thy Holy Spirit. Teach us the right use of all Thy providential dispensations. Subdue our pride and worldly-mindedness, and aid us to see in all things Thy wonder-working power. In light or darkness, joy or sorrow, prosperity or adversity, life or death, aid us to say "Thy will be done." Into Thy hands we commend our spirits. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, the God of all the families of the earth, we desire to adore Thee for all the favourable circumstances attendant upon our providential lot in this world. Thou hast bestowed upon us a goodly heritage: the station Thou has placed us in, give us grace properly to fill; may no opposition drive us from those duties which are ordained of Thee. If by the light of Thy truth the great work of regeneration has been commenced in us, O aid us with the necessary strength, that we may follow in the order of Thy righteous dispensations, and by humility and watchfulness advance continually in the regenerate life; for it is not enough to enter on the path of the regeneration, Thy Word assures us we must continue to walk therein. Aid us to keep our souls unspotted from the world; help us to avoid evil, or even the appearance of it. As one plague-spot may affect a whole nation, so one evil may endanger the safety of the whole soul. O preserve us against the seducing wiles of our besetting sins; they are as the great enemy of our souls, and if once they gain the ascendancy, the multitude of minor evils follow them, and the soul sinks into irrecoverable ruin.

Lord, as we are about to enter upon our daily duties, we implore Thy divine blessing upon them, and upon every member of this family. May we all perceive our responsibility to God and man, and so conduct ourselves in our intercourse with the world, that we bring no stain upon our Christian profession. These things we ask, O Lord, for Thine own name sake. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, assist us to compass Thine altar with innocence, so shall we find shelter from the malignity of evil tongues; and though malice never regards how true any accusation is, but rather how spiteful, still aid us to forgive, to return good for evil, and not further excite the fretfulness of the accuser by exciting a bitter spirit; rather may we look within for the causes which lead to all infestation. As the society of wicked men is mortally dangerous, so are the evils which infest the heart, clothed, as they frequently are, with the garments of apparent righteousness. Assist us then, O Lord, we beseech Thee, to remove evil from our hearts, in whatever form it may assume, or with whatever garment it may clothe itself. May pride, hardness of heart, and infidelity find no place within us, but may those virtues which adorn the Christian be manifested in our whole life and conversation.

While we adore Thee and offer our united thanksgivings for the blessings of this day; we would be deeply abased in Thy presence for our numerous transgressions. Thy Word has disclosed unto us how great our responsibility is toward Thee; and yet, with this knowledge, how inconsistently have we frequently acted! With the precept engraven on our memories, "Thou God seest us," we have acted as though Thou wert not omniscient. O Lord, pardon our ingratitude: chase away the spirit of our worldly-mindedness. "Create within us a clean heart, O God; renew a right spirit within us, and lead us in the way everlasting."

May true religion increase and bind together the members of this family, and may brotherly love continue. Lord watch over us this night, for good, for Thy name and mercy sake. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY MORNING.

O LORD, we desire to praise Thee for all Thy goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all men.

How precious are Thy thoughts unto us, O God; how great is the sum of them! How sweet are Thy words unto our taste; yea, sweeter than honey to our mouths. How reviving are the truths of the everlasting gospel. How great has been Thy loving-kindness in unfolding the spirit and the life of Thy Word. How have we been privileged to see what many prophets and righteous men desired to see, but saw not. How great are the treasures of Thy grace; how marvellous the interpositions of Thy Providence; how signal has been our deliverance from death and hell! But, Lord, who can enumerate Thy marvellous loving-kindness! O may Thy sacred name be hallowed on earth as it is in heaven!

Lord, Thou knowest what is best for us all the days of our lives, which we spend as a shadow; and as children look to their parents for guidance and protection, neither questioning their prudence, nor disputing their authority, so would our souls look unto Thee. Avert all evil wishes, we beseech Thee, and suffer not a restless or repining spirit to possess us. As we often pray for things that would, if granted, be pernicious unto us, O let Thy mercy withhold from us our requests. Give us neither poverty nor riches; feed us with food convenient for us. If we were without affliction we might be tempted to forget Thee; we might never seek Thee unless Thy hand by its providential dispensations sought us out. Therefore, O Lord, deal with us as Thine own wisdom shall see fit, and aid us to say continually, "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want; He maketh me to lie down in green pastures, He leadeth me beside the still waters. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY EVENING.

O LORD Almighty! Saviour and Redeemer, we desire that unto Thee shall ascend one universal shout of glorification, "Lo, this is our God, we have waited for Him, and He will save us: this is the Lord, we have waited for Him, we will be glad and rejoice in His salvation. For in this mountain shall the hand of the Lord rest, and Moab shall be

trodden down under Him, even as straw is trodden down for the dunghill."

O Lord, encourage Thy faithful servants in the work Thou hast given them to do. Impart unto Thy ministers a holy zeal and energy; may they perceive that neither strength nor policy nor false doctrine, clothed so as to appear like truth, can prevail. But while they teach the truth as it is in Jesus, may they also teach the truth in love. O assist them to put away all wrath and clamour and bitterness of speech, and to instruct their hearers in the gentleness and patience of Thee, their great master. May they not trust in their bow or in their spear, but may their arms be strengthened by Thee, the mighty God of Jacob. May Elijah's guard, the chariots of fire and horses of fire, everywhere surround them; and may the spiritual Elisha be unto them "The chariot of Israel and the horsemen thereof."

Lord, increase our belief that this period will arrive, and in all the dark clouds of trial through which the Church must pass, may the light of the Sun of righteousness still gild the horizon, and give promise of a more glorious appearance, until "the light of the moon shall become as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun shall be seven-fold." O hasten Thy glorious appearing, great Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY MORNING.

O HEAVENLY Father, Thou permittest the ministry of angels that man may be held up and preserved against the machinations of evil spirits. By the heavenly influence of Thy ministering angels, evil designs are held in check. Many of Thy creatures would become slaves to evil lusts, but for the secret opposition to and breaking up of the snares set to take their unwary souls.

How great is Thy desire for the salvation of the human race; how varied are the instrumental means by which Thy love operates! Aid us, we entreat Thee, that we may acquire a heart that may fear Thee always and keep Thy commandments.

Help us, O Lord, to serve Thee with newness of spirit. We acknowledge that we often wish for those things which, were we to obtain, would be subversive of our true happiness. We even murmur at that Providence which stays the hand of the destroyer, and strive to fly to those who would secure our perdition. O Lord, we thank Thee that Thy ways are not as our ways, nor Thy thoughts as our thoughts; that amidst all our wanderings, Thy love is unchangeable.

Lord, assist us, we entreat Thee, to perform with fidelity the duties of this day. May no temptation draw us aside from integrity. Enable us to practice sincerity and uprightness, and in all the duties of this life may we be kind, gentle, and easy to be entreated, without partiality and without hypocrisy. In our respective callings, O Lord, grant such prosperity as may render us more useful to our fellow-creatures. Elevate our affections above mercenary pursuits and anxieties, and grant us willing spirits to act in obedience to the divine injunction, "Seek ye first the

kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all things needful shall be added unto you." Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY EVENING.

O LORD, we desire to thank Thee that we have been brought through the duties of this day, and have been enabled to fulfil them. We adore Thee for the many proofs we have received of Thy paternal love. Thou hast been unto us as a tender Father, and though we have rebelled against Thee, Thou hast borne with us as wayward children, and hast not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. Lord, we thank Thee for all the tokens of Thy love and mercy. Daily are Thy blessings renewed, and Thy preserving Providence never leaves the superintendence of both our souls and bodies. O let a sense of Thy favour and protection this day awaken within us feelings of gratitude and love; and may we ever be mindful of the wonder-working power which has so marvellously supported us.

Lord, we now surrender ourselves to Thy watchful guardianship through the perils of another night. O let the right hand of Thy righteousness sustain us. Be with us, we beseech Thee, and guard us, and all near and dear to us, from the wiles of Satanic spirits; so that in the defenceless hours of darkness we may find Thee, O Lord, a shield, a buckler of defence, and a tower of strength. Thus in humble confidence we will lay ourselves down to sleep, hoping by Thy mercy to rise again with renewed spirits to go through the business of the morrow, and to prepare for that glorious immortality, which we hope to attain, for Thy name and mercy sake, O Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY MORNING.

LORD, we adore Thee for the gift and privilege of prayer. For the gracious promise, that if we forgive men their trespasses, Thou wilt also forgive us. When we pray, O help us to acquire this spirit; help us to forgive if we have aught against any. Let this precept be ever before us when we approach Thee. We can never hope for pardon of our numerous and heavy transgressions, if we forgive not the slight trespasses of our brethren. May Thy divine words, "*forgive* and ye shall be *forgiven*," fill our hearts with that tenderness and compassion which has been so constantly and beneficently exercised towards us.

We thank Thee, O merciful Father, for the privilege of approaching Thee in prayer; for by this privilege we are at the same time enabled to elevate our affections to Thee the all-bountiful Father, and by a reliance upon Thy goodness, to feel every care lessened, every trial mitigated, every needful want supplied; yea, all things that are needful for us, Thou knowest before we ask Thee, and by an acknowledgment of our dependence upon Thee, our blessings are increased and multiplied.

O God, we pray Thee not only to increase our faith, but to increase our gratitude. We feel the greatest happiness in being enabled to look up to Thee the God of heaven, and with humble and confiding hearts exclaim,

"Thou art our trust, O God." Lord, let Thy peace be with us this morning, and make us from this act of devotion strong to go through the duties of the day, and thankful for all the privileges we enjoy. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY EVENING.

O LORD, we confess, and Thou knowest, our frailty. Often have we bewailed and said, "*Surely the Lord hath forgotten us, He hath hidden His face from us, we go mourning all the day long.*" And yet ere the evening has arrived, Thou hast poured balm into our wounds, Thou hast assuaged our pains, and while our hearts have been filled with distrust and bitterness, we have been suddenly brought to our recollection, and enabled to say, *Never has the Lord forgotten us; yea, His mercy, spite of our ingratitude, continues with us, and even this our affliction He has turned into comfort and blessing.* Merciful Lord, we, the members of this family, may not now be in sickness or sorrow, neither may the members of our nearest and dearest connections, but Thou hast enjoined us to weep with those that weep, as well as to rejoice with those who rejoice. Still there may be around us a multitude of the wretched and miserable, who groan under their sufferings. For them we would humbly plead, and towards them, in humble imitation of Thee, we would perform the charities of the good Samaritan. Help us, O Lord, in this neighbourly office, and while we sympathise with them, according to our means put it into our hearts to relieve them. And every good we are enabled to perform shall be ascribed unto Thee, O Lord, our strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SIXTEENTH WEEK.—SABBATH MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, help us we beseech Thee to sanctify and keep holy this Sabbath-day, and to worship Thee only in spirit and in truth.

Aid us to sanctify and render holy Thy divine name. May we not only use it reverently in the public worship of Thy Church, but never presume to profane it by introducing it into our ordinary discourse, or in an irreverent manner. O teach us that Thy name comprehends the whole of Thy divine qualities, that Thy name is stamped on every page of the sacred Word, that Thy name exhibits Thy Supreme Divinity, as well as the Divinity of Thy Humanity; and O how awful must it be, if we use it profanely! Thou canst, indeed, not hold us guiltless if we take Thy name in vain.

Lord of the Sabbath, we desire to glorify Thee that Thou hast instituted it for man's rest, peace, and happiness, not merely as a cessation from bodily toil, nor even that he may engage in spiritual duties, but also that it is for ever to be a memorial of that rest which Thou affordest us as we pass through the varying states of the regeneration. Lord, we desire to acknowledge that every six days of our natural existence has a tendency to remind us of all the trials, labours, and conflicts necessary

for the purification of one state of the regeneration; and the Sabbath implies that state of rest and peace consequent upon the conclusion of each state; and necessary, by waiting upon Thee, to impart new strength before we enter on the commencement of another state.

Help us, we beseech Thee, to keep this day holy; to refrain from bodily toil, that we may regain our natural strength and be strong to labour. Aid us to keep it holy in works of piety, virtue, and holiness, in the worship of Thee. Aid us to keep it holy by adoring that Power which has brought us through the trials necessary for our purification. Aid us to keep it holy, that, by the life-imparting influences of the bread and water of life, we may be strong to enter on a new state of labour, and go on our way rejoicing. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SABBATH EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, our evils beset us on every side, and we have been imperfect in our duties this day, our hearts are heavy within us. O leave not our souls a prey to despondency; fulfil in us Thy gracious promise, and in this our wilderness state, give us, we entreat Thee, the valley of Achor for a door of hope, and bring us through our straitness and trial into a large place.

O teach us never to distrust Thy providence. It is enough that Thy grace is sufficient for us, that Thou numberest the very hairs of our head; and if Thou feed the fowls of the air, and clothe the lilies of the field, Thou wilt also feed and clothe us. O aid us to stifle all unbelief, all doubt, all anxiety of mind for the future, but let us in patience possess our souls.

Are we in trouble and poverty and distress—we cannot be hidden from Thine all-seeing eye; Thou canst bring us beside the running brook, or put into the raven the instinct to supply us with bread. Or dost Thou cause the sun of prosperity to shine again upon our heads, Thou dost clear the horizon of our minds, and throw into them the glad beams of Thy heavenly sun. O may our affections, with humble gratitude, bow in reverence before Thee, and may we acquire the temper and spirit of the humble but stricken man of old, to say, "It is the Lord; let Him do what seemeth good."

Great Lord and Saviour, in every state, we beseech Thee, teach us submission to Thy will, and may Thy will be ever cheerfully done by us. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY MORNING.

LORD Jesus Christ, help us, we beseech Thee, this day, and from the torpor of our wintry state to arise and prosecute our journey in the divine life. How needful to us is the advice, "Pray ye that your flight be not in the winter;" for what can the winter imply, but that dark, cold, and natural state, when there is no spiritual heat and consequently no spiritual light. The natural mind, in the spring-time of the regenerate life is indeed beautiful to behold, as is the lovely green foliage of

the trees of the field; and still more pleasing are those blossoms of hope which give promise hereafter of the ripened fruit. But, O Lord, impress us with the important truth, that neither the leaves of spiritual profession, nor the still more promising blossoms of fruit, give certain evidence of our completing the regenerating state. How frequently are we assailed by temptation; how often are our minds infested by dire despondency; how are we, while led to look into our inmost affections and thoughts, enabled to discover the manifold evils that none but Thee, O Lord, can remove. Thus, like the natural tree covered with blossoms, but assailed by the rude east winds, and denuded of half their promise, are we brought to retire into a comparatively wintry state. But, Lord, we desire to acknowledge the beneficial influence of even this state of trial, since we are led more devotedly to look unto Thee for aid, and more perseveringly to fight against our corruptions, until towards the conclusion of our day of suffering, the cheering rays of the Sun of righteousness beam upon us and give an earnest of peace and happiness. Lord, preserve us in the recollection of our dependence upon Thee through this day, and be Thou our guide even unto death. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY EVENING.

O LORD, we desire to thank Thee for Thy protection and guidance during the past day. In all that we have done well we recognise the influences of Thy good Spirit, because Thy Word assures us that Thou art in everything that is good. If we have been able to resist evil it has been by Thy aid, and by the constant recollection that the eye of the Lord is upon the righteous, that is, upon those *who desire to do right*, and the hand of the Lord is ready to help those who endeavour to withstand the spiritual infestations of their enemies; and though we dare not say we are free from sin, yet, by Thy good providence we have been preserved hitherto.

Now, O God, we beseech Thee, let Thy watchful eye be upon us and guard us this night. Assist us to subdue evil desires and evil thoughts, and to seek after that which is good. Preserve us in the silent watches of the night against the encroachments of spiritual enemies. In our states of utter helplessness may we sink into repose under the devout conviction that Thy love never sleeps; may we lay ourselves down in peace, knowing that Thou wilt sustain us, and may we rise again, strong to labour, glorifying Thee for all Thy loving-kindness towards us. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, we have been taught that Thy glorification is a pattern of our regeneration; like Thee, we must overcome in spiritual temptations before we can become regenerate.

O Lord, assist us to reflect that every combat in which we engage against those selfish and worldly loves, which would, were they indulged

in, ultimately alienate our souls from Thee,—not only renders us better qualified to grapple with more formidable evils, but brings us nearer and nearer to Thy heavenly kingdom. O Lord, impress upon us the important truth that the heavenly life is acquired by almost imperceptible degrees. May we never presume upon the advances which by Thine aid we may have made in the regenerate life. May we be kept from self-righteousness and self-glorification. We see and confess, O Lord, that there is even danger to our cause when we first begin to prefer heaven to earth, and there is the greatest necessity for watchfulness and for constant prayer, that we may be preserved from thinking too highly of our progress. When a perception of heavenly peace has been permitted us to encourage us in our journey, and for a time to give rest and refreshment to our souls, we have longed at once to be translated to heavenly spheres. Alas! we have not considered that as yet we are incapable of breathing the heavenly atmosphere; our hearts could not pulsate in so divine a region. Our souls are not yet sufficiently weaned from earthly joys, and in the midst of our most exalted aspirations there is too frequently a mingling of—a craving for worldly delights. “O purge us with hyssop and we shall be clean, wash us and we shall be whiter than snow;” render us sensible of the magnitude of the work we have to perform, and grant us spirits of humility to submit to Thee in all things. O Lord, may Thy will be done by us and in us. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, Thou hast taught us that only as we forgive men their trespasses may we hope for forgiveness ourselves. Assist us, O Lord, we beseech Thee, that we may see the full force of this important precept. If we attend not unto it, we are every day praying for our own condemnation, besides mocking Thee. If we pray only for forgiveness as we extend it unto others, and if we, notwithstanding, withhold forgiveness from others, how can we hope to be forgiven ourselves?

“O Lord, set a watch upon our mouth, keep the door of our lips,” that we may not only *know* but endeavour to do Thy will, remembering that “He that hath Thy commandments and doeth them, he it is that loveth Thee,” and Thou wilt love him and reveal Thyself unto him.

Be pleased, O Lord, we beseech Thee, to blot out the transgressions of this day from before Thee, and grant us Thy grace to refrain from evil for the future; to repent and turn unto Thee with newness of spirit.

This night may we retire in peace with all men. May all bitterness and wrath and malice be put away, and may we determine from henceforth, and with Thy divine assistance, to avoid every species of strife and contention, to acquire a peaceable and gentle spirit, and, learning of Thee and following Thee, strive to overcome all evil with good; so shall Thy kingdom come and be established within our souls. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

O LORD our Saviour, we desire to acknowledge that from the moment when we first drew our infant breath Thou hast conducted us through every step of our progress until now.

And while Thy divine love has been our constant support, Thou hast not left us without instruction. "How precious are Thy thoughts unto us, O God, how great is the sum of them! if we should count them, they are more in number than the sand; when we awake, we are still with Thee." We find Thy thoughts made known to us in the Word of Thy truth; the infinite wisdom of the Most High accommodating itself to the finite perception of man; the Great, the Holy One, adapting His instruction, that His creatures may be blessed; and while inhabitants of a sublunary sphere, permitting them to breathe so much of a divine atmosphere as may prove to them the immortality of their existence. O may we attend to Thy gracious voice, which speaks unto us in the Word of Thy truth, for "behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams."

We commit our way unto Thee, O Lord, this day; we would desire to walk in Thy love and fear. Suffer us not to sin with impunity, but let Thy Providence and Thy preventing grace so interfere with our arrangements, that we may be kept in the straightforward path of duty, and unto Thee, "the King, eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever." Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

O LORD our Saviour, we assemble before Thee this evening. To Thee must we give account. Assist us, we beseech Thee, to take a retrospect of this day's pursuits. It is not that we might minister to our own good, that we are placed here, but that by the good derived from Thee, we may send it forth so as to accomplish the purpose for which it was given. O Lord, help us to keep this constantly in view: grant us Thy grace, that our neighbour's good may be constantly sought after, and that our chief anxiety may be to "promote the happiness of others;" and may we engage in such acts of usefulness from the pure desire and unmixed love of goodness, and not from any desire of applause from the world, or to establish a reputation which has for its object the praise of men. Ever may we keep Thy divine counsel before us, and "let not our left hand know what our right hand doeth." O help us to engage in our several duties from the highest of all motives,—love to Thee and love to our neighbour.

We confess, O Lord, that we have not acted upon these elevated views, we have too often sought after the praise of men, and have done our duty from the mere desire of receiving an earthly recompense. O that we may no longer yield to these inducements, but incline our hearts, O Lord, we beseech Thee, to the love and practice of that which is good.

Protect us, O Lord, from the snares of our spiritual enemies through the silent watches of this night, for in Thee alone do we trust. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, who givest liberally to all men, help us, we beseech Thee, that we may be enabled to minister to the necessities of others, and thus mourn with those that mourn, and help to bring them to a sense of Thy divine goodness, and to comfort them with the divine benediction, "Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted."

Thou hast bestowed upon us the "blessing of rationality;" O teach us rightly to exercise our rational faculties. Thou hast bestowed these faculties upon us, that we might limit self-indulgence, keep down the sensual principle, and subdue within us the love of self and the world; and we confess, O Lord, for the purpose of being better prepared to minister to the necessities of others, and to bring us more completely under the government of the divine precept, "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."

Incline our hearts, O Lord, we beseech Thee, to the love of that which is good, that we may thus "grow up as trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified."

O Lord God, the sum of the commandments, as Thou hast taught us, is to love Thee above all things, and our neighbour as ourselves; teach us, Lord, to keep this precept ever before us, that we may show a devout and willing obedience to all which Thou hast ordained, and that this obedience may be evinced by a faithful performance of all the relative duties of life, by which alone we can exhibit our love to our neighbour. Lord help us to fulfil these duties, for Thy name and mercy sake. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, Thou art the source of all wisdom, and without Thee we can do nothing. O teach us to sanctify every engagement upon which we enter by some truth from Thy holy Word; to begin every action under Thy divine guidance, and to glorify Thee as we bring it to a successful issue.

Thou hast been pleased safely to conduct us to the close of another day. We desire to acknowledge, with heartfelt gratitude, the continuance of Thy fatherly care towards us. Every day presents us with a renewal of Thy goodness, every night reminds us of Thy unceasing bounty; what shall we render unto the Lord for all His goodness unto us? We will take the cup of salvation and call upon the name of the Lord; we will speak of all His marvellous acts.

In drawing near unto Thee before seeking repose for our wearied frames, we have been refreshed in our spirits by the perusal of a portion of Thy Word. O Lord God our Saviour, mercifully grant Thy blessing on the instruction we have received from the sacred page. May its truths sink deeply into each of our hearts, and "be in us a well of water springing up into eternal life." May Thy glory be ever before our faces; may the light of Thy countenance be constantly lifted up upon us; and may the light derived from Thee so shine before men, that they may see our good works, and glorify our Father which is in heaven. We bless

Thee for the good we have this day enjoyed, and we implore Thy divine protection during the night season. Lord, we resign ourselves to Thy gracious keeping. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, without whom we can do nothing, enable us to go forth to our work and to our labour this morning with cheerful hearts and willing minds. Teach us, O Lord, to be mindful of our eternal state, and to keep the hour of our removal from this world ever before us. Aid us in the control of our passions, and in the keeping of our hearts unspotted by the world. May this day, upon the duties of which we are now about to enter, tend towards the purification of the soul; for in the same proportion as we perform our natural duties from an inward conviction of their usefulness to others, shall we endeavour to infuse into them a portion of that spirituality by which all successful effort is accomplished. Thou hast instructed us that our happiness depends upon our usefulness to others; grant us Thy assistance, therefore, O Lord, we beseech Thee, that we may perform all our duties in a spirit of love and charity.

May the vanities, cares, and anxieties of this world find no place within our souls; but as we must in this lower world be subjected to their influence, may they be so overruled by Thy divine providence, that they may not hinder our spiritual progress. And O grant us patience, that in the trials and vicissitudes so necessary for our purification, we may come forth from them as silver tried in the fire, purified seven times. These things, O gracious Father, we humbly ask in Thy name and for Thy mercies' sake. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, Thou art the divine sower; Thou art the spiritual husbandman. How anxious art Thou for the happiness of Thy wayward creature, man! notwithstanding all his backslidings, Thy desire is still to make him happy; Thine aim is to sow the seeds of virtue in the soul, to impregnate it with goodness and truth, and to prepare it ultimately for its glorious abode in Thy kingdom. Lord, all unworthy as we are, we yet desire to acknowledge the boundless workings of Thy divine love.

But, alas! we are perverse in respect to divine things. We are negligent of our true interests, and while again and again Thou callest upon us, we suffer Thy words to fall around us unheeded. Sometimes we imagine a profession of religion to be sufficient, and Thy Word falls on the "wayside" of our minds: we go to Thy house, and assume Thy name; we would be saved because we externally believe; but alas! Thy Word finds no real depth in our souls: filled with the love of the world, and of ourselves, anxious for the applause of men, and for the emoluments which man bestows on external morality, the real love of religion finds no place within us. O, God, impress upon our souls this solemn truth, that

unless our conversation be in heaven, vain are all our external professions. O may the words we have this night heard from Thy divine Book enkindle serious thoughts and reflections, and dispose us so to receive Thy truth, that, according to the soil of our minds, we may bring forth fruit to perfection. Lord, as we retire to rest, may the thought that we shall all receive according to our works, render us humble, but, at the same time, fervent in spirit. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, our heavenly Father, as our dependence is alone on Thee, may we never neglect the all-important duty of prayer and supplication unto Thee for help; may we seek Thee while Thou art to be found, and call upon Thee while Thou art near; may we forsake our evil way, and our unrighteous thoughts; may we return unto Thee, for Thou wilt have mercy upon us, Thou wilt abundantly pardon. Thou art indeed good to all, and Thy tender mercies are over all Thy works. It is not Thou, O Lord, that condemneth man, but it is his own evil life. O aid us that we may have heaven established within our souls as a state. Impress us with the certainty that goodness and truth, love and wisdom, in a practical life of holiness, form heaven within the soul of man, and as we possess these holy principles, so shall we be prepared for the habitation of the just made perfect. May the contemplation of death open before us the felicity of heaven. May we behold the door which must be passed through, dark and gloomy though it may appear, as the portal which introduces us to a world of light and glory unutterable. May we so live, that come the summons when it may, to die, we may be satisfied that it has approached us at the proper season, the season best known to Thee, O Lord. May no anxious cares distract or divide our minds, but remembering that our times are in Thy hand, may we wait all the days of our appointed time till our change come. Lord, we commit our souls to Thy gracious keeping. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY EVENING.

O LORD, while we adore Thee for all the manifestations of Thy love towards us, we would consecrate all our powers, spiritual and natural, to Thy service. When our affections and thoughts are offered unto Thee, chastened by a sense of the unworthiness of the offering, when we desire nothing so much as to be led, guided and directed by Thy providence, submitting ourselves to Thee in all things, and knowing no will but Thine, then "we may eat our bread with joy, and drink our wine with a merry heart"; because "Thou, Lord, wilt accept our works."

The eye of Thy providence, O Lord, oversees all our actions, watches over all our motions, and tells all our steps. Lord, with humble and grateful hearts, we resign ourselves to Thy wise disposal, and desire to wait patiently and thankfully the issue of Thy divine dispensations.

For all the benefits and blessings of the past week, O Lord, we desire to adore and praise Thee.

And now, Lord, as we retire to rest, may our thoughts repose on Thy goodness. If permitted to behold the coming Sabbath, may it be unto us a season of spiritual refreshment, of love, joy, and peace, through the influence of Thy Holy Spirit. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SEVENTEENTH WEEK.—SABBATH MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, Thou art the life of Thy Word, yea, Thy name is called The Word of God; when we read the sacred page of truth, may we ascribe unto Thee the glory due to Thy name, bring an offering of our most hallowed and purified affections, and strive to worship Thee in the beauty of holiness, so "wilt Thou, O Lord, give strength unto Thy people and bless them with peace."

O God, Thou art worthy alone to receive the praise and adoration of Thy creatures. Aid all those belonging to this family to worship and serve Thee this day. May it be unto us as a remembrance of the great and glorious triumph, when "Death was swallowed up in victory:" when Thy glorification was consummated, and the whole pattern of the regeneration of man placed before him. May it bring anew to our minds the glorious promise, "He that overcometh I will give to sit down on my throne;" and stimulate us to so faithful a performance of our duty, that we may feel an inward assurance of the truth, "that where Thou art, there also shall Thy servant be." O may we, and every member of Thy Church on earth, unite in a song of glorification: the Lord God, even our Saviour Jesus Christ, the omnipotent reigneth.

Lord, let Thy gospel trumpet sound loudly this day. Let every faithful pastor of Thy Church feel the influences of Thy blessed Spirit, animating him with life and vigour to bring souls unto Thee. And may he and every devout worshipper find this day a day of spiritual refreshment to his soul. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SABBATH EVENING.

ON the evening of this holy day, O Lord, we beseech Thee, help us narrowly to inspect the state of our affections, to look with scrutiny into our understandings, that we may see if there be any wicked way within us; and O let Thy truth lead us in the way everlasting.

Lord, (as a family,) we desire to dedicate ourselves anew to Thy service. May we not only elevate Thee upon our family altar, and know and worship no God else beside Thee, a just God and a Saviour, but may we enshrine Thee in our inmost souls, so that we may make a covenant with Thee which can never be dissolved, and always have Thee within us to apply to in time of need. Inscribe upon our understandings, "Holiness unto the Lord." In all our trials may we remember that Thy grace is sufficient for us; and learn to place such entire dependence on Thy righteous dispensations that we may say from the heart, "Not our will, but

Thine be done." O teach us with humble gratitude to acknowledge the mercies, benefits, and blessings of this day.

And now, Lord, into Thy hands we commend our spirits. Thou, whose eye is ever open, whose ear listeneth to the prayers of Thy creatures, graciously hear us. Let Thy divine Providence preserve and protect us. Pardon our evils and errors which we have this day fallen into. We will retire in humble confidence upon Thy mercy; O help us to love and serve Thee with greater faithfulness. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY MORNING.

WE acknowledge our evils, O Lord, and how prone we are to fall into the commission of sin. Our iniquities are ever before us, and if Thou shouldest mark iniquity who could stand in Thy sight? But with Thee, O Lord, there is mercy. With Thee there is long-suffering and tenderness, and as we are willing to confess our evils and to turn from them, Thou art faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Aid us, O Lord, we intreat Thee, in the great work of moral and spiritual improvement; for without Thee we can do nothing. Cause us to hear Thy loving-kindness this morning, for in Thee do we trust. O give us experimentally to feel that the angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear Him, and delivereth them. May we taste and see that Thou art good; may we have an inward assurance that they who seek the Lord shall never want any good thing.

Lord be with us this day in our several avocations, and bless them to our good, and to the good of our fellow-creatures. May we ever bear in mind that Thou hast bestowed talents of a diverse kind upon us, that we may thereby be rendered more generally and particularly useful; and that the following out of our several employments with faithfulness is the performance of the true work of charity. Sanctify, therefore, we beseech Thee, all that we do, to the good of our fellow-creatures, and to the glory of Thy holy name. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, whose goodness and mercy have followed us all the days of our life, Thy love is untiring, and never sleeps: we pray Thee that our souls may be filled with Thy love, and from that love may there be a going forth of pure benevolence, which, encircling all mankind, shall render us living models of true and faithful disciples, for "by this shall all men know that we are Thy disciples, if we have love one to another." Lord, teach us to look back upon the past day, that we may explore our souls, and see whether this love has been the main-spring of our actions. O God, aid us, we beseech Thee, to keep Thee continually before our eyes, that we may learn of Thee in all things, and by contributing to the happiness of our neighbour, glorify Thee, and increase the sum of our own enjoyments. Lord, we acknowledge the necessity of renewed trials, that our souls may be weaned from the earth. But Thou wilt never permit trial to come upon us without accompanying

it by spiritual support, so that we may see "all temptations are by Thy permission, but Thou canst strengthen us at any time and keep us from falling." Lord, make us grateful for the blessings and protection of the day, and let the eye of Thine omniscience guard us through the night. Into Thy hands we resign our spirits. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY MORNING.

THOU, O Lord, who didst scatter the manna round the Israelites' camp, art Thyself the *true bread*. Thou art the spiritual substance which feeds the souls existing in all the worlds revolving in the immensity of space. Thou art indeed the bread of life, and therefore do we daily pray, "Lord, evermore give us this bread;" and we hear Thee constantly, in answer to our petitions, exclaim, "Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you." O Lord Jesus Christ, "how great is Thy goodness, and how great Thy mercy; corn shall make the young men cheerful, and new wine the maids." All the thoughts of the understanding shall be filled with the good of Thy love, while the affections of the will shall rejoice in the truth of Thy wisdom.

O help us to keep our tongues from evil, and our lips from speaking guile. Aid us to depart from evil and to do good; to seek peace and pursue it: so shalt Thou, O Lord, be ever near unto us, and shalt save us; and though many are the afflictions of the righteous, yet wilt Thou, the Lord, deliver him out of his distress.

Dedicating this day unto Thee, O Lord we go forth under Thy protection, bring us safely through its duties, for thine own name's sake. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, we humbly approach Thy mercy seat, to offer our united prayers at Thy footstool—nor would we pray for ourselves alone, but for all those who are in trouble, sickness, disease, and in danger of death. O may we ever be ready and willing to render our humble aid to strengthen the weak hands and confirm the feeble knees.

Lord, teach us to look back upon the transactions of the past day, and see how they accord with the wise injunctions of Thy Word. May we search our hearts and ask, Have we performed our duties from a principle of conscience? Have we renounced unrighteous gain? Have we preserved our passions and appetites in due order? Have we endeavoured to keep our hearts with all diligence? May questions such as these bring us to a strict self-examination, and may we, as we see our evils, not only deplore them, but strive against them, and put them far away from us.

Lord God of our salvation, we bless Thee for the merciful providence, which, amidst all our short-comings, has attended us throughout this day. Thou hast indeed been mindful of us, hast watched over and preserved us. In our family circle, in our transactions with the world, we have to acknowledge Thy never-ceasing care. O fill our hearts with

gratitude and love, that we may praise and adore Thee as our continual benefactor and friend.

Lord, we retire to rest deeply conscious of our dependence upon Thee : preserve us in the night watches, and suffer us to renew our existence in the morning, to the praise and glory of Thy holy name. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

LORD Jesus Christ, our heavenly Father, as Thou dealest gently and mercifully with us, blotting out our transgressions for Thine own sake, and remembering our sin no more, so teach us to deal gently with our fellow-creatures. We feel, O Lord, that we ought to have compassion upon them, even as Thou hast had compassion upon us. When we review the numberless instances of Thy love and goodness, how does Thy divine injunction press itself upon our recollection, "Love one another as I have loved you."

O may we, with a willing obedience, render unto Thee the best affections of our souls, remembering that the title to all true conversion is a willing and an obedient heart. Give unto us hearts, O Lord, that we may diligently ponder on Thy commandments. "Purge us as with hyssop and we shall be clean, wash us and we shall be whiter than snow." Impart unto us, we beseech Thee, tempers of humility, benevolence, and love. Aid us, that we may seek another's good, and promote another's interest. Fill our understandings with the light of Thy truth, so that with a single eye we may labour to promote the glory of Thee our God and Saviour.

And now, Lord, again we implore Thy divine blessing upon the engagements of this day. Prosper Thou the labour of our hands, that we may provide things convenient and useful. Aid us to labour with diligence, to bear our crosses with patience, and to commit our way entirely to Thy guidance ; so shall we be enabled in patience to possess our souls. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, Thy law is a spiritual law, and we humbly pray Thee to write Thy law upon our inward parts. Aid us to worship Thee from a principle of holy love and truth. The breaking of the outward law, or letter of the Word, is like to the fault of which Moses was guilty, when, during the idolatry of the Israelites, he dashed down the tables and broke them in pieces. This Thou couldst pardon in the zeal of Thy angry creature. O pardon us who have not the same provocation. O how true are the words of an apostle, "Love is the fulfilling of the law;" for who can violate any of Thy precepts if Thou art loved with all the heart, with all the soul, and with all the strength? We could never indulge in any of our corruptions and lusts if Thy love filled our hearts. We could never be guilty of idolatry, worshipping our own self-hood, our honours, our titles, our houses, our wealth, if we remembered that the only true source of blessedness was "abiding in

Thy love." Lord, aid us from an inward principle of love, to adore and worship Thee; to sanctify and reverence all Thy divine qualities embodied in hallowing Thy holy name; to keep Thy Sabbaths, from polluting them, and by our actions every day of our natural existence, to evince that Thy fear was constantly before our eyes, as Thy love was shed abroad in our hearts. So shall our natural existence glide peacefully and serenely through its varying states until it find perfect rest in Thy heavenly kingdom. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, we are by Thy holy Word instructed that the most interior way by which we can show our love to our neighbour is by seeking his spiritual welfare; and such is our indolence and selfishness that this we should never attend to, unless by Thy Word we were continually reminded of our duty. Lord! aid us, we beseech Thee, that we may acquire the true spirit of love, reproving and receiving reproof in that humility of soul which springs from a knowledge of our own infirmities. O aid us to advance the good of our neighbour, by good counsel from Thy Word, by pure affection from a love of his soul, and by such judicious advice as may be most suitable to his state; if we are called upon to reprove him, may we do so in the spirit of His tenderness, which, while it suffereth long and is kind, is yet afraid to permit him to continue in evil, lest his blood should be upon us, and while our neighbour's soul is lost, his blood should be required at our hands.

Lord! teach us to bear our own burthens patiently, that we may be the better qualified to relieve those of others. May we look constantly to Thee for help, under the devout assurance that they who "wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint;" they shall experience the easiness of Thy yoke, and the burthen put upon them will be found light. Lord, hear us! Lord, answer us, guide and direct us, for Thy name and mercy sake. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, who hast loved us with an everlasting love, we desire to adore Thee, that amidst our most devious wanderings and anxieties, still Thy divine love hovers around us in its dove-like spirit, and still, as we pursue our course, whispers to our inmost souls, "Fear thou not, for I am with thee; be thou not dismayed, I am thy God; I will comfort thee, I will sustain thee, I will uphold thee by the right hand of my righteousness." We acknowledge, O Lord, that truly are our steps ordered by Thee, and as we pursue our way in the path of the regeneration, Thou delightest in it; and though we fall we shall not be utterly cast down, for Thou, Lord, wilt be near to uphold us by Thy hand.

Amidst all our outward afflictions and inward trials, which are so necessary for our purification, how many are the intervals of peace which

we enjoy ; how frequently is gladness diffused through our hearts, and as we pass from state to state, and new truth develops itself at every step we take, we feel the benefit of resignation to Thy divine guidance. We are instructed in the duty of preserving our conscience clean and void of offence, and to acquire that purity of heart which is the source of all true serenity, and which gives a clear perception of the truth of the words, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." May we see Thee in this world, in Thy corrections as well as in Thy favours ; and when we have been purified by Thy corrections, may we see Thee and enjoy Thee in Thy heavenly kingdom for ever. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, Thou hast instructed us that, unless we become converted, and as little children, we cannot enter the kingdom of heaven. Help us to attain to this childlike disposition. We confess, O Lord, that we have departed from Thy precepts ; we have not found pleasure in communion with the spirits of the just made perfect ; and so besotted have we been in pursuing our own sensual gratifications, that, but for the restraining hand of Thy providence, we must have perished. But Thou hast not left us without a spiritual guide, even in contemplating the states of infancy ; for as we behold the innocency of natural delights displayed in their enjoyments, Thou hast shown us that these have a spiritual origin, and that infants constantly behold the face of Thee, our Father in the heavens. If, therefore, we would become regenerate, we must become as children.

"If a man love Thee he will keep Thy sayings, and Thou wilt love him, and wilt manifest Thyself unto him." It is from this love that Thy truth is constantly unfolding its beauty before us, showing more and more interiorly our own states, and unfolding more clearly our various duties.

O Lord God our Saviour, help us to overcome our self-hood ; aid us to sell all that we have—to lay down our own life that we may find life eternal. For we feel that the love of self and the world are the grand obstacles to our advancement in the divine life. To become regenerate, we must prefer heavenly to earthly riches. We must strive after spiritual excellence rather than after worldly power or worldly fame. We must prefer carrying Thy cross to the elevation of ourselves by worldly ambition. We must be content to be poor and humble, and to commit our way to Thee, O Lord. Help us, we beseech Thee, to attain these states, for Thy name and mercy sake. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY EVENING.

MERCIFUL and redeeming Lord ! Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory. Thy name alone is holy, and Thou alone art worthy to receive adoration and praise.

The members of this family humbly approach Thee, at the close of another day, and desire to unite in thanksgiving for all its blessings and

its mercies. Enable us to show our gratitude, that, as dutiful and obedient children, the image of Thee, our Father in the heavens, may be reflected by us.

While we are citizens of this world, we would humbly implore Thee to assist us in mingling with our fellow-creatures, and in performing under the constant remembrance that only can these duties be successful, as our affections and thoughts are brought under the government of the spirit of Thy truth. We pray Thee, therefore, to impress us with a devout reverence towards Thy holy name, and for everything which that name implies. Great, wonderful, and glorious! Father of eternity! Redeemer! Saviour! Mighty God! Prince of peace! All that is holy, noble, and excellent is comprehended in Thy name. Thy name is the shield and hiding-place of the righteous; it is a strong tower into which they enter and are safe. We bear this name upon us as a mark of discipleship, which, by a life of charity and usefulness here shall prepare us for a new name in Thy heavenly kingdom. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY MORNING.

O LORD and Saviour, we pray Thee, help us to attain that blessed state when every action shall be shunned that we would in the least degree consider, by the light of Thy truth, inimical to our advancement in the divine life. And aid us to acquire the blessed frame of spirit, that our conduct may be as pure on earth as if it were exhibited before the gaze of the angels in heaven.

As we plead with Thee, O Lord, we humbly desire that everything we engage in may be referred to Thee, prior to our entering upon it; for without this Thy divine blessing can never accompany us. If it be Thy good pleasure to crown our temporal efforts with success, may we consider that the gifts bestowed upon us proceed from Thee to enlarge and extend the sphere of our usefulness, and, instead of being elated and lifted up by them, we shall only endeavour to show forth more devout gratitude and thanksgiving. But should it please Thee, in Thy inscrutable wisdom, and through the perfect knowledge of our states, to withhold prosperity from us, or even to visit us with adversity, we shall know that we are in want of some of that fine gold, that pure unmixed goodness, which can only be secured by our passing through the crucible of affliction, and being tried by the fire of purification, and we shall conclude that the means best suited for the attainment of this goodness is best known to Thee, and therefore we shall be happy to say "Thy will be done."

And now, Lord, we pray that the eye of Thine omniscience may watch over us this day; that the power of Thine omnipotence may preserve us against our enemies, and that Thy gracious presence may be felt in our going out and in our coming in. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY EVENING.

AT the close of another week, O Lord, we approach Thy footstool to adore Thee for Thine infinite goodness, to acknowledge Thy manifold blessings, and to pray that Thou wilt be our guide even unto death.

We would open our hearts before Thee, O Lord, and bring our actions to the bar of Thy truth. There is nothing in which we have engaged but that seems to partake of the infirmity of our nature. The law of self has ruled in our members, and we acknowledge that we have transgressed against Thee; we have regarded worldly rather than spiritual ends, and all our actions have had in them a predominance of selfish and worldly love. O wash us thoroughly from our iniquities, and purify us from our evils, for we have no hope, save in Thee, O Lord; without Thine aid we have not strength to keep even our present resolves. May Thy loving-kindness and Thy truth be ever before us, and as we look to Thee in all that we do, and pray to Thee for counsel in all that we undertake, so may we be preserved from our evils for the future, and be led in the way everlasting.

Help us, O Lord, on the eve of another Sabbath, shouldest Thou permit us to behold it, to prepare our minds for its sacred exercises and instructions.

Confessing our sins, and not attempting to hide our evils from Thee, help us to compass Thine altar free from worldly cares and worldly anxieties.

Endow us with grateful hearts for the mercies of the past week, and fill us with the graces of Thy Spirit, that we may be watchful over our passions, and strive to be kept free from evil. Father, into Thy hands we commend our spirits. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

EIGHTEENTH WEEK.—SABBATH MORNING.

O LORD God Almighty, on the day of rest we desire humbly to approach Thy mercy seat. While Thy holy Word is read may our minds be kept open, that the influences of Thy good Spirit may enter in, and teach us of justice, judgment, and mercy, and open up to our understanding a perception of those truths by which alone we become wise unto salvation. When Thy praises are sung, may we unite with all our affections, throwing that pure fervour into our tones which evidences the sincerity of true devotion, and which at the same time teaches us to sing praises with understanding. And when Thy Word is preached, may our understandings be so prepared to receive it, that it may fall upon them as seed thrown into good ground, and bring forth fruit to perfection.

Lord, fill our hearts, we beseech Thee, with the fervour of Thy love. Enlighten our understandings by the truths of Thy wisdom, and teach us to reverence Thy holy name, Thy attributes, and Thy perfections, that in all things we may serve Thee with sincere and spiritual devotion. And, O Lord, we beseech Thee, send forth Thy light and Thy truth among those in this land who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death. May they be raised from the grave of their pollutions to newness

of life, and join with us and with the great congregation in acknowledging how great things Thou hast done for them. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SABBATH EVENING.

O GOD of the spirits of all flesh, deeply impress us with the truths we have this day heard, read, and explained. As the knowledge of Thy truth has been unfolded to us, may we realize the blessedness which results from doing our duty, according to those words of Thy truth: "If ye *know* these things, happy are ye if ye do them." Thou desirest truth in the inward parts; and Thou searchest the heart and triest the reins to see if there be any wickedness within us.

Lord, may the fear of Thee be ever before our eyes, that we sin not. May a willing obedience distinguish us, so that we may strive at all times to be beloved of Thee, remembering "that he that doeth Thy commandments, he it is that loveth Thee, and Thou wilt love him, and he shall be Thine in the day Thou makest up Thy jewels."

Nor for ourselves alone do we implore the blessing of constant watchfulness; but may the arrows of Thy truth be sent to the hearts of those who now sit in darkness. May these arrows destroy the life of selfishness, so that men may die unto sin, but live unto righteousness in Thee, Christ Jesus our Lord.

With humble, penitent, and grateful hearts, Lord, we now retire to rest, and into Thy hands we resign our spirits. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, who has declared that unless we repent we shall all likewise perish, visit us, we beseech Thee, with the righteous dispensations of Thy Providence. "Grant us patience to suffer, but preserve us from sin: we do not ask Thee to spare Thy rod of correction, but only to guard us against offending Thee any longer. We are content to feel torture both in body and mind, if so be it may only work for our purification." It is only as we become purified from our natural defilements, that we can hope to rise into the higher plane of spiritual existence. With this knowledge before us, O Lord, we now appeal to Thee for help and guidance. Be near unto us, we entreat Thee, and as we are entering upon the duties of another week, may we also enter upon newness of life. While the world employs our hands, and claims the performance of those common duties, which bind together the community of which we are members, may we never lose sight of the one thing needful, but may a principle of religion sanctify all in which we engage; and as we would that men should do unto us so may we also do unto them, for this is the law and the prophets. Suffer not the cares of this world nor the deceitfulness of riches, to alienate our souls from Thee, but may we do justly, and love mercy, and walk humbly with Thee, until, being perfected by the regeneration, we may be raised to higher spheres of use and duty in Thy heavenly kingdom. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, who by Thy example has taught us to become holy as Thou art holy; whatever trials we may be visited by, may we learn to bear with patience, knowing that all Thy visitations are light when compared with our backslidings, and the severest trials that come upon us are yet guided by Thy love, and designed to accomplish our salvation. We are encouraged to submit to Thy gracious will, because these afflictions are designed but to secure us an eternal weight of glory. Assist us, O God, to perform all our duties with fervency of spirit; and grant us that daily portion of heavenly bread which may strengthen us and enable us to go through all the trials necessary for our purification.

Lord, let Thy blessing crown the duties which we have been engaged in this day with success. May they have tended to the advantage of our employers, as well as generally to our fellow-creatures; and may they be conducive to our own health and peace of mind. We thank Thee for the privilege and for the power to labour, and we feel that it is an appointment of Thy divine love, that man in the sweat of his face should eat bread.

And now, Lord, again we implore Thee to be with us and watch over us through the perils and dangers of this night. Heal our souls, O Lord, for against Thee have we sinned and done wickedly. O let Thy goodness and mercy follow us, and blot out our transgressions, we beseech Thee, for Thine own name sake, and remember our sins no more. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY MORNING.

O LORD God our Saviour, our Creator, Preserver, and Regenerator, while the heavens declare Thy glory, and the firmament showeth Thy handiwork, while all creation wait upon Thee, and Thou openest Thy hand and fillest them with good, and man is endowed with the privilege of ruling all things Thou hast made, we can but deplore that we exercise this privilege so imperfectly, and so little to Thy glory. Lord, help us to serve Thee with greater spirituality, and to wait upon Thee with more humility, that we may in all things learn of Thee and be able to serve Thee better.

Give us grace, we beseech Thee, to be sincere with ourselves in the work of self-examination, and that we may secure proper assistance to enable us to perform this all-important duty; may we not only read and hear Thy Word with attention, but wait to hear in our spirits what Thou shalt declare unto us.

Lord, we beseech Thee, let Thy blessing be upon Thy true Church, and upon all the members thereof. O build Thou the walls of Jerusalem, and let Thy righteousness go forth as brightness, and Thy salvation as a lamp that burneth. And, O Lord, we beseech Thee, prepare the hearts and understandings of the Gentiles, and lead them by Thy good Providence, that they may come into Thy courts with thanksgiving, and be thankful unto Thee, and speak good of Thy name. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY EVENING.

O GOD our heavenly Father, help us to follow Thee, and learn of Thee as Thou hast desired. When Thou hadst accomplished our redemption, and after freely offering salvation to all, Thou didst ascend up on high, comforting Thy faithful disciples, and through them all future disciples, by the promise of imparting the influences of Thy Holy Spirit, promising to be with them even to the consummation of the age. O Lord God our Saviour, make us duly sensible of all Thy mercies, and endue us with Thy heavenly grace, that by obedience unto Thy precepts, we may inherit the promises, and by keeping Thee and the wonderful acts of Thy love constantly before us, we may exercise increasing watchfulness over our passions, and strive to shun every evil as a sin against Thee.

We desire to thank Thee, O Lord, for the marvellous outpouring of truth in these last days; Thou hast indeed visited us a second time unto salvation, and there is a shadowing forth of the fulfilment of the divine prediction, when the light of the moon shall be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun shall be seven-fold—as the light of seven days. O Lord, prepare Thou the understandings of the people that this light may be perceived. By Thy providential dispensations check all impiety, disorder, and evil. Grant that Thy truth may be diffused among all classes and conditions of men; that the reign of peace and good-will may be speedily established throughout the world. These blessings we implore, O Lord, for Thine own name sake. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, God of the universe, of worlds, impress us, we beseech Thee, with the sanctity of Thy divine presence. We cannot hide ourselves from Thee. Thy love still follows, and desires to save us, and to bring us into conjunction with Thyself.

Lord, help us to feel that we are entirely dependent upon Thee; that our temporal as well as spiritual blessings are the result of Thy divine beneficence; that whether we be in prosperity or adversity, health or sickness, strength or weakness, we are still the subjects of Thy care, and Thy grace alone supports us.

Lord, as we are thus enabled to see Thee in the exercise of Thy love towards us, without regarding our person—for there is no respect of persons with Thee—help us, we beseech Thee, to bring our affections under the perfect law of charity. We feel that we cannot seek the good of each other without promoting Thy glory. We cannot show our love to Thee, but as we bestow it upon our fellow-creatures; and by this shall all men know that we are Thy disciples, if we have love one to another.

With a due sense of Thy mercy in preserving us through the night season, Lord, we now go forth to our work and to our labour till the evening. In whatsoever we engage may a cheerful activity distinguish us, and may a consciousness of Thy care and providence enable us to pursue our duties in tranquillity, and to leave the issue of our labours to Thy divine disposal. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

O GOD, the protector of all them that put their trust in Thee, we thank Thee that Thou hast given us strength to perform this day's labour, and for the privilege of again kneeling in Thy presence. O let Thy blessing rest upon the Word which we have heard read, may it enlighten our understandings and purify our hearts; and may its precious truths be as the waters that go forth from Eden to bless and regenerate the world.

Fallen and degraded as we who kneel in Thy presence are, Thou hast yet bestowed upon us the gift of Thy holy Word. How many thousands in the world are there who know not of its existence, and how many more who know but never peruse its sacred truths. Awake! awake! put on Thy strength, O arm of the Lord. Send forth Thy righteous dispensations; search out from the dark corners of our own polluted land the thousands that know Thee not. Bring the Gentiles to Thy light, and scatter by Thy glorious rays the thick clouds of spiritual darkness that envelop the world. O hasten the period predicted by the prophet, when the knowledge of the Lord shall cover the earth as the waters cover the sea.

Great God of heaven and earth, we desire to adore Thee for all Thy blessings bestowed upon us: yet another day has been added to our existence, and benefits and blessings have attended its passing hours. Now, O Lord, we commit our souls and bodies to Thy keeping during the night season, and into Thy hands we resign our spirits. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY MORNING.

ALMIGHTY God, our Saviour and Redeemer, we draw nigh to Thy footstool this morning; help us to worship Thee in spirit and in truth, neither violating Thy divine command by the worship of other imaginary divine beings, nor making to ourselves images and likenesses of things created by Thee. Preserve us, we beseech Thee, from profaning Thy sacred name, or in any way using it with levity or lightness. May Thy kingdom of truth and righteousness be established within us, so that we may diligently strive to do Thy will on earth as it is by angels done in heaven. And, O Lord our heavenly Father, lead us to a devout acknowledgment of Thy goodness in the exercise of the dispensations of Thy divine providence, so that as Thou hast brought us to the beginning of this day, we may be led to trust Thy goodness and mercy in safely carrying us through its duties.

O prevent us from falling into evil, and teach us to avoid the snares set for us by our spiritual adversaries. Take us, O Lord, we beseech Thee, under the shadow of Thy wings, deliver us from the infestation of our most subtle adversaries, assist us to keep a watch upon our lips, so that we sin not with our tongue, and order all our goings in Thy paths that none of our steps may slide; and O grant that we may so pass through things temporal, that we finally lose not the things eternal. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY EVENING.

O LORD God our Saviour, enable us to lift up our eyes with humility unto Thee, that we may contemplate Thy divine perfections with reverence, and strive to recover that likeness which, by our own evils, we have so grievously defaced. O assist us to attain that spiritual elevation of soul which abhors every evil, and delights in the performance of every good. May the heaven, our inner man, with all the affections composing it, shadow forth continually, that glory, of which Thou art the substance. May our understandings, as a spiritual firmament, display the pleasures and brightness of heavenly knowledge, and be to our souls as a luminous atmosphere, in which the sun of righteousness may arise and shine. And when we view Thy infinite wisdom and goodness, as displayed in the pages of revelation, may we strive so to imitate them in our own life and conversation, that in all things we may show ourselves anxious of being accounted worthy of the exalted name of Christians which we bear. With these humble but earnest desires, O Lord, we close another day, and, under the shadow of Thy wings, hope to enjoy that rest which is needful for the refreshment of our bodies. Lord, into Thy hands we commend our spirits. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, Thou hast renewed our strength; we implore Thy blessing on the members of this family, and grant that those to whom Thou hast entrusted its government may constantly look to Thee for aid, that they may guide such as are subordinate to them in the paths of virtue and of truth. Grant also that such as require to receive instruction, admonition, or reproof, may listen with teachable spirits, and submit to be guided by the wisdom and experience whether of their parents, or of their masters; remembering that those who are about to engage in the duties of the world, "may be obedient to their masters; not answering again, not purloining, but showing all good fidelity, and adorning the doctrines of God our Saviour, in all things;" remembering also that it is the duty of masters to watch over the souls of their servants, as those that must give account, that they may do it with joy and not with grief; for that would be unprofitable for them.

And we humbly beseech Thee, O Lord, to pour upon all those who are called to minister in heavenly things, the especial graces of Thy Spirit. May they be fervent in spirit, earnest in the study of Thy word, zealous in its propagation, and watchful over the souls committed to their charge. Through their labours may sinners be converted unto Thee; may the weak hands be strengthened, and the feeble knees confirmed, and when they are called to give an account of their stewardship, may they be so prepared as to receive the gift of eternal life. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, help us we beseech Thee, that we may set Thee continually before our eyes. May the humility, self-denial,

zeal, beneficence, and uninterrupted gentleness, by which Thou wast distinguished while combatting with our spiritual enemies, be our all-sufficient models of imitation. Suffer us not to fall into murmuring, fretful, or repining dispositions, but exercising gentleness and forbearance, even to accusing spirits; may we be preserved from spiritual captivity, and steadily pursue the straight and narrow way to life.

O Lord God, our Redeemer, who hast watched over and preserved us this day from evil, to Thee alone are we indebted for the continuance of all Thy blessings, and for the preservation of our lives. At home hast Thou multiplied our domestic comforts, and in our out-of-door conflicts with the world, Thou hast enabled us to possess our souls in patience. There is not one of us but has been preserved by the watchful eye of Thy Providence, and all have been made to feel how great is Thy goodness and how great is Thy mercy. May every member of this family acknowledge in his or her inmost soul, Thy never-failing love, and make a grateful return for it. May the young remember Thee in the days of their youth, and set Thee ever before them. May those who are placed in servitude remember to be faithful in their duties, showing all fidelity, and adorning the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things. May those who have the government of this family rule their house in the fear of Thee, O Lord, and be as the pattern to whom the servants and the young may look up with confidence for assistance and protection. And may all consecrate themselves to the service, love, and worship of Thee the one true God and everlasting life. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY MORNING.

O LORD Almighty, our heavenly Father, Thou hast supplied all our wants with a liberal and bountiful hand. Help us, we beseech Thee, to be liberal and to minister to others of the substance Thou hast given us. May compassion distinguish us in our intercourse with the frail and erring; render us willing to minister to the body as well as to the mind diseased, and may we freely deal out our bread to the hungry, and cover the naked with a garment, wheresoever we possess the opportunity and the means.

Teach us, O Lord, to give due diligence in the conduct of our affairs, and in whatsoever state Thy Providence has placed us, may we learn therewith to be content, not envying others their possessions, and, above all, never striving to injure them in their temporal affairs.

And now, O Lord, we desire to commit ourselves to Thy divine guidance, as we go forth to the various duties devolving upon us in our respective spheres of life. While the concerns of this world occupy our attention, suffer not our thoughts to be so exclusively fixed upon them, as to withdraw us entirely from the consideration of heavenly things. But may the prospect of eternity and its joys make us more faithful and just in the performance of the duties of time; so that as this world and its concerns pass from our view, there may be opened up before us a prospect of those glorious realities which await the just made perfect when their probation here is ended. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, the conclusion of another week brings to our remembrance that here we have no abiding city, the fashion of this world passeth away; and the necessity of Thy providential superintendence is made manifest unto us, and all the afflicting visitations which come upon us do but the more forcibly attest the divine love.

Whom Thou lovest Thou chastenest, and scourgest every son whom Thou receivest; but there is indeed among the sons of men, none that Thou lovest not. Thou art good to all! Thou lovest all! The sun of Thy love shines equally on the evil and on the good. The rain of Thy truth descends upon the just and the unjust; therefore Thou waitest to receive all, and Thy righteous dispensations are so exercised, that man may be awakened to a sense of his eternal interests, and that he may be prepared to meet Thee his God and Saviour.

God of mercy! change and purify our hearts, we beseech Thee, and so influence our affections that we may no longer dwell in the tombs of our own unhallowed desires, but that we may awake to newness of life. Help us, Lord, to perform our greatest and most important duties, love to Thee as supreme, and to our neighbour with greater fidelity. Enable us to be true and just in all our dealings, and while we are careful to provide things honest in the sight of all men, may we be watchful, and strengthen the spiritual things that remain, which are ready to perish; for our ways have not been faithful unto Thee, O Lord.

May all uncharitableness, fraud, guile, and malice be removed from us. In all our duties, may the fear of Thee be before our eyes, and whether we be in prosperity or adversity, health or sickness, life or death, still may our hearts be stayed on Thee, and in Thy name may we ever trust. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

NINETEENTH WEEK.—SABBATH MORNING.

MOST merciful Lord God, our Saviour, who art ever gracious, ever willing to receive all that come unto Thee in truth; unworthy as we are of the least of Thy benefits, unworthy to approach Thy presence, by reason of the sin and pollution in which we have indulged, yet still Thy Word encourages us to draw near unto Thee, for, "if we confess our sins, Thou art faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Thus have we hope even in our greatest extremity, and thus do we draw near to Thee as our kind and beneficent parent, who art ever forgiving iniquity and sin, and blotting out our transgressions for Thine own names' sake.

O Lord, we desire to thank Thee that we are permitted to enjoy the privileges of another Sabbath. We acknowledge that the day which should be considered "a delight, holy, and honourable of the Lord," has been too frequently misspent by us, nor have we exercised the talents and faculties Thou hast bestowed upon us as we ought to have done. Lord! have mercy upon us; and help us to serve Thee in newness of spirit. No longer may we follow the devices of our own evil hearts, but in a spirit of humiliation may we turn unto Thee, and repent, and do the first works. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SABBATH EVENING.

O LORD God almighty, King of kings and Lord of lords, who is like unto Thee; who among the sons of the mighty can be compared unto Thee? Thy ways are not as our ways, nor Thy thoughts as our thoughts. The perfection of Thy nature, the fulness of Thy love, and the excellency of Thy wisdom, at once attest Thy divine prerogatives, and convey to us the assurance that it is because of the unchangeableness of Thy nature that we are not consumed. When we reflect upon our multiplied transgressions, we are lost in wonder at the extent of Thy forbearance unto us. O, what shall we render unto Thee for all Thy benefits! Burnt offerings and sacrifices Thou desirest not; but thus hast Thou commanded us, "Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people, and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well with you." O Lord, help us to observe these Thy reasonable commands, and grant that from henceforth we may keep them continually before us, and testify our obedience by following Thee, and learning "of Thee as Thou hast desired."

Lord, we thank Thee for the abundant blessings we have this day enjoyed. We have united in the services of the sanctuary, and have joined the company of those who keep Thy holy day. We feel these seasons of public devotion as among the greatest of our Christian privileges. And now we desire to acknowledge, in this our family temple, that great as are the privileges we have enjoyed, so are the responsibilities we have contracted. O how shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation! Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY MORNING.

O HOLY, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, heaven and earth are full of the majesty of Thy glory; the heaven, yea, the heaven of heavens cannot contain Thee, and yet such is the extent of Thy condescending love, that Thou takest pleasure in abiding with the poor, the humble, the meek, and the lowly; with these takest Thou up Thine abode, and in the hearts of the contrite ones dost Thou pour out Thy love.

Lord, we humbly bow ourselves to the earth before Thee: O Lord! do Thou bow the heavens and come down unto us.

For so darkened are our understandings by error, and so polluted are our affections by evil, that we dare not presume to call ourselves internal men. Our thoughts and affections have been towards the earth and that continually, and when we have striven to turn ourselves in spirit unto Thee, there appears, as it were, a thorn in our flesh, which still keeps us suffering under the pains of sensuality. Again, then, O Lord, we pray, "Bow Thy heavens, and, according to our states, come down."

"O righteous Father," unworthy as we are, what can we do shouldst Thou forsake us? whom have we in the heaven but Thee? and who can be so mighty for our deliverance from the spirits of darkness and evil as Thou? Oh, by the power of Thy love and truth deliver us from the infestations of evil, for Thy name and mercy sake. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, who art high and inhabitest eternity; with hearts filled with gratitude for Thy love towards us we approach Thee this evening, and after another day's experience of Thy mercy and protection, we would renew our thankful acknowledgments, that "hitherto the Lord hath helped us."

We look unto Thee as a God ever present; by Thy divine humanity have we access to Thy inmost love; we have a new and living way of approach to Thee, even Thy glorified body; by this Thou art our Mediator, our medium of approach, and we behold Thee as "God manifest in the flesh, the only wise God, our Saviour, to whom be dominion and power, for ever and ever."

Lord, we beseech Thee, impress us with reverence and holy awe in all our approaches unto Thee. May we remember in whose divine presence we are, and that we kneel, when before Thee, on holy ground. May the fear of Thee be ever before us. May we behold Thee with holy awe, delivering Thy commandments; and be obedient unto Thee as we see Thee exercising the righteous dispensations of Thy providence. Let Thy holy name be so sanctified by us, and by all the families of mankind, that we may never dare to take it lightly in our mouths, or profane it by irreverence or levity. Lord, Thou knowest what is best for us; and Thou alone, by Thy divine omniscience, canst so exercise the dispensations of Thy providence, that we may be everlasting gainers. Into Thy hands we resign our spirits. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY MORNING.

ALMIGHTY Lord God, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who dwellest in light inaccessible, permit us who have enjoyed refreshing and invigorating sleep during the past night, to present ourselves before Thee this morning, and in gratitude to acknowledge Thy mercies, which are ever new towards us.

Unworthy as we are to worship at Thy footstool, Thy divine encouragement still leads us into Thy presence. Day unto day we need Thy help, morning, noon, and evening; we will therefore call upon Thee and praise Thy holy name. O Thou who, when we knew Thee not, cared for us and provided for all our wants, still let Thy goodness and mercy follow us; and help us that we may evince a becoming sense of Thy goodness, and with gratitude serve Thee with increased faithfulness. If we were to acknowledge all Thou hast done for us, the time would fail in the recital. Thou hast warred with and overcome our spiritual adversaries; Thou hast saved our lives from destruction; Thou hast crowned us with loving-kindness and tender mercy. Thou hast endowed us with all our faculties and talents, and the influence of Thy good Spirit still flows into us, and gives us the power to exercise them. O may we never pervert Thy glorious gifts, but seek how we may best employ them in Thy service and to the good of our fellow-creatures. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY EVENING.

MOST merciful Lord God, Thou art the Creator of all worlds, and by Thy power They are all sustained; and by the continuance of Thy love, the myriads of living beings they contain are continually fed, protected from danger, and preserved in existence.

We adore Thee for the blessings and protection extended towards us this day, and we desire to draw near to Thee, and to prostrate ourselves before Thee in profound humility and reverence. Thou, Lord, hast made us, and we are the people of Thy pasture and the sheep of Thy hand. We live and move and have our being in Thee. But Thou art not only our Creator, but our most beneficent Father: with every needful blessing hast Thou sustained both our souls and bodies; and though we have rebelled against Thee, and have been unmindful of Thy favours, yet still Thy goodness and mercy has followed us and Thy compassions fail not. O most merciful God and Saviour, we cannot set forth all Thy love. When we were enemies unto Thee, and the whole earth was filled with violence, when iniquity abounded, and sin held such dominion over us as to threaten universal desolation, then didst Thou, in the infinity of Thy love, take upon Thee our nature, become incarnate, wrestle with our spiritual enemies, and by overcoming death, and him who had the power of death, Thou didst reconcile the world unto Thyself, not imputing their trespasses unto them. We glorify Thee, our redeeming Lord and Saviour. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

INFINITE and eternal Jehovah, who art the Father of eternity, the Mighty God, the Prince of peace, whose omniscient eye hath watched over us during the past night, and by the continuance of whose infinite goodness Thy creatures awake to the light of another day; who shall not fear Thee, and glorify Thy name who alone art holy? Infinite in purity and perfection, Thine exalted nature who can approach? Even the most exalted of Thy creatures—those who have passed from a merely natural to a spiritual state of existence, those who surround Thy glorious throne,—even these are not pure in Thy sight, even these are charged with folly, and the all of perfection which they possess is wholly derived from Thee. Thou dwellest in the high and holy place, which the most exalted intelligences find to be unapproachable; and yet though Thou art thus high, Thou regardest the poor and needy. Heaven and earth are full of Thy majesty; yet the broken and contrite heart is also the habitation of Thy glory. Thine eyes behold, Thine eyelids try, the children of men. Whither can we go from Thy Spirit, or whither can we flee from Thy presence? If we ascend up into heaven Thou art there; if we make our bed in hell, behold Thou art there; if we take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there shall Thy hand lead us, and Thy right hand sustain us. We commit our way unto Thee, O Lord. Go before us this day, we beseech Thee, that we sin not. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

O MERCIFUL and gracious Saviour, Thou art the Creator, Redeemer, and Preserver of the world, and Thou art infinite in goodness and willing to receive all that come unto Thee. Look down, we beseech Thee, with the eye of Thy divine compassion upon the few of Thine unworthy servants now assembled in Thy presence. As we review our evils from day to day, a sense of Thy power and justice makes us tremble in Thy presence, but as Thy tender mercies fail not, a sense of Thy goodness emboldens us to draw near the throne of grace, that we may find help in every time of need.

Lord, we desire to confess our evils before Thee : we have acted contrary to Thy righteous will, we have neither loved Thee as we ought, nor revered Thy sacred name, nor learned of Thee as Thou hast desired, and if Thou shouldest now call us into Thy presence, who among us could stand before Thee ? As a family we have all sinned ; not one of us hath wrought righteousness, no, not one. O Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, who delightest not in the death of a sinner, but rather that he should turn from his wickedness and live, visit us, we beseech Thee, with the light of Thy countenance, blot out our transgressions for Thy own name sake ; and O help us to examine ourselves, that we may cleanse our hearts and purify our minds, and devote ourselves with greater sincerity to Thy service. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY MORNING.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Lord and Saviour, we humbly approach Thee this morning, desiring to offer our united thanksgivings for the refreshment of our bodies and the invigoration of our minds by the sweet repose of sleep. Surely Thy goodness and mercy have followed us all the days of our life, and there is no good thing that Thou hast withheld from us.

O Lord, assist us this morning in our devotions, and grant that Thy Word, which has been read in our ears, may find its way to our hearts. We desire to be more intimately acquainted with Thy nature and Thy perfections, that we may serve Thee with greater spirituality ; for to know and serve Thee, and to love Thee from our inmost affections, is to have eternal life abiding in us, according as Thou hast declared : " He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me : and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him." O Lord, this is our humble desire, that Thou mayest manifest Thyself unto us ; for this, do we feel assured, will fill us with all peace and blessedness. Grant, O Lord God our Saviour, that we may attain to this spiritual perception of Thy presence, and help us to observe the condition, namely, to keep Thy commandments and do them. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY EVENING.

MOST merciful and gracious Lord, our heavenly Father, who art infinite in mercy, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin, we desire to approach Thee this evening, and to adore Thee for the comforts and blessings bestowed upon us throughout another day. Look down, we beseech Thee, upon Thy unworthy servants—unworthy, indeed, of the least of all Thy favours—who have so repeatedly transgressed Thy holy laws, and acted in opposition to Thy divine injunctions; deal not with us according to our evils, rebuke us in Thy love, and chasten us in Thy mercy, and give us grace that we may be able to resist evil for the future. Assist us to perform true repentance, and instruct us in its real nature and quality, that we may from henceforth preserve the straight and narrow path of duty, and be able to advance in the regeneration. Lord, we desire to thank Thee for the many displays of Thy glory in the creation of the world, and in the creation of ourselves as a world in miniature.

May Thy love be as a sun in the inmost of our souls, and warm us with gratitude for all Thy mercies. May Thy light quicken all the powers of our understandings! May the knowledge of Thy wonder-working power lead us to the adoration of Thy glorious Person, and all this family, and every family, glorify Thee for permitting us to bear Thy image and likeness. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY MORNING.

O THOU who sittest enthroned in light and glory ineffable, Thou who art the only God of heaven and earth, and before whom all angels bow in profound humility and adoration: Saviour, Redeemer, and Regenerator! permit us, all unworthy as we are, to acknowledge and adore Thee, the fountain of mercy. Thou didst descend from on high to save us, and of Thy fulness have we all been made partakers. Every day increases the sum of our obligations as it sees the renewal of Thy mercies. O grant that we may this day serve Thee in newness of spirit. Thou addest to our existence, that we may be the better prepared for the enjoyment of Thy kingdom, when we shall have finished our work here. O help us that we may improve the time allotted to us, remembering that the days are evil. While our bodies require to be nurtured by a portion of the bread that perisheth, and to procure this bread requires a continuance of toil and labour, may we never neglect labouring for the bread which endureth unto everlasting life. To secure this was the chief design of our being placed in this world.

Help us to become of the number of those who compose Thy true Church on earth, and O hasten the period when Thy Church shall extend itself and enlarge its borders. May the world be prepared for the outpouring of the truth of Thy new dispensation, so that iniquity may cease, and the principles of goodness and truth universally prevail. Hear us, O Lord Jesus Christ, for Thy name and mercy sake.—Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY EVENING.

ETERNAL and blessed Lord God, our Saviour, heaven and earth are full of the majesty of Thy glory, and all Thy works speak of the marvellous loving-kindness which Thou art ever showing to Thy unworthy creatures.

When we reflect upon the many crimes we have committed, and upon our frequent wanderings from Thee, we are lost in wonder that Thou still visitest us with Thy favour; but Thou hast ever delighted in mercy; Thou wilt not the death of a sinner, but rather that he should turn from his wickedness and live.

We acknowledge with gratitude the providential mercies which have been continued unto us during the past day, and the wisdom and beneficence wherewith all our affairs have been regulated, so that our temporal condition has been cared for; and while disease, casualty, and death have visited numbers of our fellow-creatures, Thou hast preserved our souls from death, our eyes from tears, and our feet from falling. But, O Lord, while acknowledging this Thy goodness, and making mention of the afflictions which have visited others, suffer us not to be lifted up by self-righteousness, or to imagine that the casualties of this life have not visited us because we have been holier than others; but may we ever remember "that we have nothing of our own wherein to trust, and that our only hope is in the unwearied compassion with which Thou regardest the miseries, disorders, and dangers of Thy creatures."

As Thou hast safely led us hitherto, may we be stirred up to a more devout obedience to Thy precepts, and may the pillar of cloud and the pillar of fire still be with us to guide and direct us in our journey through the wilderness, until we reach the promised land. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY MORNING.

ETERNAL, omnipotent, and omniscient Lord God our Saviour, Thou art the giver of every good and perfect gift, Thou art the author of eternal life, and Thou only canst enable us to become partakers of its blessedness. We approach Thee this morning, deeply impressed with Thy divine goodness towards us, and feeling assured that no good thing wilt Thou withhold from them that put their trust in Thee.

We yield thee most humble and hearty thanks that Thy providence hath protected us from many dangers that we knew not of, and those that have been perceived by us have been averted by the most signal deliverance. Another day has dawned upon us, and the comforts and conveniences of bodily existence are added unto us; O Lord, we desire to glorify Thee, that Thy mercies fail not, that they are ever new, that they have followed us all the days of our lives.

May Thy divine presence be now felt among us, and grant that Thy love and fear may rule in our minds, so that we may be preserved from evil. May we be temperate in the use of all Thy blessings; may unholy thoughts and unchaste ideas be checked as they successively arise; when provoked by others may we strive to overcome evil with meekness of wisdom; and grant us Thy continual aid that we may be just and

upright in all our employments, so that neither deceit, injustice, nor fraud, may exercise dominion over us. All this we ask in Thy name, O Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY EVENING.

GRACIOUS Lord and merciful Saviour, another week has run its course, and brought us nearer to the confines of eternity; but how has it prepared us for the important change which must speedily come upon us?

We come into Thy presence this evening deeply impressed with Thy goodness, and of our own unworthiness, and of the impending judgment hanging over our heads if we repent not.

Repentance! Time to repent! O how important the work, how short the time to perform it! O teach us to note the quality of our lives, so to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. Looking back upon the past week, and noting the actions by which it has been distinguished, how frivolous have been the pursuits in which we have been engaged. As though we were to dwell in this world for ever, with what avidity have we engaged in its pursuits, and with what diligence have we laboured after the bread that perisheth; and we are constrained to acknowledge that, but for the intervention of the Sabbath, we should rise early, sit up late, and eat the bread of carefulness, as though eternity and its momentous duties was never to have a beginning. O what is man that Thou art mindful of him! Seeking after the pleasures of sense, exercising his reason and intellect to secure the things of the world, eager in his pursuit of wealth and fame and worldly distinction and worldly honour, but casting the things of eternity behind him, as though they were of no value. O Lord, we beseech Thee, help us to repent, that we may at last find peace to our souls. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TWENTIETH WEEK.—SABBATH MORNING.

MOST merciful Lord, our heavenly Father, we desire humbly to approach Thy divine majesty. Thou art our Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier. We worship no God else beside Thee, a just God and a Saviour: O may we continue to look unto Thee, the author and finisher of our faith, and in Thee find our redemption, even the remission of sins.

We desire to thank Thee, O Lord, that Thou hast enabled us to assemble this morning to enjoy the privileges of family worship, to communicate each with the other through the medium of Thy Word, and to receive such instruction from it as shall facilitate our progress in the regenerate life, and advance us on our way to heaven. In coming into Thy presence we desire to humble ourselves before Thee. Our numerous transgressions rise up in array against us, and if Thou shouldst enter into judgment with us, who among us could be justified? But Thou, O Lord, knowest our nature, Thou art acquainted with our frailty and imperfection, and ever are the dispensations of Thy providence exercised

for us that we may be made acquainted with the state in which we are, and brought to consider the important period when our final change shall take place, and when we shall enter at once into the reward of our labours. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SABBATH EVENING.

O GOD, we have heard declared unto us the noble deeds which Thou didst in the days of our fathers, in the generations of old.

The public duties of the Sabbath in which we have engaged, and which have now terminated, bring us again to our family altar, to worship and adore Thee for all the wonders of Thy redeeming love. O what are the wonders wrought of old compared with the wonder of wonders, the miracle of miracles, of man's redemption from the power of his spiritual enemies! Yet may we see, if we be humble, that even the wonders of old were but types and shadows of better things to come, and which we, in these last days, may enjoy if we be of sufficient lowliness of mind.

How marvellous was the miracle of the manna; but O, how much more marvellous was the descent of the true Bread which came down from heaven, and gave new life to an expiring world! Thou didst provide bread for Thy people; the manna descended from heaven daily, except on the Sabbath, but it fell doubly on the eve of that day. How marvellous was it that on that day only it was preserved from putrefaction! How marvellous that every man should find there was no lack; how marvellous that it should pre-figure the true bread which came down from heaven! We see and feel, O Lord, that they had but the types, while we rejoice in the possession of the substance. Yes, our fathers did eat manna in the wilderness and are dead; but we, if we eat of the true bread, shall live for ever; and, Lord, representatively we have this day eaten of Thy flesh, and drank of Thy blood; we have imbibed a portion of the bread of life, and of the new wine of the kingdom. Evermore give us this bread. May we drink of the new wine in Thy heavenly kingdom. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY MORNING.

INFINITE, eternal, and omnipotent Jehovah! just and holy, wise and good Lord God Almighty! before Thy throne we humbly bow, and supplicate Thy blessing upon the duties of another week. Thou hast preserved us during the night, O be with us and guide us safely through this day.

O Lord, how wonderful are Thy works! in wisdom hast Thou made them all. They all attest Thy wisdom, power, and goodness: and what Thou hast ordained displays Thy love to Thy creatures, and calls for gratitude, adoration, and praise.

We confess, O Lord, that we have been indifferent to Thy bounties; we have not noted Thy wonder-working power in Thy providence, neither have we improved the knowledge wherewith Thou hast entrusted us. With shame and confusion of face we acknowledge that the world, its

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sinful pleasures and corruptions, have too often drawn us aside to evil ; we have been distracted and divided in our minds by the cares of this world and by the deceitfulness of riches : even our religious exercises have been mixed up with thoughts at once worldly, unholy, and impure. We have been content with the forms of godliness, without bringing ourselves under its power. O how frequently has sin with its allurements enticed and drawn us aside, darkening our understandings by error, and defiling our wills by evil. Help us, O Lord, we beseech Thee, to repent ; O give unto us clean hearts—renew a right spirit within us, and lead us in the way everlasting. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY EVENING.

O LORD, God of all the families of the earth, who hast invited all men to come unto Thee, and hast graciously promised they shall find rest to their souls, we humbly avail ourselves of Thy gracious invitation, and with grateful adoration and thanksgiving desire to lift up our heart with our hands unto Thee, O God in the heavens. We acknowledge Thy divine bounty throughout this another day, and we adore Thee that we are permitted to approach Thy mercy-seat at its close. Grant unto us, we beseech Thee, wise and discerning spirits, that we may ask what is needful for us in Thy name, and believing that Thou art ever willing to bestow upon us Thy blessings when they are solicited in a proper spirit, may we, nothing doubting, ask of Thee knowledge to guide us in our course through life, wisdom to seek after the one thing needful, and perseverance that we may not be weary in well doing, knowing that in due time we shall reap if we faint not. May we, like humble and confiding Mary, sit at Thy feet to hear Thy word, choosing, like her, the good part, which shall not be taken away from us.

O Lord, "how great is Thy goodness, and how great Thy mercy ; corn shall make the young men cheerful, and new wine the maids." O may we, while feeling gratitude for all Thy temporal benefits, apply the truths of Thy word to the spiritual benefit of our souls. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY MORNING.

O LORD, God of our salvation, we desire to prostrate ourselves before Thee with holy reverence, as the giver of every good and perfect gift, the author of our existence, and the bestower of eternal life.

Another day has opened before us, and we pray that Thy divine direction may guide us on the path of duty. Innumerable temptations and snares beset our path ; O help us to detect and surmount them.

Thou hast exhorted us to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with Thee. Lord, ever keep us under the guidance and government of conscience, and by setting Thee continually before our eyes, may we act with truth and justice in all our dealings. May we shun covetousness, and so conduct our worldly affairs as to show a willing obedience to Thy divine precepts, and do unto all men as we would they should do unto us.

Lord, help us to keep Thee ever before us. When we would indulge in evil, we would wish to remove from the sight of a just and holy God; we seem incapable of parting with our sins, and though we again and again experience the words that "there is no peace to the wicked," and feel that our actions bring with them punishment and suffering, yet do we hold fast the cause of punishment. O God, save us from our sins, pardon our evils, we beseech Thee, and help us to repent and turn to Thee with full purpose of heart and life. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY EVENING.

O LORD God, whose goodness and mercy have followed us all the days of our life, though we are utterly unworthy of Thy fatherly love, another day has been added to our existence, and we come before Thee with our humble tribute of thanksgiving. Thy blessings have not failed us, and innumerable have been Thy providential interventions by which we have been preserved this day and every day of our existence. Glory be to Thy name, O Lord!

As we kneel in Thy presence this night, O may our hearts and understandings be the prompters of our devotional exercises; for in approaching Thee it is our duty to reflect that not only must we appear devotional in act, but our acts must be prompted by and filled with the love of goodness and truth.

Lord, Thou hast been very bountiful unto us, Thou hast opened Thine hand and we have been filled with good; and as Thou hast loved and been good unto us, Thou requirest us to love and do good to others. Thou art best served when we show our love to Thee by deeds of charity to those whom Thou hast made. The sacrifices Thou now requirest under the gospel dispensation are those of broken and contrite hearts; humbled by a sense of our deficiencies, and by the knowledge that without Thee man can do nothing. We cannot offer these sacrifices with acceptance, without the surrender of our selfishness. Lord, help us to lay down our own life that we may find life eternal. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Lord God our Saviour, Thine eyes behold, Thine eyelids try the children of men; there is no action of our lives which escapes Thy notice, and no thought arises in our minds, but lo! O Lord, Thou knowest it altogether. We desire humbly to bow before Thy throne and to acknowledge our manifold sins and transgressions. We have grievously erred from the way of Thy commandments, and our hearts have harboured deceit and are indeed desperately wicked. O give unto us contrite spirits, that we may put away our evils and turn unto Thee with singleness of eye, and with an humble but ardent desire to repent and do the first works. Thou hast not dealt with us after our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities; Thy mercies have never failed, and amidst all our backslidings Thou hast been near to assist us on our first desire to repent, and by Thy love to quicken and

confirm the desire, and to impart the necessary strength. O make us grateful that Thy mercy never faileth, and may we be so convinced of sin that we may no longer tempt and grieve Thy Spirit. Help us to overcome the selfish principles of our nature, and to subdue those desires which alienate our affections from Thee. We ask this for Thine own name sake, O Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

O LORD God, our Saviour, who art the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever, whose love is as boundless as Thy essence is infinite and eternal, we present ourselves before Thee at the close of another day, and desire to unite in thanksgiving and praise unto Thee, who alone hast protected and preserved us. O help us to attain those states of constancy and obedience which may render us stedfast and immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as we are assured that our labour shall not be in vain in the Lord.

Thy truth is the rock upon which we should base our strength; O establish our souls by the excellency of Thy word, and keep us from all those snares and temptations which would draw us aside from serving and loving Thee.

Thou knowest the power of the enemies against whom we have to contend; Thou knowest how powerfully our own corruptions plead for gratification, and how easily we are drawn aside of our own lusts: against the power of our enemies, and against our own besetting sins, Lord we have nothing to defend us, if Thy shield cover us not in the trial. O inspire us with humble confidence in Thy divine aid. May our spirits be encouraged by knowing that the Lord is nigh to all, and will deliver all that put their trust in Him. Lord, in Thee do we put our trust; suffer us not to be confounded. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY MORNING.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Lord God, to Thee alone we look, as God manifest in the flesh, the source of every present good, and our only hope for the attainment of everlasting happiness. Thou only art worthy of our adoration, Thou hast taken to Thee Thy great power and has reigned, and unto Thee alone we humbly present our petitions.

Thou hast instructed us not to attempt hiding our sins from Thee, but to confess them before Thee; and if we confess our sins, Thou art faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. O Lord, we confess that, as natural men, we too often attempt to justify our own evil courses, and if we cannot charge any earthly being as the cause of our sufferings, we too frequently presume even to lay the blame upon our Creator. How frequently do we murmur at Thy righteous dispensations, and even in our profane hearts enquire what we have done to call down such severe judgments upon us. We are indeed unworthy to utter Thy holy name, and so great have been our evils that we scarcely dare raise our eyes unto Thee. O give unto us

the meek penitence of the publican of old. Lord have mercy upon us, for we have sinned, and are utterly unworthy to be called Thy children.

O suffer us not to die in our sins. Have mercy upon us, O Lord our Saviour. Deliver our souls from death, we beseech Thee ; and help us to live according to Thy divine precepts, and to serve Thee with newness of life. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY EVENING.

O GOD, Thou art our God, merciful and gracious, the year is crowned with Thy goodness, and a succession of beautiful objects beam before us, and call our souls to adore the Creator who has so marvellously beautified the world. As we behold the rich hues of spring open up before us, the flowers emitting their delightful fragrance, the herbs spreading fertility and abundance before us, the trees clothed in living green, the birds that sing among the branches,—with humble and devout gratitude we feel, These are Thy glorious works Parent of heavenly good. Every day opens up new beauties before us, and varied as are Thy favours to the children of men, so are the forms of use and beauty which daily come into existence, to minister to man's wants, or to delight him with variety. And thus dost Thou unfold before us, in the work of Thy creative hands, the beauties of nature, that we may see how progressive is the work of the regeneration, how numerous, how varied, and how beautiful the truths with which our minds should be adorned, how pure and delicate should be our affections, emitting, like the flowers, the fragrance of gratitude to Thee, O God, and of love to all the creatures Thou hast made.

Teeming with instruction as is the Word of Thy truth, the book which nature unfolds before us is equally so, and reminds us that the more pure we become, the more shall we be prepared to enter Thy heavenly kingdom. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY MORNING.

MOST holy and blessed Lord Jesus Christ, the source of all good and truth, with humble and heartfelt gratitude we would approach Thee as the Being by whom we were created, and without whom nothing was made that is made. From the meanest insect up to the crowning work of Thy creation, man, how marvellously is Thy wisdom displayed! Who can ascertain the boundaries or limits of Thy creative power; who can make himself thoroughly acquainted with any single part of Thy boundless empire? What miracles, hitherto concealed from our knowledge, will be disclosed as man recovers that image and likeness in which he was originally created! O heavenly Father, we desire to thank Thee for the knowledge wherewith Thou hast blessed us, and which will continually increase, as we grow in the knowledge and love of Thee and of Thy kingdom. Thou hast set no other limits to our attainments than such as are consistent with our finite being, but hast endowed us with capacities for the attainment of wisdom second only to Thine own. O may we

with humility explore the wonders of creation, and under the acknowledgment that all our powers are derived from Thee, may our constant study be to explore the wonders of Thy government, and employ ourselves in rendering homage and glory to Thy high and holy name. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY EVENING.

GREAT and glorious Lord God Almighty! as the day's labour has been concluded and Thou hast blessed us with an habitation in which we can with peace and safety assemble, our bounden duty is to render unto Thee thanksgiving and praise; and O that our hearts may be so filled with Thy love as to do this reasonable service with willing and cheerful spirits!

As the busy scenes of civil life have by us been engaged in, anxiety and perplexity have frequently been our portion; we have been tossed to and fro by worldly cares, and have been unable in many instances to meet the difficulties that beset us. We have forgotten for a time that Thy providence extends to all and singular things, and that there is nothing which can happen to us but Thy wisdom can overrule for our positive good, and though our flesh may fail, Thou wilt be the strength of our hearts and our portion for ever.

Father of eternity, blessed source of life and light, give unto us a spirit of greater confidence in Thee, that we may endure with patience the trials of our respective stations, and know that they are designed for our eternal good; that they wean us from the world, and teach us that "it is better to trust in the Lord than to put any confidence in man." But now, O Lord, as all care for the world and its concerns has this day passed from us, we thank Thee for the peaceful enjoyment experienced by the reading of Thy Word, and for the gracious assurance that Thou wilt dwell with the poor in spirit, and theirs shall be the kingdom of heaven. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY MORNING.

O LORD God of our salvation, we approach Thy glorious person this morning as the hearer and answerer of prayer, knowing that all who seek Thee early, Thou wilt be found of them. We desire to offer our united thanksgivings for another night's calm and refreshing sleep, and for the health and strength wherewith we rise renewed and able to resume our daily labour.

Our first thoughts and our best affections, O Lord, we offer unto Thee; may they be as the firstlings of the flock and the fat thereof, and grant that they may be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, our strength and our Redeemer.

May Thy word be very precious unto us; may we delight ourselves in Thy precepts, and have respect unto Thy commandments and do them. O suffer not sin to have dominion over us, but may its deformity be rendered visible, and may we hate the thing that is evil; and, blessed

Lord, may the very appearance of evil admonish us to be watchful. Take away from us our stony hearts and give unto us hearts of flesh, that henceforth we may be kind, compassionate, and tender, loving one another even as Thou hast loved us.

O Lord, Thou knowest how prone we are to exalt ourselves, and to imagine our own righteousness, how frequently we gratulate ourselves and despise others. Who shall understand his errors unless convicted by Thy Word of truth? Lord, we beseech Thee, cleanse Thou us from secret faults. Bring us out of the delusions of our own hearts, and render us penitent and humble. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY EVENING.

O GOD, the Father, the Friend of Thy people, there is none like Thee in all the earth. How tender and merciful are all Thy dispensations; how constant and unwavering Thy friendship to us poor sinners! When we survey Thy numerous acts of loving-kindness, and contrast them with our unworthiness and frequent ingratitude, we are constrained to exclaim, "Who is like unto the Lord our God; who can be compared unto Him, who forgiveth all our iniquities, who healeth all our infirmities, who crowneth us with tender mercy and loving-kindness, who redeemeth our souls from death, so that our lives are renewed as the eagle? Bless the Lord, O our souls, and all that is within us bless His holy name."

Lord, we desire to glorify Thee for the power Thou hast endowed us with to behold the works of Thy hands; we see Thy wisdom in every blade of grass that grows, and in the ever active operations which mark the labour of the husbandman. Thou bringest round the seasons, the vernal spring, the beauteous summer, the glowing autumn, the bracing winter; and in all these seasons Thy bounty is still felt; Thy hand is still open, and we are blessed with every good. Thou crownest the year with Thy goodness, and all Thy paths drop fatness; the parched fields are watered by Thy rains, and by the heat of Thy sun the earth is rendered fruitful." O may Thy holy name be praised! May every forest and river and valley, where abundant traces of Thy beneficence may be seen, call forth thanksgiving, gratitude, and praise from us for whom the Lord sends forth this teeming abundance. We feel, O Lord, that there is no object in the wide creation but should stimulate us to adore the goodness of Him whose mercy endureth for ever. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TWENTY-FIRST WEEK.—SABBATH MORNING.

O LORD Almighty, our heavenly Father, at the commencement of another Sabbath teach us to consider the insecurity of our present state of existence, and how speedily we may be called upon to change it for one of eternity; so teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom; and may Thy Word of truth so effect a change in our inward parts that we, through its spirit and life, may be made wise unto salvation.

We desire to bless and praise Thy holy name for the institution of the Sabbath; it places before us in faint outline the joys of Thy heavenly kingdom, and enables us, even in this our day of probation, to enjoy a perception of that rest which remaineth for the people of God. It induces serious and devout frames of mind, and fills us with that tranquillity and peace which enables us to devote our affections and thoughts unto Thy service, and thus prepares us to receive those holy influences by which alone we can be quickened in the divine life. We have indeed great and abundant cause to admire and adore Thee for the institution of the Sabbath, not merely because it gives rest to the body, but because it blesses us with a foretaste of those divine delights which await us in Thy kingdom above. Lord, help us to spend it with true devotion, and in Thy love and fear. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SABBATH EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, King of kings and Lord of lords, enable us to become living members of Thy Church on earth. Make us kings and priests unto Thee. May the kingdom of our own minds be governed by Thy love and wisdom. May the truths we acquire a knowledge of from Thy Word, be constantly before us, exhorting us to a life of holiness, so that we sin not in thought, word, or deed. From this moment, O Lord, we beseech Thee, aid us to form our hearts and lives anew, and to sanctify every engagement into which we may enter by a living principle of religion. May we all become preachers of Thy righteousness, not in word, but in power. May our religion be unto us, like Thyself, an *Omnipresent*. May it permeate every thought and affection of our souls. May we teach others by our own obvious example, by shunning all evils as sins against Thee, and living a life according to thy divine precepts. May every temptation to indulge in crime be resisted. May we never overreach or oppress those who are in situations subordinate to ourselves, but may integrity, moderation, and charity govern our whole conduct, and render us of the happy number of those who, by doing their duty to men, "glorify their Father which is in heaven."

Lord, hear our prayers, we beseech Thee, strengthen our good resolutions, and perfect us in every good word and work, for Thy name and mercy sake. Into Thy hands we commend our spirits. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, our heavenly Lord and Saviour, at the commencement of another week we come before Thee and humble ourselves in Thy divine presence.

Lord, pardon us our iniquities, we beseech Thee; for if Thou be strict to mark our many follies and vanities, we must be left without hope. If Thou shouldst mark iniquity, who could stand in Thy presence? O Lord, what have we to hope for? Truly our hope is in Thee. Let Thy Word revive us, we beseech Thee, and pour into our souls the graces and influences of Thy Holy Spirit, that the old man with his affections and

lusts may be put away, and the new man formed after Thee, O blessed Jesus, in righteousness and true holiness, may be put on; that old things may pass away and all become new within us.

Thou who hast commanded us to hate the thing that is evil, excite within us, we beseech Thee, a perfect hatred against whatever is contrary to Thy holy will as revealed in Thy divine Word, and O assist us that we may delight ourselves in Thy commandments, walking before Thee righteously, soberly, and circumspectly, setting Thee, O Lord, constantly before us, and adorning the doctrine of Thee, our God and Saviour, in all things.

Lord, we pray Thee that the duties of this day may be sanctified to Thy glory and to the good of our fellow-creatures. Enable us to be humble, thankful, and contented in the sphere of life allotted to us, and unto Thee will we render all honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, give unto us a portion of that corn, the bread of life, which giveth life to the world, and that wine which elevates the thoughts to Thee and fills them with the living principles of wisdom, and may each thought of our souls be kept living by its own pure principle of truth, and each affection be constantly vivified by that love which is as the bread of life, and which, if continually exercised, shall impart unto us the *blessing of "life for evermore."*

O Thou who hast instructed us, when we pray, to enter into our closet, and when we have shut the door, to pray to Thee, our Father, which is in secret: help us, we beseech Thee, at this time to withdraw all our thoughts and affections from the world and to elevate them to a contemplation of Thee, of Thy divine perfections, and of the glory of Thy heavenly kingdom. May we be dead unto the world, and alive only unto Thee. From all anxiety for the future, O Lord, deliver us, and give us experience of the truth of the words, "Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." May our intercourse with Thee, the Father of our spirits, be sweet and refreshing, and may we rise from our knees with the sweet assurance that Thou hast blessed us with Thy presence and filled us with Thy Spirit.

Lord, we humbly resign our spirits into Thy gracious keeping. Beneath the shadow of Thy wings may we repose in safety, at peace with ourselves, with Thee, O Lord, and with all our fellow-creatures; may we lay ourselves down and feel the devout assurance that Thou wilt give us sleep, and permit us again to enter upon our various duties until, made perfect by suffering, we may enter into eternal rest and peace. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, we confess that Thou art omniscient. Thine eye, in our most wayward wanderings, is bent upon us, and while we madly pursue our evil courses, Thou art in pity looking upon us, and in

Thy Word expostulating with us : "*How shall I give thee up?*" O Lord, we beseech Thee, pardon our iniquities ; "Turn us unto Thee, and so shall we be turned ; yea, turn us again, O Lord God of hosts, cause Thy face to shine, and we shall be saved." May the fear of Thee constantly restrain us from doing evil ; and may Thy love abide in us, and be the means of inducing a devout submission to Thy will.

O God, wheresoever Thou art among men, there Thy Church is ; and Thou art willing to establish Thyself with man individually as with the Church collectively. May we never lose sight of Thy divine presence. There are times when Thou appearest to hide Thy face from us ; times when neither comfort nor protection appear to be near to us. But these are only appearances, for Thou art never absent from us ; it is when we sin and turn to evil gratifications that we turn from Thee and then imagine Thou hast forsaken us. Lord, teach us ever to seek Thy face, so shall we ever be directed by Thy providence. Thou wilt lift up the light of Thy countenance upon us, and we shall be saved. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY EVENING.

LORD God of heaven and earth, Thou hast exhorted us to learn of Thee. O may we ever have before us Thy divine words, and apply them,—"*I was an hungred and ye gave me meat, thirsty and ye gave me drink, sick and in prison and ye visited me, naked and ye clothed me ; forasmuch as ye did it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye did it unto me.*"

Assist us to live up to the spirit and life of these divine words. May we not trifle with the opportunities daily afforded us of doing good, but may we be watchful for opportunities of glorifying Thee in our bodies and in our spirits, which are Thine.

Most merciful Lord and Saviour, we desire to thank Thee that Thou hast restrained and upheld us by the right hand of Thy righteousness. Out of many dangers Thou hast safely brought us, and the difficulties which have crossed our path Thou hast enabled us to surmount. Not a day passes but Thy mercy is ever new towards us. O may we strive so to serve Thee that an inward perception of peace may be felt, that we may, with humble reverence, and gratitude feel that blessedness which has brought us to perfect resignation to Thy will ; that our transgressions may be forgiven, our sins covered, and our iniquities not imputed unto us.

Lord, we glorify Thee for the privilege we have now enjoyed, and we commit our souls into Thy hands. Deal with us as Thou seest fit. Thou canst not do otherwise than well. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

OLORD Jesus Christ, Thou hast exhorted us to take heed and beware of covetousness ; for covetousness, we are assured by an apostle, is idolatry. We confess we have loved our own selfish delights more than to do Thy will. Our hearts are lifted up by vanity ; we exult in our

knowledge; we cherish those luxuries which chain the soul in sensuality; we are covetous, and all covetousness is idolatry; we make a pretence of honouring Thy church and kingdom, when yet all this results from self-love; and as whatsoever we love forms the chief object of our regard, so do we, living in a Christian land, and partaking of Christian privileges, yet dwell by our carnal delights in the midst of a wicked and adulterous generation of impure affections and depraved thoughts.

O Lord God our Saviour, again we implore Thee to pardon our iniquities, for they are great. Take away our stony hearts and give us hearts of flesh, and teach us to surrender our thoughts and affections to Thy divine government. Give us to see the necessity of obedience to Thy divine precepts; to love Thee with *all* our hearts, with *all* our souls, and with *all* our strength; and grant that this day may be as the beginning of a new period of our existence, in which we may love, honour, and obey thee henceforth and for ever. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, who hast encouraged us to draw near to Thee, promising that whatever we ask in Thy name Thou wilt do it; with such encouragement, we pray Thee to render us patient in well-doing; keep us steadfast in contending against our corruptions, and strengthen us by the arms of the hands of the mighty God of Jacob, so that we may at last obtain that crown of glory which fadeth not away.

Lord, we desire to praise and magnify Thy holy name for all the blessings we have this day enjoyed. Thou hast still afforded us time for repentance. We have been blessed with health, and have had all our necessities amply satisfied: Thou hast given us bread to eat and raiment to put on. We dwell in the midst of our family, and our kindred and friends increase the comforts and pleasures of bodily existence. O God, accept our humble thanks, and as long as Thou seest fit to continue us in our present spheres of use, may we with gratitude and thankfulness enjoy without abusing our privileges. Still, O Lord, may we have our loins girded, and our lamps trimmed, and we ourselves as servants who wait for our Lord's coming. May we bind around us the principles of truth and goodness. May our wills be as the lamps of our souls, filled with the oil of a divine charity, and ever ready to be ignited by the light of heavenly truth. So shall charity and faith in union be unto us as the lamp to our feet and the light to our path, to guide us from this world to the heavens. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, Thy Word declares unto us that evil shall slay the wicked; help us, we beseech Thee, to conquer our besetting sins; help us to subdue our craving after the world and its delights, and to acquire tempers and dispositions which shall adorn the name we bear. Weak and powerless in ourselves, Lord, we trust only on Thy

name, knowing that the name of the God of Jacob can alone defend us. O impress upon us the truth that we can do nothing of ourselves.

Lord, we humbly look up to Thee this morning for all needful supplies of grace; that as our day is, so may our strength be. Weak and impotent in ourselves Thou only canst fight our battles for us, and overcome the enemies by which we are surrounded. In Thy name, O Lord, we desire to go forth to the duties of another day, and under a deep sense of our responsibility we would place ourselves under the divine protection of Thee alone; for except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain. O God, make us with diligent industry to perform all our duties. If covetousness arise to tempt us from our integrity, may Thy precept, "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself," convince us of the evil we would commit. With a desire to maintain our integrity, and with our humble prayer that the spirit of Thy truth may be at all times near to help us, Lord, we go forth again into the world. Bless Thou the labour of our hands. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, we are reminded by Thine apostle that "eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, nor hath it entered into the heart of man to conceive, the things that God hath prepared for them that love Him." We glorify Thee, O Lord, that even when we pass from this our natural state, there shall be a succession of changes and spiritual vicissitudes, which shall but add to and increase the sum of our happiness, and continue so to increase to all eternity.

How bountiful art Thou to us, our Creator, our Saviour, our God! How constant is the succession of delights offered for our enjoyment even in this world! How unbounded is Thy divine benevolence; how abundant are Thy gracious gifts! Thou conductest us through paths of verdure; flowers spring up beneath our feet, fragrance perfumes the air, and all these mercies are bestowed upon us without our care and anxiety, and to teach us to do our duty, and always rely upon Thy protecting providence. O who would be anxious for the future, if he did but consider in his heart that the same God who crowneth the year with His goodness is the tender Father of the whole human race, and will be our guide even unto death. May we consider the lilies of the field; and if our God so clothed them, shall He not much more clothe us? Lord, make us grateful for the blessings we receive, and assist us to subdue our repining spirits, that we mourn not for those things of which we have been deprived, but remember that as the spring discloses a succession of flowers, so do our lives experience a succession of mercies, and the mercies of the Lord are ever new unto us. Lord, we thank Thee for this day's enjoyment, and we resign our spirits again into Thy divine hands. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, it is our duty to wait all the days of our appointed time, till our change come, yet are we encouraged to look on-

ward to that happy period when we shall become dwellers in the mansions of Thy blessedness, where we shall see more clearly into the wonders of Thy love and beneficence. O Lord Jesus Christ, as the wonders of Thy divine wisdom become more and more perceptible, as we become spiritually-minded, and as no one can be initiated into the mysteries of the divine love, except as the divine wisdom lead and instruct ("for no man cometh to the Father, but by Jesus Christ the Son"), we pray that our hearts may be so drawn unto Thee, that our affections may so constantly desire communion with Thee, that there be nothing to obstruct Thy mighty and blessed influence from entering into and possessing our souls, so that by it we may be enabled more clearly to discern between good and evil, between truth and falsehood; and thus, as Thy love possesses our wills, we may be endowed with power to contend against our evils, while our understandings, enlightened by Thy wisdom, shall disclose to us all the fallacies and subtleties of that which is false and erroneous; and through the influences of Thy Spirit we shall be rendered more submissive to Thy divine government and laws.

Look upon us, O Lord, we beseech Thee, during this day, protect and guard us from evil, and help us to keep Thee continually before our eyes, and grant that, as dutiful children, we may be obedient to all Thy ordinations, and feel that nothing can in reality injure us while we are under Thy divine protection. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, save us, we beseech Thee, from the fascinations and allurements of the world. If presumption did not make wicked men insane, how could they lift up their voice against their Maker? It is "the fool that says in his heart, There is no God." O keep us from this spirit of pride and foolishness. Let not Satan have dominion over us; but by the power of Thy truth may we be able to put to silence the attacks of all our spiritual enemies.

Lord, we thank Thee for the gift of Thy holy word, and we pray Thee make us very grateful for the means taken to impart spiritual instruction unto us. While it is the duty of every head of a family so to rule his own house, that the fear of the Lord may be by all known and felt as the beginning of wisdom, it is the duty of all to be grateful for the particular instruction of those persons whom Thou, O God, hast permitted to watch over and instruct us; may we respect the pastor and the office he fills; may we listen with meekness to his admonitions, and repent of our evils, as he successively places those evils before us, remembering that he watches over our souls as one that must give account, that he may do it with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable unto us; and while he faithfully ministers unto us in spiritual things, O Lord, we pray Thee, give us hearts that we may help him in those which are temporal: "let him that is taught make his teacher partaker of all," remembering that he has no inheritance among his brethren, that Thy providence is his inheritance, and that what we render unto him we render unto Thee, O Lord. Grant us, O Lord, we beseech Thee, these holy and heavenly tempers, for Thine own name sake. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY MORNING.

O LORD, let Thy will be our will. "Blessed are the people who hear the joyful sound of Thy truth; they shall walk in the light of Thy countenance; in Thy name shall they rejoice all the day, and in Thy righteousness shall they be exalted, for Thou art the glory of their strength, and in Thy name shall their horn be exalted."

O may we this day experience the inestimable blessings which flow from an entire surrender of our souls to Thy guidance. May we taste and see that the Lord is good; may we feel the blessings of those who put their trust in Him. As we engage in our temporal duties, may the fear of Thee keep us from that which is evil. May a principle of conscience pervade our every thought, word, and deed. May the property of our employers be sacred in our eyes; may we waste neither the time nor the substance that is intrusted to us; but may we be diligent in business, labouring with our hands, not with eye-service as men pleasers, but as the servants of Thee, O Lord Jesus Christ, doing Thy will from the heart; and may the substance of our earthly employers be blessed and increased, that they may have wherewithal to feed the hungry, to assist and comfort the weak, and to be useful as stewards in Thy hand, rendering to every man his due, and adorning the doctrine of Thee, our God and Saviour, in all things. Finally, O Lord, lift up the light of Thy countenance upon our engagements. May they be "begun, continued, and ended in Thee." Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY EVENING.

LORD, as the works of Thy hands speak to us the language of praise and adoration, the Word of Thy truth urges us onward to acquire the knowledge of our spiritual and eternal destiny.

O may we consecrate ourselves, soul and body, to Thy service. When our affections and thoughts are offered unto Thee, chastened by a sense of the unworthiness of the offering; when we desire nothing so much as to be led, guided, and directed by Thy providence, submitting ourselves unto Thee in all things, and knowing no will but Thine, then "we may eat our bread with joy, and drink our wine with a merry heart," because "Thou, Lord, wilt accept our works." And to whose care can we with greater certainty of safety commit ourselves? The eye of Thy providence, O Lord, oversees all our actions, watches over all our motions, tells all our steps; and since Thou art pleased thus to notice us, how great ought to be the pleasure we should feel to walk with Thee, in whom alone we live, and move, and have our being! Lead us, therefore, O Lord, we beseech Thee, to what end it pleaseth Thee; with grateful and humble duty we resign ourselves to be disposed of by Thee, and desire to wait patiently and thankfully the issue of Thy divine dispensations. For all the benefits and blessings of the past week, O Lord, we desire to adore and praise Thee. And now, Lord, as we retire to rest, may our thoughts repose on Thy goodness. If permitted to behold the coming Sabbath, may it be unto us a season of spiritual refreshment, of peace, love, and joy, through the influence of Thy Holy Spirit. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TWENTY-SECOND WEEK.—SABBATH MORNING.

GREAT Lord of all things, who hast brought life and immortality to light by the gospel, we hail the return of this day of rest, commemorative alike of the glorification of Thy humanity, and of the assurance by Thy resurrection, that because Thou livest we shall live also; that where Thou art, there also shall Thy servant be; and that with Thee, every one that doeth Thy will, to him the acceptable year has come.

We approach Thee this morning to offer our humble but grateful duty, and to begin this day by a complete and affectionate surrender of all our powers to Thy service. O sanctify our humble offering, and grant that our various talents and faculties may be so occupied this day, that it may be a redeeming point from which to date our progress in the walk of the regeneration. As our duties have been commenced by the reading of Thy word, O give us understanding that we may keep Thy law, yea, that we may observe it with our whole heart. May the wonders of Thy redeeming love be this day set before us in new and attractive colours; and grant while our understandings are improved by the truths of wisdom drawn from Thy imperishable fountain of life, the Word, our affections may be warmed, expanded, and elevated to a more devoted and purified love of Thee, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

SABBATH EVENING.

ALmighty God, the father and friend of Thy people, we have been privileged this day by Thy unspeakable goodness, which in Thy Word has been made manifest, and in Thy temple has been declared. We have been admonished to take heed to our ways, and not to place our trust and confidence in the mere performance of external duties, for while these may be faithfully performed, the heart may still be far from Thee. We have been exhorted to hold communion with ourselves, to inquire what are our hopes, and upon what they are based, to be mindful of the duties which belong to the spiritual Christian, and of the fidelity with which they must be performed. We have had placed before us the two gates, through one or other of which we are now entering,—the strait and narrow, or the wide and broad; the one leading to eternal blessedness, the other to eternal misery.

O God, assist us in entering upon this important journey: no longer may we halt in our progress. Suffer us not to be misled by the sophistries of our own minds. Too frequently do we inwardly ejaculate, "Why this straitness; in what are we worse than others?" Lord, assist us to expel these insinuations; they are the false prophets who clothe themselves in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. O help us to keep in the straight and narrow way, which terminates in everlasting life. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

MONDAY MORNING.

GRACIOUS and merciful Saviour, Thou hast redeemed our souls from death, and this morning we rise with renewed strength to enter

upon the duties of another week. Our chief duty is to work out our salvation with fear and trembling. But Thou, Lord, hast instructed us how we may best perform this duty. It is not in neglecting our appointed duties in the world, but in performing them with fidelity, and in sanctifying them by a principle of conscience. While our religion instructs us that our primary affections and thoughts must be settled on Thee, it shows us how best we can perform this acceptable service: by engaging with a principle of conscience in those duties which show our love to our neighbour; for if we love not our neighbour whom we have seen, Thy Word enquires—how shall we love Thee whom we have not seen? In the stations in life in which Thou hast placed us, still, Lord, we depend on Thee for aid to perform our duties; help us to do so with a single eye to Thy glory. Whatever may be our state; if we enjoy prosperity, and if riches increase, set not our hearts upon them; and if trial and suffering come upon us, and the world's perplexities increase, may we still look to Thee the author and finisher of our faith, and know that Thou art a very present help in trouble. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY EVENING.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Lord God our Saviour, who hast invited all men to approach Thee, and make known their wants before Thee, promising that whatsoever they should ask in Thy name, Thou wouldst bestow it upon them, we humbly approach Thee this evening; we pray that we may be so instructed as to ask for nothing but that which shall enable us to secure the benefits and blessings of everlasting life.

Thou, O Lord, hast exhorted us "to be prudent as serpents." While we pray for this prudence, may we so receive and exercise it that it may be rendered available for securing the blessings of eternity. May we by this prudence be led to seek first the means of acquiring all the benefits of Thy salvation. May we learn from the prudence of the children of the world, who are anxious only to amass treasure and enjoy its fruits, to be equally diligent in the pursuit of our salvation, and in so important a duty, leave nothing to opinion or example, but keeping Thee ever before us, work out our salvation with fear and trembling.

Hitherto, O Lord, we confess, with shame and confusion of face, our prudence has been of a merely worldly kind, and when we look back upon our past doings we are struck with wonder at our folly. We have been too much and too long in pursuit of the subjects of the world of matter, to the neglect of those of the world of spirit. O help us for the future to labour for that inheritance which shall endure to everlasting life. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY MORNING.

O LORD God Almighty, Thy service is a service of freedom, and well demands an obedience to all that Thou hast ordained: for Thou hast ordered nothing but what is essential to our well being, and if we

are obedient to Thy high behests, such obedience breaks the chains of sin, and plucks asunder the fetters of the powers of darkness.

To Thee, therefore, O Lord, we humbly look for direction, and in the power of Thy truth would we pursue our way, without the fear or the favour of men. O keep us from adopting those prejudices which long usage has presumed even to invest in the garments of Thy truth itself, so that the holy garments of righteousness have been polluted by the unholy purposes to which they have been applied.

Lord, Thou hast declared that if we confess our sins, Thou art faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. But who can enumerate all his transgressions? when we reflect, they crowd so thickly upon us that we are overwhelmed with their number, and should absolutely despair but that we know that Thy love is greater than our evil, and if we turn unto Thee, Thou wilt have mercy upon us, and abundantly pardon us.

O Lord, we are sensible of our sins, and know that unless we repent we shall all likewise perish. Help us, therefore, to bring ourselves into that salutary frame of mind which seeks the means to resist evil for the future; and unto Thee will we render all the honour and all the praise for ever and ever. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY EVENING.

O ALMIGHTY God, upon whom all creatures depend, to whom all hearts are open, and from whom no secrets can possibly be hid, with the return of evening we approach Thee in the spirit of humble thanksgiving. We would not be unmindful of the daily and hourly blessings showered down upon us by Thy beneficent providence. Thou feedest us with food convenient for us; Thou deliverest us from the arrow which flieth by day, and from the pestilence which walketh in darkness; thou renewest the health and strength of our bodies, and when wearied by our labour, Thou providest seasons of repose, whereby we are again rendered active and fit to pursue our varied avocations. "Thou hast preserved our souls from death, our eyes from tears, and our feet from falling."

Lord, give unto us, we beseech Thee, singleness of eye and purity of heart, so that we may be able to perform our duty in simplicity and to walk before Thee in uprightness and integrity. Teach us to hold a daily conference with ourselves. On every passage of Thy Word may we exercise our thinking powers. While we set Thee before our eyes, while Thy example is at all times consulted, and while, in everything we do, we strive to learn of Thee, and do as Thou wouldst do, we must be ever safe. No good thing wilt Thou withhold from us, and Thy goodness and mercy will continue to follow us for ever. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

MOST merciful and glorified Lord God, our Saviour and Redeemer, we approach Thee this morning under a devout sense of Thine immac-

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ulate purity and perfection, and with a solemn recollection of Thy divine injunctions, "Be ye holy as I am holy," "Be ye perfect, as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."

Thou wouldst have us perfected by the truth; Thy Word is truth. Teach us therefore, to love Thy Word, and to bring ourselves under a willing obedience to its divine precepts, for only by this obedience can we hope to acquire that purity of heart which shall enable us to see Thy face. And upon the pure Thou hast pronounced Thy divine benediction, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."

Wash us, O Lord, we beseech Thee, from our iniquity, and cleanse us from all our pollutions. Create within us clean hearts, renew right spirits within us, and lead us in the way everlasting.

Holy and reverend is Thy name, O Lord; O may we reverence everything which pertains to Thy divine attributes and perfections, and never presume to sully by misrepresentation any of the excellences of Thy perfect nature. May our love for Thee be the all-absorbing affection of our souls, and as we profess to love Thee, may we be endowed with grace to hate the thing that is evil. May Thy fear be ever before our eyes, that we sin not. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

ALMIGHTY God, in whose presence there is fulness of bliss, and at whose right hand are pleasures for evermore, at the close of another day, enable us, who compose this family, to draw near to Thy sacred person, and to experience the blessedness which Thy presence never fails to communicate to the humble, the penitent, and the poor in spirit.

We cannot draw near to Thee as though we deserved Thy favour, or as though we had this day walked blamelessly before Thee. We are conscious of many deviations from the path of rectitude, and we fear that our best performed duties have been too much tinged with our prevailing selfishness. Therefore, O Lord, do we desire to humble ourselves before Thee, and to implore Thy pardon for our manifold sins and wickedness. If we should say we are free from sin, the truth would not be in us; but if we confess our sins, Thou art faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Have mercy upon us!

O Lord, have mercy upon us, and endow us with Thy good Spirit, that we may resist evil for the future. O may we be in a constant state of watchfulness. May we observe everywhere the dangers which surround us, and be very vigilant in strengthening the things which remain, and which are ready to perish, for our works have not been perfect before Thee. In the silent watches of this night, should wakefulness be upon us, may our meditations be of Thee, and may the silence of the night render us more earnest in prayer to Thee. These things we ask for Thine own name's sake, O Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

THURSDAY MORNING.

MOST holy, most righteous, and adorable Lord God, the return of the morning calls for our devout acknowledgments and gratitude, not only because of the blessings we have enjoyed during the night season by sound and healthy sleep, but because of Thy divine protection; for it is Thou, O Lord, who hast protected us against the assaults of our spiritual enemies, and by Thy goodness alone are we permitted to behold the light of another day; thus is the truth of Thy divine words ever in course of verification: "Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain."

O God, while we know that Thine eye neither slumbers nor sleeps, may we be watchful over our own conduct, that the great end of our being be not defeated. We are indeed too prone to fall into evil and to prefer evil to good. A spiritual leprosy seems to have attached itself unto us from which there can be no deliverance without an abandonment of evil and an humble and penitent return unto Thee. O impress us with the spiritual meaning of the words, "Many lepers were in Israel in the time of Eliseus the prophet, but none of them was cleansed save Naaman the Syrian." O Lord, if Thou wilt, Thou canst make us clean, and if we repent, Thy divine Word will be uttered, Go in peace, and be whole of thy plague. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY EVENING.

O THOU "who art of purer eyes than to behold iniquity," before whom the ungodly cannot stand, and whose tender love and watchful providence is ever seeking to turn evil from man, behold us, Thy sinful creatures, now bowing in prayer before Thee. O look upon us in our low estate, for we have estranged ourselves from Thee; we have nearly destroyed ourselves by our iniquities, and if Thou shouldest cease to be gracious, we have no hope of pardon and salvation.

But Thou art never weary in befriending us; Thy love knows no ebbing tide; Thou art good and doest good, and notwithstanding all the evils we have committed, Thy goodness and mercy follows, and will continue to follow us all the days of our life.

Thou didst create us in Thine own image and likeness, and didst so endow us with rationality as to enable us to hold communion with Thyself, and to feel and know the blessedness of so heavenly an intercourse. But we turned to ourselves, forsook Thy communion, made light of Thy most sacred injunctions, and turning from Thee, the fountain of living waters, hewed out to ourselves cisterns, broken cisterns, that hold no water; we separated ourselves from Thee, and instead of walking with Thee in the path of life, turned backward into the way of death. Lord, help us, save us from our sins, for without Thine aid we must perish. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY MORNING.

O GOD of mercy, who seest the sorrows of Thy people, who knowest their sufferings, and putteth all their tears into Thy bottle, hear the prayers of Thy creatures now kneeling in Thy presence, and in the day of our trouble hide us under the shadow of Thy wings, in the secret chambers of Thy pavilion, and teach us to rely upon the name of the God of Israel for our defence. Thou hast indeed been our defence throughout all generations.

We have again experienced the power of Thy protecting providence during the night season, and Thou hast enabled us to awake with renewed health and strength. May Thy holy name be magnified, and may we, and all who experience Thy mercy, say continually, The Lord be magnified.

When we reflect on the immensity of Thy greatness, we are constrained humbly to ask, Who by searching can find out God? Who can know the perfection of the Almighty? Above the heaven of heavens, what can we know, and extending to the utmost bounds of the everlasting hills, how can we understand. Yet does the Lord our God accommodate Himself to the humble, and the wisdom of infinite perfection maketh itself known to the poor in spirit, developing the invisible things of God, and making them clearly seen; being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead. O how wonderful is Thy loving-kindness unto us, equalled only by the extent of Thy wisdom, which ordereth and arrangeth for us, and for all the families of man dwelling in the universe of worlds. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY EVENING.

O THOU whose name alone is holy and reverend, help us, we beseech Thee, to approach Thy divine majesty in that lowly and reverent frame which becomes creatures dependent upon Thy bounty; and may a consideration of the true import which Thy name implies, bring us to Thy footstool in a spirit of piety and serious reflection, which shall show how glorious is the appellation we bear, and how justly careful we should at all times be not to compromise so great a dignity. Lord, we desire to thank Thee that we are created in Thine image, after Thy likeness. Our external form is one of dignity and of use, and as we exercise the powers Thou hast given us to the glory of Thy name and the good of our fellow-creatures, our internal becomes formed after Thy likeness in righteousness and true holiness. O impress upon us the necessity of so looking unto Thee for aid, that we may become holy as Thou art holy; and of this we are taught to feel assured, that as we draw nigh unto Thee, Thou wilt draw nigh unto us; Thou wilt lift up the light of Thy countenance upon us, Thou wilt cause Thy face to shine, and we shall be saved. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY MORNING.

O LORD God Almighty, merciful and gracious and of great goodness, we approach Thy mercy-seat this morning, we thank Thee for the blessing of sound and refreshing sleep, for the new vigour which we have acquired by our rest, for the strength which enables us to go forth to our work and to our labour.

We pray, O Lord, for Thy blessing upon the duties of this day: for strength and perseverance, that we may not be slothful in business; for grace, that we may be just, upright, and sincere in our callings; and for a well-regulated mind, that no improper levity may disgrace the sacred name of Christian which we bear.

O Lord, as Thy Word opens up before us the deceit and corruption of our hearts, we are led to see the necessity of more devoutly and humbly waiting upon Thee, that we may not fall victims to our own lusts or be ensnared and entangled in our own vices. Our earthly, or natural man, has become corrupt, our desires are ill regulated, and all our thoughts are set in us to do evil; even our holiest actions will not stand investigation as to the purity of their origin, for when we do good, it originates frequently in the expectation of receiving as much again. O how difficult do we find the practice of that self-denial which inculcates, "Love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again, and your reward shall be great in the heavens." Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY EVENING.

O HEAVENLY Lord and Saviour, our tender and beneficent Parent, again has time revolved and brought us to the conclusion of another week; and with the cessation of bodily toil, we now draw near to Thy footstool, and around our family altar we kneel in humble gratitude that we may express our thankfulness for the mercies of the past week, and prepare ourselves for the enjoyments and privileges of the coming Sabbath. O how wonderfully hast Thou adapted all created objects to our necessities, so that there is nothing we behold but that either contributes to support our bodily frames, or to delight and recreate us by their various qualities. For us, the world and all it contains has been created, and the dominion thereof is delivered into our hands. The glorious orb of day, as it now sinks in the west, having run its course of use, brings into being the varied products which afford seed for the sower and bread for the eater; and all the multiplied forms of beauty which Thou hast created reflect but the glories of that luminary which Thou hast made to rule the day, while his own sublime appearance is but a faint image of Thine infinite perfections. O that we may feel the warmth of Thy heavenly love in our wills, as the rays of the natural sun fall warm upon our persons! O that the light of Thy truth may chase away the clouds of error from our minds, and fill us with the good of Thy love! Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TWENTY-THIRD WEEK.—SABBATH MORNING.

O LORD, Thou hast made the Sabbath for man; and hast clothed the world with beauty, that he may admire it, and make it the model wherewith to beautify his own mind. How gloriously hast Thou diversified the earth; how many are the mediums through which Thou speakest to our souls! The loveliness of flowers, their fragrance, which constitute their use, their almost infinitude of form, and the short-lived existence of all of them, remind us of the truth of Thy word, that "man that is born of a woman is of few days; he cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down." And how frequently are we instructed by observation, that the more beautiful a flower is, the more brief is its existence. O how instructive is the lesson which the brevity of the life of flowers and the decay of their exquisite beauty reads to us. "The grass withereth, the flower fadeth; but the goodness of the Lord endureth for ever."

May we, therefore, not consider the casket, beautiful though it be, of any other value than as enshrouding the jewel of the soul; may we remember that all external endowments and external beauty are perishable; and may we so live that when "the body shall return to the dust as it was," "the soul" may be prepared "to return to God who gave it." O heavenly Father, to Thee we look for protection and guidance through this day. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SABBATH EVENING.

O LORD, we desire to thank Thee that, while Thou hast instructed us through the medium of Thy Word, and by the harmony of sweet sounds delighted our ear, Thou hast also opened before us the beautiful book of creation, and strengthened and invigorated the eye by observing the glorious work of Thy hands. Thus, through our varied senses, hast Thou taught us to reverence and adore Thee. And so mindful hast Thou been of us, that the earth is adorned with beauty which fatigues not the sight, but which discloses new tints of ever-living green, and which, by their varying shades, adapt themselves to the sight, and fall upon the eye with all the freshness and novelty of never ending variety. O how marvellously hast Thou formed the earth and the world! Heaven and earth is full of the majesty of Thy glory. None of Thy creatures are unprovided for. With what tenderness and foresight hast Thou provided for man and beast. How bountifully dost Thou vary the seasons; and we see a fulfilment of Thy promise, that while the earth abideth, summer and winter, spring-time and harvest, day and night cease not. The plants which nourish us, the grain which produceth bread for man, the rest which we enjoy, the labour which tends to invigorate and strengthen us,—all remind us of the superintending power of Thy providence, and call for our gratitude and adoration. For all these blessings, O Lord, our Creator, Redeemer, and Regenerator, we bless and praise Thy holy name, now and for evermore. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, the heavens announce Thee as King of kings and Lord of lords. All the heavenly bodies are subject to Thy control, and all their motions are regulated by Thy statutes. The influences of Thy divine benevolence go forth as a copious stream unceasingly; and not a day transpires but new blessings are bestowed upon us. O what a debt of gratitude we owe Thee! what can we offer unto Thee? we would attempt the song of praise, and with the rejoicing man of old exclaim, "I will sing unto the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise unto my God while I have any being."

For that protection which has watched over us during the past night, for the refreshing sleep which has rendered us again strong to labour, for the comforts of bodily existence, and for our food and raiment and comfortable habitation, O Lord, we desire to thank Thee; and we would commit ourselves to Thy wise direction this day, and humbly trust for that parental guidance, without which we must wander from the way of holiness. Erring as we constantly are from the way of Thy commandments, it is because Thy tender compassions fail not that we are not consumed. Thou hast not dealt with us after our sins, neither rewarded us according to our iniquities. O Lord, we desire to bless and praise Thee for all Thy tender love towards us. O God, Thou art our God, Thou wilt be our guide even unto death. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, we thank Thee that Thou hast watched over us this day and brought us again to the footstool of Thy throne. "O that there were such an heart within us, that we might fear Thee always and keep Thy commandments," that it might be well with us!

Our souls indeed dwell in the dust; O quicken us by Thy Word, and grant that the purifying influences of Thy Spirit may work an entire change in our thoughts and affections, so that a new heart, even a heart of flesh, may be given us in exchange for our hard and stony hearts.

We have been permitted to read Thy holy Word, and thus to enjoy conversation with Thee. O help us with reverence to feed upon it, and to call to mind its solemn warnings, that when we are summoned into Thy presence, we may not be, like the foolish virgins, unprepared to meet Thee. As the cares, occupations, and anxieties of this life press upon us, and have a tendency to render us earthly minded, may the reading of Thy Word, the example of Thy prophets and apostles, and above all, the record of Thine own life upon earth, teach us so to render earthly occupations subservient to heavenly uses, that we may be weaned from the cares of the world, and have our affections set upon things above. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, who hast declared that the heart is deceitful above all things, we pray for deliverance from the corruptions of our evil hearts; help us to keep the certainty of another state of being

before us; and give unto us the assurance that our reward will be according to our works. Wean us from the things of this world, and grant us Thy assistance to prepare for eternity.

Lord, we humbly desire to glorify Thee for the blessings of the past night. May the renewal of Thy mercies increase our love to Thee, and may we manifest our gratitude by being more assiduous and useful towards our fellow-creatures. While thanking Thee for the blessings enjoyed during the night season, we would not be unmindful of Thy providence in blessing us during each day, and every day, with food, and in abundantly providing for the temporal wants of us and of all mankind. On every side there is abundance, "*bread enough and to spare,*" and whether in the vegetable or the animal kingdom, we see the hand and adore the wisdom which so bountifully supplies our wants. O Lord, help us to love and serve Thee better.

Be with us, we beseech Thee, through this day; strengthen our hands in the labour Thou hast given us to do, and grant that we may faithfully, zealously, and willingly perform our duties, to the good of Thy creatures and to the glory of Thy holy name. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Redeemer, assist us to look unto Thee for aid, that we may acquire more and more of the temper and spirit by which Thou wert distinguished whilst accomplishing the great work of our redemption.

With an abhorrence of all that is evil, may we steadily contend against it; knowing how frail we are, and how prone to turn aside to evil, may we keep Thee ever before us. "Oh make us meek and lowly of heart;" endue us with patience under suffering, and aid us to acquire perfect resignation to Thy will; teach us to be kind, charitable, and forgiving, even as Thou hast been kind unto us and hast blotted out our transgressions for Thine own name's sake. May anger, envy, jealousy, and discontentment be removed from us, with all malice; and aid us, we beseech Thee, to be true, just, and upright in all our dealings with our fellow-men. Nor would we pray for ourselves alone, but for all the families of the earth. In Thy name may they be blessed. May those who sit in darkness be brought to the light of Thy truth, and may the prophecy of Thy Word find its speedy accomplishment: "In that day the Lord shall be King over all the earth; in that day there shall be one Lord and His name one." Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

THE morning again calls us to Thy footstool, and, O Lord Jesus Christ, we acknowledge that the surest evidences of Thy divine government are the revelation of Thy holy Word, and the effects it produces upon us, by separating the evil from the good, and thus instructing us to choose that good which can never be taken away from us.

May we, each returning day that we are permitted to live in this world,

hail the returning light as a symbol of the spiritual truth which chases away the clouds of night and error, and which causes our minds to be more and more receptive of Thy eternal Word. Grant, O merciful Lord, that this truth may become unto us more and more glorious, shining with more and more brightness unto the perfect day.

O Lord God of our salvation, grant that this truth may be our guide through the dangers of this day; and preserve us safely in every trial with which Thou seest fit to visit us, to make trial of our constancy. Support us in the duties we have to perform, and strengthen us that we may perform them with efficiency, and grant that Thy love may be so shed abroad in our hearts that whatever we engage in may be begun, continued, and ended in Thee, to the glory of Thy holy name. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

O LORD our Saviour, increase our faith, we beseech Thee, and help us to draw near to Thee with pure hearts. Hitherto we have been rather formalists than faithful professors of Thy Word and doctrine, without attending to its spirit and its life. May we from henceforth strive to have Thy law engraved upon our inward parts. May we daily converse with Thee through the medium of Thy Word of truth. May we die unto sin and live unto righteousness, and, forsaking the world and all that pertains to it, lay down our own sinful life, learn of Thee, and follow Thee that we may find life eternal.

O God, who rulest in all the kingdoms of the earth, who by Thy wisdom exaltest and abasest, help us not only with unrepining but with thankful hearts to adore and worship Thee for the providential mercies of this day. Thou hast cared for us, Thou hast watched over us for good. Thy patience with us, Thy longsuffering, Thy forbearance, witnesses to the extent of Thy goodness. It is indeed an everlasting love. Humbled as we feel, and as it is our duty to feel in Thy presence, we cannot sufficiently abase ourselves. O heavenly Father, grant that every member of this family, for the future, may be more devoted to Thy will, and may we serve Thee with greater spirituality, in singleness of eye and in purity of heart. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, again we draw nigh to Thee. As we go forth to our respective duties, there is not an object we pass but reminds us of Thee, our beneficent Parent, and calls for the return of gratitude and love. O how numerous, how great, how glorious are the works of Thy hands! When we look around upon this globe of which we are inhabitants, how prodigious is its magnitude; how numerous are the tribes of animated beings who inhabit it; how vast is the wisdom that could devise subsistence for such multitudes of creatures! Thou openest Thy hand and suppliest the wants of every living creature. All wait upon Thee, that they may receive their meat in due season. That Thou givest them they gather; Thou openest Thine hand and they are filled with

good. But multitudinous as are the species of men and animals on this earth with which we are acquainted, how many more must be altogether unknown to us! How vast are the forests unexplored in which are small and great beasts of which we have no idea; but Thou Lord art acquainted with all, and callest them all by their names.

O Lord, how manifold are Thy works; how divine is the wisdom that planned and the providence which supports such vast multitudes! Such knowledge is too wonderful for us; it is high; we cannot attain to it. In humble adoration we therefore join in the song of Thy inspired one: "Bless the Lord, Oh our souls, and all that is within us bless His holy name." Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, it has been prophecied that the "Gentiles shall come to Thy light, and kings shall assemble to the brightness of Thy rising." May those who have been immersed in darkness behold the light now beaming forth from Thee the glorious Sun of Righteousness, until, convinced that Thou hast again appeared in the glory of Thy Word, they may be enabled with holy joy to exclaim, "Lo, this is our God, we have waited for Him, and He will save us: this is the Lord, we have waited for Him, we will rejoice and be glad in His salvation." Lord, we pray Thee that all the families of the earth may be brought to see and to acknowledge that there is no God else beside Thee, a just God, and a Saviour; there is none beside Thee. Hasten the fulfilment of prophecy, we beseech Thee, when the knowledge of Thee shall go forth as brightness, and the salvation of Thee as a lump that burneth; when all shall know Thee from the least even unto the greatest, until the remotest tribes of the earth join in the devout acknowledgment that there is one God, and His name One; and that there is no other name under heaven whereby man can be saved than Thine, O glorified Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

O Lord, again we surrender our souls and bodies to Thy gracious keeping; watch over us and preserve us during this night, we beseech Thee. And grant Thy blessing to our relations and friends, to the ministers of Thy truth, and to all the families of mankind. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY MORNING.

O LORD Almighty, our heavenly Father, with chastened thoughts of Thy divine goodness, O may we never approach Thee otherwise than in a spirit of repentance and gratitude. Reflecting on Thy greatness and immensity, may we never approach Thee otherwise than in a spirit of humility; may the greatness of Thy majesty be ever before us, and may the glory of Thy character teach us to stand in awe that we sin not.

With reverence we would approach and kneel in Thy presence this morning; and we would pray for Thy blessing on the engagements of this day, and for the guidance of Thy good Spirit, that all our doings may be done in charity. Thy holy Word which we have this morning

read, encourages us with the assurance, that if the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts, and turn unto Thee with full purpose of heart and life, Thou wilt abundantly pardon him. Lord, we acknowledge with gratitude the tenderness of Thy compassion and the unwearyed solicitude which is displayed towards us; weak and feeble as we are, without Thee we can do nothing. Help us, therefore, we beseech Thee, that we may struggle successfully against our iniquities. Help us to set Thee ever before us, and with Thy presence in view, we shall then be able to fight against our corruptions, and be sustained in the fight by Thy omnipresent power. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY EVENING.

O LORD Almighty, our heavenly Father, we confess our sins before Thee: we lean too much to the world and its concerns, and we would humbly pray Thee to assist us to overcome them. We confess that our labour to make our calling and election sure is weak and feeble in the extreme. We are languid in the performance of our spiritual duties, even when we appear to be the most devoted.

Most merciful God and Saviour, pardon us we entreat Thee for our past transgressions; and create within us a clean heart, and renew within us a right spirit, and lead us from the eager pursuit of things temporal, that our affections may be placed upon the more solid and enduring realities of eternity. Lord, we are enabled from Thy Word to behold from whence springs our apathy to the things of eternity. We pursue them without preference, our inclinations are averse to their active fulfilment, and instead of seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, it is too frequently the *last* of our occupations. Lord, we thank Thee that the righteous dispensations of Thy providence are ever in constant exercise towards us, and by these dispensations alone are we prevented rushing headlong into eternal misery. We thank Thee that the design and the issue of these dispensations are alike hidden from us; for did we know to what they lead, we should probably oppose them and so cut off ourselves from all hope. With humility, therefore, we adore Thee; we bless the hand that chastens, and we pray that it may effect our ultimate salvation. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, we pray for Thy gentle and peaceable reign on earth; may we seek after it as the sure guide that shall conduct us from this world to the heavens. May we seek after it through all the intrigues of this designing world, until we reach that world where all is openness, truth, and justice. O Lord Jesus Christ, what has the world to bestow, compared with the certain honours of Thy kingdom? The most exalted employments of this world are as nothing, when compared with the humblest employments of heaven. It is better to be a door-keeper in Thy house, O Lord, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.

The prosperities of this world are but honourable anxieties which too

frequently alienate the soul from Thee. The employments of this world are mere slavery if they originate not in the love of Thee and of our neighbour. The titles and dignities of this world are but glittering appendages which rarely have the solidity of virtue to rest upon; and great talents, if unacknowledged as derived from Thee, are but a going down into Egypt for help; and all employments, all titles, all talents, are but as the concealed subtlety of the serpent, unless made conducive to the good of our neighbour as well as to our own salvation. Virtue alone is estimable! Heaven alone is the prize worth striving after! Love to Thee, as the great author of our existence, is the chief of all virtues, and love to our neighbour springs forth from it. To Thee alone, then, O God of love, would we devote this day and every day of our existence. Thee alone, O sovereign Master, would we serve, and Thy imperishable riches would we covet. Help, O help us to acquire them. Without Thee we can do nothing. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY EVENING.

O LORD our heavenly Father, another week has run its course: again we kneel in Thy presence.

Lord, help us to forgive the injuries which may have been unmeritedly bestowed upon us; remembering that if we suffer wrong without resenting it, we open our affections and thoughts for the reception of that blessed influence which overcometh evil with good. Teach us and assist us to lead a pure, upright, and virtuous life. Impart unto us the virtues of pity, clemency, and justice: and while we hate the *thing* that is evil, help us to turn to the man who commits evil, that we may withdraw him from it, and induce him to live the life of righteousness.

Shouldst Thou see fit to raise us to situations of trust and power, may we seek for a model whereby to perform our duties in Thy holy Word. May this be the counsellor we resort to on all occasions, and O grant that an elevated worldly station may never deaden within us the feeling of our duty to Thee. As Joseph was charged with the management of a great kingdom, as he was brought from the dungeon where he was unjustly confined, and because he preferred his integrity to the enjoyments of sin for a season was by Thee elevated to be a prince, and in that condition still feared Thee, so, O Lord, in whatever station we may be placed, may we in patience possess our souls, and serve Thee in singleness of eye and in purity of heart. And now, Lord, we return to our rest; bless all the members of this family, and fill them with Thy love and fear. And hasten the period when all the families of the earth shall in Thy name be blessed. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TWENTY-FOURTH WEEK.—SABBATH MORNING.

ALMIGHTY and eternal Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of the Sabbath, we present ourselves before Thee this morning, and humbly beseech Thee that we may be filled with Thy Spirit, and that our hearts and understandings may be prepared for the privileges Thou art this day

offering for our enjoyment. Thou hast indeed prepared a table for us in our wilderness state, and Thou hast richly stored it with spiritual provision, and invited all to partake of the heavenly banquet. Enable us to approach Thee with reverence and humility, and to acknowledge that Thy mercies are ever new toward us; and no good thing wilt Thou withhold from them that put their trust in Thee.

While we participate in the blessings and privileges of the Sabbath, may our affections and thoughts dwell upon the realities of the eternal world and state, so that we may ever bear in mind that here we have no continuing city; that this is not our rest. As the Word of Thy truth is read in our ears, may it prove mighty to the pulling down of the spiritual wickedness dwelling in our inmost parts. O who shall understand his errors? Cleanse Thou us from secret faults.

May the truths of Thy Word heard this day prepare us for Thy heavenly kingdom. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SABBATH EVENING.

ETERNAL and ever blessed Lord, our most merciful Father, we desire to approach Thy mercy-seat at the close of this another Sabbath. How great has been Thy goodness unto us, and how abundant the privileges we have enjoyed. A day in Thy courts is better than a thousand, and the humblest seat in Thy house is more exalted than to dwell in the palace of kings upon earth.

In opening the Word of Thy truth which Thy servant who ministers to us in spiritual things has made plain before us, how many spiritual beauties hitherto unnoticed have been unfolded! How exhaustless is the treasury of Thy truth, and how well adapted to adorn our souls with true wisdom in time and to eternity! Nor has Thy truth been imparted unto us to dazzle us with its light, or to fill our understandings with wonder by its wisdom; but it has been bestowed for the purpose of enabling us to search our hearts, that by self-examination through its scrutinizing power, it may remove all that is evil and defiled, and prepare the soul to become a living temple in the inmost parts of which Thy perfect love may take up its abode. O Lord of heaven and earth, grant that Thy wisdom may dwell in us richly, that in meekness of wisdom we may apply its heavenly precepts and hate every evil way. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY MORNING.

ADORABLE Creator! the essence of all that is good; uncreate, self-dependent, and infinite! who shall not magnify Thy holy name; who shall not adore Thee for all the wonders Thou hast wrought, and for all the wisdom wherewith Thou hast planned and executed this vast universe? When we look around us and concentrate our thoughts on the glories of Thy handiwork; when we behold the innumerable orbs which revolve in the immensity of space; when we reflect upon the unerring accuracy of the laws which govern them, that they run their

course without confusion, and without endangering or interfering with each other; and when we call to remembrance that there is not one of these many worlds but is watched over and provided for by Thy love,—we are lost in astonishment at Thy marvellous greatness as well as at Thy inexhaustible goodness. O Lord, what is man, that Thou art mindful of him! Thou hast spread before us, in freshness and beauty, the world on which we live. We admire the work of Thy hands. The beauty of Thy creation is ever before us, and the perfection to which everything is brought in the animal and in the vegetable world calls for our adoration and praise; and, as the beauty of the whole calls forth our wonder and admiration, we humbly confess in Thy presence, as the work is thus glorious, how glorious is the divine Creator! He has ordained all for wise and good and useful purposes, and be His holy name adored. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY EVENING.

O LORD God Almighty, merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and of great goodness, the return of the evening brings us again into Thy presence, and the continuance of Thy innumerable benefits calls for our gratitude and thanksgiving. Hitherto Thou hast spared us and blessed us with health and strength: but we know not how soon we may be called to surrender these temporal blessings, and give an account of the opportunities Thou hast afforded us to prepare to meet Thee our God and Saviour.

Lord, we confess our evils: we have erred from Thy ways like lost sheep, and if Thou shouldst mark our iniquities who among us could stand before Thee? We know not how long opportunities may be afforded us for repentance. O how unmindful have we been! how thoughtless of our eternal state! dwelling in a land of natural delights and gratifications, we have entered upon their enjoyment with as much ardour as if we were to live for ever in this world. Lord, pardon us; spare us yet that we may have time to repent, before we go hence, and are no more seen. Impress upon us the uncertainty of all things here below. And may we be rescued from the snares which the enemy of souls spreads for our entanglement and destruction. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY MORNING.

O LORD, give ear to our words, consider our meditation; hearken unto the voice of our cry, our King and our God, for unto Thee will we pray. Our voice shalt Thou hear in the morning, O Lord; in the morning will we direct our prayers unto Thee, and will look up. Thou art the Lord and Giver of life, and there is no blessing needful for us but Thou wilt bestow.

We desire to adore Thee that Thou hast revealed Thyself in human form, and thus approached man in his low estate, and by the glorification of Thy humanity hast opened a new and living way of approach to Thy divine essence or to the Father. We acknowledge that there

is one God and one Mediator (or medium) between God and man, and this medium of approach is Thy divine humanity. In Thee alone have we redemption, even the remission of sins.

Lord, teach us to keep Thee ever before us, and in the midst of a wicked and profligate generation may we pray constantly unto Thee that we may escape being drawn aside of evil. A thousand snares are spread around us, and thousands follow with avidity the things of time and sense, and amidst the pleadings of sensual pleasure, the pursuit of virtue and the pleadings of religion are stifled. O Lord, have mercy upon us, we beseech Thee. Lift up the light of Thy countenance upon us, and we shall be saved. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY EVENING.

LORD God of our salvation, Thou hast conducted us through the toils and perils of another day, and we humbly desire to approach Thee, and to offer up our evening thanksgivings for past mercies, and to pray for the continuance of Thy love towards us.

We have heard Thy voice in Thy Word; we have seen Thee in the wonderful interpositions of Thy providence exercised in our behalf (all undeserving as we are), and while we contemplate Thy purity "we abhor ourselves" for our evils, "and repent in dust and ashes." O Father of mercies, help us to bring ourselves under a devout obedience to Thy will, for "in Thy favour is life," and there is nothing that can be compared with it. Thy mercy is ever new towards us. We praise Thee, O Lord, for Thine estimable love in the work of our redemption. O how infinite must be that love which condescended to take the frailty and imperfection of humanity as a garment, whereby to clothe Thy divinity, and thereby be enabled to meet with and overcome man's spiritual enemies: "Thine own arm brought salvation unto Thee; Thy righteousness it sustained Thee." Thou hast reconciled us unto Thyself, we now "joy in God, through [Thee] our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have received the atonement. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

O LORD of light and life, again hast Thou revived our bodies by the refreshing influence of sleep. Again hast Thou permitted the morning to dawn upon us, and the cheerful light of day to fall upon our eyes.

We adore Thee, O heavenly Father, for all Thy goodness towards us. O grant that the light of Thy truth may dawn upon and visit the eyes of our spirits, that in Thy light we may see light, and by that light be guided to everlasting blessedness. There is indeed nothing comparable to the light of Thy truth; for this is true light, which, if admitted into our understandings, and suffered to exercise its influence upon us, will guide us through every trial, and bring us ultimately to Thy heavenly kingdom. We thank Thee, O Lord, that by the light of Thy truth our hidden and secret evils are discovered, their deformity made plain before

us, and the necessity of their being expelled at once demonstrated. Thy truth by its mighty power triumphs over the evil spirits, that would, if not dislodged, have proved the destruction of our own souls. We glorify Thee for Thy truth. It is by Thy truth we are freed from evil and falsehood, and by Thy truth shall we be prepared to enter Thy heavenly kingdom. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

ALMIGHTY God, the Father of our spirits, the Lord of life and glory, Thou art the first, and Thou art the last, and beside Thee there is no God.

We approach Thee at the close of another day, deeply sensible of Thy goodness towards us. We acknowledge, O Lord, that we are wholly undeserving Thy favour; we have too frequently wandered from Thy presence and have not improved the opportunities afforded us of advancing in the regenerate life. But Thou, Lord, dealest not with us as we deserve; Thy love is still the same.

While we cling to the world, we continually discover its coldness. But Thou art ever the same unchangeable Friend, the Friend that sticketh closer than a brother. Knowing the tenderness of Thy divine compassion, though we have again and again sinned against Thee, we yet venture to present ourselves before Thy mercy seat.

O heavenly Father, turn us unto Thee, yea, turn us again, O Lord God of hosts, cause Thy face to shine, and we shall be saved. Thou didst create us originally in Thine image, after Thy likeness, but we by transgressions marred it. And yet, notwithstanding our apostacy, Thou art day by day striving to draw us near unto Thee by the dispensations of Thy providence; Thou contendest with our enemies, and Thou in the tenderest accents offerest us peace and pardon. Lord, increase our energies by the force of Thy truth, that we may resist evil and receive from Thee a clean heart. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY MORNING.

O FATHER of eternity, we return Thee most humble and hearty thanks for Thy protection of us during the night season, and for the invigoration of our bodies by the refreshing influence of sleep. Our first thoughts, and the earliest putting forth of our affections on this new day of our existence, are due to Thee alone, and to Thy service we would devote them. O may we not merely assume the posture of humility, but feel it a duty and a privilege to render homage to so wise, so good, and so affectionate a parent: and O may we not merely use the lip-language of prayer, but may our hearts and understandings be elevated unto Thee, and so fervently fixed upon Thee, that we may worship Thee in spirit and in truth.

Be with us this day, O Lord, we beseech Thee, that our duties may be performed with a single eye to Thy glory, and that we may make some progress in the path of the regenerate life. How great are the blessings

those enjoy who place themselves under Thy divine government; and how manifold are the advantages they experience who approach Thee, and in all their doings implore Thy counsel and assistance. And with Thee we can always hold conversation, for Thy Word is open before us, and they who humbly explore it are instructed in all its duties. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY EVENING.

O LORD God Almighty, to whom belongeth mercy, though we have rebelled against Thee. We praise Thee, we acknowledge Thee to be the Lord; all the earth is full of the majesty of Thy glory.

Another day calls for our gratitude; another evening brings us before Thee, and adds to the debt we can never pay. Lord! how divine is the tenderness with which Thou regardest us.

Lord! instruct us by Thy good spirit; send forth the influences of Thy light and love, that all our doings may be established in Thee. To whom can we apply with so certain an assurance of the supply that is needful for our wants, as to Thee? Thou hast the words of eternal life. O let Thy Word go forth with power into our souls, and grant that we may exercise ourselves in all that is true and good.

But not for ourselves alone would we pray, for the enlightening influence of Thy good Spirit; we would implore Thee for all sorts and conditions of men. O send forth Thy righteous dispensations, and prepare the hearts and understandings of all men, that the new views of truth which Thou hast unfolded may be perceived and gratefully admitted into the soul. Prepare mankind for beholding Thee in Thy divine and glorified humanity. O let Thy divine condescension be so seen, that men may be led to acknowledge that Thou alone art God; that Thou alone art blessed for evermore. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY MORNING.

GREAT Lord of all things, before whom all the creatures of this world, compared with those who inhabit the worlds of immensity, are as the dust of the balance, how shall we venture to approach Thee with a just idea of Thine immensity! We are altogether unworthy to approach Thee. Thou art the High and Holy One inhabiting eternity, and art of purer eyes than to behold iniquity. The heaven of heavens, with all their blessed inhabitants, cannot shadow forth Thy greatness, or show forth Thy goodness; nor can the goodness which is extended to all, nor the tender mercy which is over all Thy works, be fully appreciated even by those angelic existences who, once men, but who never having been disobedient, passed from the world without needing repentance, who constitute the inhabitants of Thy celestial heavens,—even these cannot know the extent of Thy love. Thy greatness is indeed as infinite as Thy love is universal. Thy love constitutes the life of angels, and their love rejoices and increases the delight of heaven itself when man is seen to repent and turn unto Thee. Yea, Lord, we glory in the assurance that there is joy in the presence of Thy holy angels over one sinner that re-

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penteth more than over ninety and nine just persons which need no repentance.

O God, whose presence is so holy as Thine? and yet, holy though Thou art, Thou art willing to receive such lowly creatures of the dust as we are; and if we approach Thee in sincerity, where Thou art, there Thou hast promised we shall be also. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY EVENING.

O LORD God Almighty, whose goodness is universal, whose greatness is unsearchable, whose ways are past finding out, we come before Thee this evening, sensible of Thy never-failing mercy, and of that goodness and mercy which has followed us all the days of our life.

We acknowledge, with shame and confusion of face, that the world and its concerns have occupied too much of our attention, and that we have kept heaven and eternal life at a distance, as though it was never to have a beginning, while the world and that which pertains to it we have followed with avidity, as though it was never to have an end with us. We have toiled for frivolous riches as though we were labouring for eternal possessions, and we do but labour for the possessions of eternity as though we toiled for those of time. O heavenly Father, who shall deliver us from the bondage of the world if Thy providence were to relax? If happiness depended entirely upon our own efforts, surely all mankind would be miserable for ever when their few days were spent in this world. Alas! the cares of the world seem too frequently to be our moving spring—our animating cause.

O Lord, help us to overcome this love of the world, and to return unto Thee, our first love. Help us to do the first works. Help us to return unto Thee. Help us to overcome all spiritual difficulties: and may we by Thine assistance inherit the promise of everlasting life. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY MORNING.

GREAT and merciful Redeemer and Saviour, they who draw near to Thee are required to do so with all their hearts. Thou art a Spirit, and they who worship Thee must worship Thee in spirit and in truth. The best affections of the heart, the most purified thoughts of the understanding, are altogether impure when considered in reference to Thy purity; yet a broken and a contrite heart, O Lord, Thou wilt never despise.

Thy kingdom is not of this world, and those of Thy children who are the least earthly minded are enabled to acquire the greatest degree of purity, and to be in consequence drawn nearer to the throne of Thy holiness. To these, how unsatisfactory are the honours and titles which constitute the essence of all worldly distinctions; to these, how deplorable is the error which invests mankind with the pompous distinctions which are bestowed upon the successful enterprises of the passions. To these, O God of peace and love, what is the fame attendant upon military toil and reputation, but a display of the bitter fruit of man's fallen

nature, where one man's self-hood, and one man's lust of power, mars and mutilates the noble image of his brother,—that noble image in whose likeness, O Lord, he has been created, the likeness of Thine own glorious Person. Oh, hasten the time, Prince of peace! hasten the fulfilment of prophecy, when men shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks, and shall learn war no more. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY EVENING.

O LORD, our Creator, Preserver, and Redeemer; Thou art our constant Benefactor, our unchangeable Friend: help us this evening, the close of another day, to bow the knee before Thee, and while we acknowledge the blessings of the past week, let Thy holy influence enter into and take possession of us, that we may be filled with humble gratitude and thanksgiving. Thou hast by the wisdom of Thy providence marked out our position in life: O grant us the power to fulfil its duties with activity and faithfulness. Teach us that these duties can only be successfully fulfilled as we look to Thee, as we set Thee continually before our eyes; and if Thy wisdom should see fit to change our stations, O give us understandings sufficiently endowed to fulfil our new duties.

But, Lord, we humbly pray Thee, by the acts of Thy righteous providence enable us to keep the world behind us, and Thyself and Thy kingdom constantly before us, so that we may see the necessity of a watchful superintendence over our affections and thoughts, knowing that THOU LORD SEEST US. Give unto us a deep sense of our own unworthiness that we may never presume to cast a hasty censure or pronounce a hasty judgment upon the conduct of our neighbour. May we be brought to see our own evils, and at the same time see the necessity of repentance. While we pursue our worldly avocations; if success does not crown our expectations, may we learn submission to Thy will, O Lord, and may we have a well grounded confidence in that providence which has never seen the righteous forsaken nor his seed begging bread. Into Thy hands, O Lord Jesus Christ, we commend our spirits. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TWENTY-FIFTH WEEK.—SABBATH MORNING.

O LORD, who art the way, the truth, and the life, we pray that every member of this family may feel a joy and elevation of spirit by a return of this holy day, and while a devout cheerfulness permeates every heart, may all the doings of this day be perfected in love.

We pray Thee let the blessing of Thy good Spirit rest upon him whom Thou hast appointed to minister unto us in heavenly things. May his soul be prepared for the discharge of his sacred functions, by a devout contemplation of Thy Word, and by a complete surrender of all his talents and faculties to Thy divine guidance. May pride, haughtiness, and ostentation form no part of his character, but may he learn of Thee, and know that his sufficiency is of Thee, and may he from the unfolding of Thy Word be deeply impressed that the best and most talented among

men owe all their abilities unto Thee, and unto Thee must be given all the glory.

O Lord God our Saviour, add to Thy Church this day, through the power of truth. May Thy minister not labour in vain. May Thy glorious perfections be set forth with fervour and zeal; and may every congregation of devout worshipers be so vivified by the services of the sanctuary, that they may be filled with that love to Thee and charity to man which shall prepare them for the enjoyment of Thy heavenly kingdom. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SABBATH EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, who art the Word made flesh, the true Light which enlighteneth every man that cometh into the world, may the examples which have been set before us this day from Thy Word stimulate us to become more resolute in opposing the seductions of sensual pleasure. May we be followers of Thee as dear children, and in the midst of a wicked and adulterous generation, may Thy bright example induce us to strive for the attainment of that eminence which all true disciples should seek after—"Ye are the light of the world, a city that is set on a hill cannot be hid."

Help us to acquire the faithfulness of Abraham, the patience and humility of Job, the charity of the woman of Shunem, the integrity and uprightness of Elijah, the wisdom, prudence, and foresight of Daniel. As the noble characters in Thy Word are placed before us, O may we strive to imitate them, so that we may indeed rank among the number of Thy true and faithful disciples. O keep us strictly in the performance of our duty, and may pride, arrogance, and self-conceit be cast out from us; and unto Thee, O Lord, shall be ascribed all the honour and all the praise, for ever and ever. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, assist us, we beseech Thee, to keep our hearts with all diligence. As our enemy is constantly endeavouring to ensnare us,—as he would lead us to procrastinate the great work of repentance till a more convenient season, may we, by looking unto Thee for assistance, find that spirit which shall enable us to say, Get thee behind me, Satan.

While we perform our duties in the world with zeal and alacrity, O suffer us not to forget that our chief duty is to serve Thee. How great has been our experience that there is no peace to the wicked. How often have we been convinced that the friendship of this world is at enmity with God. That the yoke of the world is bitter and heavy, and that the masters of the world exact a cruel servitude. But Thy friendship towards us knows no change. Thy yoke is easy and Thy burden light. In Thy service there is perfect freedom, and Thy reward is an eternal kingdom, which neither pain nor sorrow nor death can reach. O God, help us, then, in the beginning of another week, to serve Thee with

greater fervency. O teach us how much more worthy is Thy service than the service of this changeable world.

Lord, be go forth to labour, help us that we may perform it without slackening our zeal for Thy service, and with increased usefulness to our fellow-creatures. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, while we confess our sins before Thee, help us to repent. We confess we have laboured after the mammon of unrighteousness, and neither cares nor exertions nor artifices have been spared to acquire it. We have seen luxury and magnificence, and have envied those who enjoyed them. We have been envious of the workers of iniquity, and have involved ourselves, in our efforts to compete with them, in worldly show and splendour. Thus "have we followed the multitude to do evil," and in sowing the wind, we have, alas! reaped the whirlwind. We confess our sins, O Lord, in Thy presence; we abhor ourselves, and acknowledge our utter unworthiness. Pardon our evils, O Lord, we beseech Thee, and give unto us the true penitence which may lead to the practice of every virtue, whereby our salvation may be secured.

Lord, give unto us a desire to secure the true, the imperishable riches of Thy kingdom, and while the world calls for our labour, and that labour, besides ministering to our bodily necessities, aids in the great work of charity and usefulness to our fellow-creatures, may the labour of the spirit be for the meat which endureth unto eternal life. May our souls delight themselves in the truths of Thy word. May the principle of conscience be formed permanently within us; and as we profess to love Thee, may we hate the thing that is evil. From this moment may we, in the spirit and power of Thy truth, seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, knowing that all needful things shall be added unto us. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, we confess that even in the things of eternity we do not make use of the reason with which Thou hast endowed us; and while multitudes pervert Thy truth, and we see the perversion, we yet want that principle of upright courage and honest conscience, which should at once lead us to abandon the pernicious example of the multitude; we are disobedient to that powerful precept which teaches, *we ought to obey God rather than man*. The talents and abilities Thou hast given us we too frequently use against the teachings of Thy own pure truth.

Great God! we humbly ask to what purpose are great abilities in the conduct of projects that will perish with us. We have reasons and arguments in the support of vanity, and we are mere children with regard to the truth. We pride ourselves on our wisdom in the affairs of the world, and, alas! in the business of our eternal salvation we think it no disgrace to be ignorant and foolish.

“Thou hast opened before us the true plan of redemption; Thou hast shown us plainly of the Father; Thou hast unfolded before us the wonders of Thy truth; but, instead of receiving them with gratitude and affection, we look with dread upon the world’s censures, and the fear of ridicule from the world, and the loss of our connections, have greater weight with us than the realities of eternity. O help us in the affairs of eternity, to be biassed by no opinions of the world, but willingly to lose all that we possess in worldly connection, worldly honour, and worldly emolument, if by so doing we may become of the number of Thy disciples; and through whatever medium Thy truth is offered, may we with holy prudence discriminate, and with holy gratitude receive it. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, we pray Thee form within us a principle of conscience. Our consciences approve when we inquire of Thee, but condemn when we take counsel only with ourselves. O Lord, teach us to love Thy truth, and then we feel assured we shall soon acquire a knowledge of its true meaning; for if any man will do Thy will, he shall know of every doctrine presented to His acceptance, whether it be of God.

Teach us, O Lord, above all things to distrust ourselves. In every difficulty may we fly to Thy Word for counsel. Thy Word is Thine own divine voice, and that voice is uniform, because it is the voice of truth. And even if all is plain before us, and the light of Thy truth shineth clearly, so that we cannot mistake our way, still may we seek Thee, implore Thy blessing upon our engagements, nor enter on any pursuit until Thy blessing has been first invoked upon it. May our chief desire be to PLEASE THEE! remembering the solemn caution, “Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you.” Assist us to resist, by a good conscience, all the pleadings of *self-love*, and to mistrust most those opinions which lean to the gratification of our self-love, so that by surrendering ourselves to Thy divine guidance, we may be brought safely through all the trials necessary for our purification. Lord, into Thy hands we commend our spirits this night, glorifying Thee for the blessings of the day. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, it is Thy love which alone can fill us with love for our fellow-creatures. Under the influence of this heavenly feeling, O may we go forth to our duties this day. Enable us to be kind, conciliating, and affectionate towards all men. Teach us to set a watch upon our tongue, and a bridle upon our lips, that we sin not. May we be swift to do good and to communicate, but slow to anger, very tender of the reputation of others, and very scrupulous in our own conduct. Thou art a just God: teach us to do justly, to be very faithful, sincere, and upright in all our dealings, to speak with candour, sincerity, and truth, and to be as scrupulous that our actions originate in the love of

our neighbour, as we are conscious that our words speak the plain dictates of truth, without equivocation and without hypocrisy.

Lord, wherever Thy sacred feet trod, there didst Thou leave Thy blessing behind Thee. O may we learn of Thee, and when we are named by those who are in states of suffering, and who are ready to perish, may it be with the words of blessing. Assist us in all things to be like unto Thee. To comfort the afflicted, to visit the prisoners, to minister to the necessities of others according to our means; and while all our doings are done in charity, may we be clothed with humility, and in learning of Thee, ascribe all the power to will and to do unto Thee alone, for without Thee we can do nothing. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, in mingling with society, as we have this day done, how much of danger to our souls have we beheld, and how little have we resisted the temptations to evil: the dissipations and snares of the world, how have they entangled us! The vain amusements and the vanities of dress and personal adornment, how have they drawn us aside from our duty to Thee! Alas! though to work out our salvation with fear and trembling should be the great business of our lives, and though we see mankind pursuing their pleasures as though there was no such thing as eternity, yet we follow the same vain courses as if it were possible for us to ensure salvation by the very means through which others have lost it. O God, inspire us with an abhorrence of the loathsomeness of evil, and of the pollutions of this sensual world. Purify us by suffering, so that we be but saved. As it is only possible to accomplish the work Thou hast given us to do by unwearied labour and diligence, and as we know not the exact amount of time allotted us to get our labour accomplished, we pray Thee that we may be so taught to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. O Lord God our Saviour, be merciful unto us, and according to the multitude of Thy tender mercies, save us, for Thine own name's sake. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, help us, we beseech Thee, to avail ourselves of Thy offered mercy. Help us, that we may be obedient to Thy divine and affectionate call—"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." It is this disinclination to hear Thee which evidences how few can be saved, how few can be cleansed; for after all Thy solicitude and care for us, Thy constant exhortations, Thy unwearied calls, *man will not come unto Thee that he might have life.* The broad path of sensual pleasure opens before us, and we with avidity walk, yea, run, within it; the narrow path is all but forsaken, and this accounts for the "few that are chosen," out of the "many that are called."

O Lord, as so few take hold of salvation, instruct us to explore ourselves whether we are among the number of that few. So teach us to

examine ourselves, that we may ascertain whether we have any well grounded *hope* of our own *salvation*. All may be saved by coming unto Thee, but all will not be saved, because all will not come unto Thee. With this important truth before us, O Lord, let Thy presence go before us this day and every day, that we sin not. May we avert our eye from the broad path, and keep it steadily on the narrow way. And may the words of Thy eternal truth be constantly sounding in our ears, "This is the way, walk ye in it," so shall we, ultimately, at the end of the way, find admission into Thy heavenly kingdom. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, when we fell from Thee, the compassionate voice was heard calling unto us, "O man! where art thou?" Truly were we afraid, for we had sinned and we hid ourselves. But who can escape Thy penetrating eye? When we had given up ourselves for lost, and hope had entirely forsaken us, even then Thy love sought us out. Thou didst not leave us to perish; Thou didst devise a way whereby the path to happiness might be again opened up; and O, amazing love! in the very depths of our degradation Thy sacred Word went forth, that the seed of the woman should bruise the serpent's head, and the sensual principle in man brought again under the government of the spiritual principle. Adored be the infinitude of Thy mercy, O Lord! Thou hast not forgotten us in our low estate. In Thy love and in Thy pity Thou hast visited and redeemed Thy people, and hast become their Saviour; and now all that come unto Thee may drink of the water of life freely, and eat of the bread that endureth unto everlasting life.

Deeply humbled at the remembrance of our former evils, we glorify Thee that Thou hast yet raised us to newness of spirit. We rejoice in Thy presence this night, and magnify Thy name, for it is holy. Aid us to make our hearts into living temples, in which Thou mayest take up Thy abode, so shall we dwell in safety beneath the shadow of Thy wings, and shall ultimately enter into Thy rest. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY MORNING.

O LORD our heavenly Father, Thy wisdom is past finding out; while we can only conjecture what transpires in other worlds, and feel that they could not have been created but to be peopled, and that Thy wisdom and providence are exercised in every world to "render conscious beings blessed," Thou hast revealed plainly to us who dwell on this earth, all the wonders of Thy providence, all the wisdom of Thy power, all the glories of the heavens, and all the happiness of the angels inhabiting them; and even these, in consequence of the imperfection of our nature, are but dimly beheld, being seen as through a glass darkly; yet do the works of Thy creative energy, and the wonders of Thy revealed truth, speak to us a language which nowhere has a parallel. "The heavens declare the glory of God, the firmament showeth His handiwork." "They that go down to the sea in ships see the wonders

of the Lord in the deep;" and they that traverse the earth in its vast extent behold new marvels at every step they take. Truly, O God, Thou art great, and greatly to be praised, and to be had in reverence of them that fear Thee. Thou hast opened unto us, through the medium of Thy holy Word, all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. O keep us humble, and still, as our understandings expand, may we learn of Thee and be meek and lowly, that while some trust in their doctrines, as on chariots, and some trust in the knowledge they have acquired, as in horses, we may remember the name of the Lord our God, and feel that there is not a talent or faculty we possess that has been the means of doing good, but has its origin in Thee, O Lord, the source of all good. To Thee, therefore, be ascribed all the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, impress upon us the necessity of bringing all the affections of our wills under the government of Thy divine love. Thy Word assures us that in the same proportion as we reduce to practice the good which by Thy truth we acquire, so do we approach nearer to Thy divine likeness. Love for the whole human race is Thy distinguishing quality. In Thy love and in Thy pity Thou didst redeem us and hast become our Saviour. May Thy love, then, be the model of our lives. "Thy nature and Thy name is Love!" May this be our constant effort to secure, so that Thy new name may be inscribed upon us, "Thy new, best name of Love." Oh help us, that all the distinguishing qualities of Thy divine nature may be finitely imaged by us. Teach us to subdue every unholy lust. Assist us to remove pride, anger, revenge, and dissimulation from our minds. Remove the image of the earthy, and supply its place with that of the heavenly. And when we are tempted to do evil, or to indulge in vain and sinful gratifications, may a recollection of the name we bear cause us to pause, and to implore Thine aid to resist evil; so shall we become more and more transformed into the image of the heavenly, until prepared to enter into heaven itself. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY MORNING.

OH teach us, heavenly Father, to set eternal things before us; help us to labour from the purified affections of genuine love, that we may thus devote our lives in sincerity to Thy service, and show by our love and usefulness to the brethren how much we love and reverence Thee, for by this alone can we be distinguished as belonging to the number of Thy disciples.

Help us, O Lord, to live constantly under the influence of Thy fear, and in the exercise of true repentance; to fear doing that which is evil; to pause whenever our appetites would hurry us into sin; to keep our inclinations under constant restraint, as we would exercise vigilance in the expectation of meeting an enemy whose enmity nothing can appease or weaken; and to remember that our greatest enemy is within our own household.

O God, help us to become more and more spiritually minded: to be more exact in the performance of our religious duties; and to perform them from a conviction of their purifying power: to be more just, prudent, and orderly in the performance of our temporal duties; for if we are not faithful in that which is least, how can we be in that which is greatest. Finally, O Lord, we commit our way unto Thy guidance. Oh lead us in the way everlasting! Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, our redeeming Lord, we desire to praise Thy holy name for the various products of the earth which minister to the supply of our daily wants: for the animals, the vegetables, the minerals, by which our comfort is secured and our convenience constantly added unto. Nor do they merely supply our temporal necessities; they furnish instructive lessons to our minds; they are images of things heavenly or their opposite; they teach us the necessity of orderly arrangement within ourselves, and of subjecting all our desires, propensities, and passions, to the regulating power of Thy truth and goodness. O Lord, we desire to adore Thee for all Thy blessings, and we pray that we may be sensibly affected by them, so as to manifest at all times a becoming reverence to Thee who hast so marvellously provided for us. And now, O Lord, permit us to retire to rest under the shadow of Thy wings. May serenity and peace permeate our every thought and desire. May we feel Thee near us, and confide in Thy protecting love. May the Word of Thy truth be precious to our souls, and if we are in states of wakefulness, may we meditate upon it in our beds and be still. May no plague come near our dwelling; may the pestilence which walketh in darkness smite us not; but may Thy protecting hand sustain us from this time forth and for evermore. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TWENTY-SIXTH WEEK.—SABBATH MORNING.

O HOLY and merciful Jehovah, with feelings of gratitude for the institution of the Sabbath, we desire to approach Thee. Thou hast made this day as a day of rest to our bodies, and of peace and instruction to our souls. Help us to begin its duties in a spirit of freedom, that we may serve Thee voluntarily and not by constraint. O teach us to feel that a life of piety is a life of pleasantness, and must lead us into the possession of true peace.

As Thou, O glorified Lord, wast manifested that the works of the devil might be destroyed, so may we, as followers of Thee, apply Thy Word to our evils, and expel them from the affections in which they have intrenched themselves. Impress us with the certainty that though the present life is as a probation to that which is to come; though in this world we must enter on and pursue the path of the regeneration; though pains and sorrows accompany our every effort to detach ourselves from the world, and from its seducing pleasures; and though to effect a reconciliation with Thee we must commence an exterminating war

against ourselves, our lusts, desires, and concupiscences,—yet art Thou near to help us in every time of need. The arm of Thy Omnipotence is ever extended to sustain us in all our trials. Unto Thee we render thanksgiving and praise for ever and ever. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SABBATH EVENING.

ALMIGHTY and beneficent God! we humbly draw near to Thee this evening, and adore Thee for the blessings which we have enjoyed during this Sabbath. Inspire our hearts with love and our tongues with praise, that we may show forth a spirit of devout gratitude. O may the impressions made upon our hearts during our attendance in the sanctuary of Thy house be permanent, and produce in our lives the fruits of righteousness and peace. Bless the labours of all who minister this day, and who have been engaged in the building up of Thy Church; through their instrumentality may many be turned to righteousness. Let Thy Word go forth in the plenitude of its power, and accomplish the purpose whereunto Thou hast sent it. As Thy Word can only find an entrance into such minds as are prepared to receive it, O let Thy righteous dispensations go forth to the accomplishment of this necessary preparation. It is Thine to dispel darkness from the understanding, and to prepare it for the discernment of spiritual truth. It is Thine to overcome prejudice by the force and power of truth. It is Thine to quicken the soul by the influence and graces of Thy Holy Spirit. Send forth, then, O Lord, we beseech Thee, this power, and grant that this day's spiritual labour may add to Thy Church new and faithful members.

O prosper the labours of Thy ministers, for Thy name and mercy's sake. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY MORNING.

O MERCIFUL Lord and Saviour, who art the way, the truth, and the life, with humble confidence we approach Thee, that we may receive that counsel from Thy Word, which shall instruct us in our duty, and enable us to enter upon the concerns of another week, and bring them to a successful termination.

Thou hast counselled us to labour that we may acquire faith in Thee. Increase our faith, we beseech Thee, for we are so prone to despond when the slightest difficulty approaches us, that unless assistance from Thee is continually vouchsafed, we become like to them who go down into the pit. Our understandings perceive the faithfulness of Thy word, and again and again have we, amidst darkness and despair, been led to behold the wonder-working power of Thy providence, and yet have we mistrusted Thy aid, and too frequently murmured at the severity of our sufferings as though we were left alone to contend against the virulence of our enemies. Lord, help us to overcome this unbelief; increase our faith, and give to us a more perfect confidence in Thy goodness.

Now, O Lord, as our duties call us again into the world, help us, that in going forth amidst its snares and entanglements, we may not be

drawn aside to evil. While we are engaged in our several spheres of use, may we still keep Thee before our eyes, so that, as our hands are employed by the world, our thoughts and affections may yet be lifted up towards Thee. O take up Thine abode in our inmost souls, and reign Thou there supreme. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY EVENING.

MOST glorious and most merciful Father, with the deepest reverence we desire to adore Thy high and holy name, as the Lord Jesus Christ, who art merciful, slow to anger, and of great goodness. Teach us to acknowledge Thee in all the wonders of Thy redeeming love; and help us to look unto Thee for strength, that by patience and well-doing we may ever hold fast Thy precious promises, the most precious of which is the gift of everlasting life. But Thou hast not promised us this superlative blessing unconditionally. Thou indeed bestowest upon us all an abundance of temporal blessings, and Thou art no respecter of persons, for Thy blessings are given to the evil as well as to the good; but the gift of eternal life can be only given to those who prepare for its holy enjoyment. Thy Word assures us that we cannot be admitted to partake of the fulness of Thy love, otherwise than by a faithful obedience to the Word of Thy truth; for no man cometh to the Father but by Thee: and he that cometh unto Thee must believe that Thou art, and that Thou art a rewarder of them that diligently seek Thee.

O Lord, impress us with the certain conviction that there is no salvation in any other name than Thine; for "there is no other name given under heaven whereby men can be saved." Thou art indeed the only wise God our Saviour; Thy name is Jehovah of Hosts, the Mighty One of Israel. Lord, we beseech Thee, impress our souls with the value of the name we bear, and which, as Christians, stamps upon us the legitimacy of Thy children. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY MORNING.

ETERNAL Lord God! with hearts penetrated by Thy goodness we assemble this morning, and after the refreshing repose of the night, whereby we have become strong to labour, we would offer to Thee our first thoughts and affections: thoughts which aspire to see more plainly Thy revealed Word of truth, affections which may reduce us to practice what our thoughts perceive.

O Lord, we acknowledge that Thy ways are dark and mysterious unto us, and we too frequently repine at those permissions of Thy providence which inflict pain and suffering upon us. Thy yoke seems heavy, Thy burden oppressive; and we have too frequently charged Thee with dealing hardly by us, and not filling us with the peace and rest which we had anticipated should attend our obedience. Alas! Lord, we have not surrendered ourselves fully unto Thee. We have not submitted ourselves unrepiningly to Thy wise government, but have set up our own will above Thine, and have been guilty of the daring impiety to imagine

that we could arrange the affairs of the world more equitably. We have complained where we ought to have submitted; we have rebelled where we ought to have gratefully yielded. We have grieved Thy good Spirit, and but that Thou art love in its very essence we might have been cast off, and left to perish in our act of rebellion. O God, we acknowledge our transgression, and our sin is ever before us. Pardon us, O merciful Father, and give unto us willing and obedient hearts, that whatsoever Thy wisdom shall see fit to inflict upon us we may patiently submit to, knowing that it is best for us. For "whom the Lord loveth, He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth." O Lord, increase our faith. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY EVENING.

ALMIGHTY God, our heavenly Father, deign in mercy to look down upon Thy unworthy servants who are now assembled before Thee, and grant that the members of this family may feel grateful for Thy kind protecting care during the past day. Thou hast not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities, but hast mercifully spared us, affording us time for repentance, adding to our lives yet another day, and still endowing us with health and comfort.

O holy Father, impress us with seriousness and devotion while in Thy presence, and may Thy fear be ever before us that we sin not. Help us to become spiritually minded, that we may commune with Thee, our God and Saviour, free from the distraction of the cares of the world, and become daily more and more devoted to Thy service. Make Thy Word unto us a source of never-failing delight and instruction. In it may we ever behold Thee present. May no precept of its wisdom be by us neglected, but may we feel it our counsellor in the hour of difficulty, our defender in the day of spiritual warfare, our physician in the season of sickness, and our stay and defence when we are called upon, during the last trial, to pass through the valley of the shadow of death. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

O GOD, most merciful and gracious, who in Thy providence hast permitted us to rise again from our pillows, who hast continued us in health and strength; our first thoughts we would devote unto Thee this morning; our inmost affections would we offer unto Thee. O that they were more worthy Thy divine acceptance; but Thou, O Lord, wilt not despise the prayer of the humble, nor refuse to accept the contrite and penitent heart.

O Lord God our Saviour, Thy mercies are ever new towards us. We again behold Thy resplendent sun, whose light has so often cheered and animated us. May we so pursue the hours of this day, that Thy sun, should it cease to shine for us again in this world, may yet prepare us to behold a more glorious orb, giving place to that Sun of Righteousness, which Thou, O Lord, art.

While all around us is fresh and verdant, while the fields are covered with corn, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, we know not whether we shall be permitted to participate in these temporal blessings. Though we are now in the enjoyment of high health, we know not how soon we may be called into Thy immediate presence ; we feel that we are mortal, and all the beauties of nature which now surround us tend to remind us of the great change we must undergo. Our lives pass as the grass of the field withereth. The grass withereth, the flower fadeth ; but Thy name, O Lord, endureth for ever. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

ETERNAL and omnipotent God, Thou who art high, inhabiting eternity, yet condescending to behold the dwellers upon earth, we Thine unworthy servants again approach Thy mercy seat. From the rising of the sun, even to the going down of the same, Thy goodness and mercy have followed us ; and we desire this evening to express our humble thanks for Thy fatherly and protecting care.

Help us, Lord, we beseech Thee to take a review of the past day, while we devoutly acknowledge that no moment of it has passed without Thy watchful superintendence. The eye of Thy providence has been bent upon us, averting danger, and strengthening us in the way of righteousness. O enable us to keep Thy Word of truth before us, and assist us with Thy grace, that we may go on to perfection. Ever varying as are our states, O teach us, that whatsoever be the state in which we are, our duty still is to render it perfect. Every faculty of our souls should be bent to the attainment of that holiness without which no man shall see the Lord.

Teach us, then, O Lord, we beseech Thee, and help us to press forward to the mark of the prize of our high calling. While we mourn over our past transgressions, teach us to give due diligence to avoid evil for the future, and so to pursue our course that we may live the life which leads to heaven. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, help us, we earnestly beseech Thee, to approach Thy throne this morning with feelings of devout gratitude for the blessings we have enjoyed during the past night, and assist us to look unto Thee for aid, that the engagements upon which we are about to enter this day may be performed in a spirit of genuine charity, and with a desire to render ourselves useful, according to the best of the ability with which Thou hast endowed us. "O that our ways may be directed by Thy statutes ; O let us not wander from Thy commandments."

Leave us not to our own counsels, and suffer us not to indulge the desires of our vain and deceitful hearts ; but let Thy providence so lead us in the way we should go that we may follow in the orderly path of righteousness, and be prosperous in our engagements, because our minds are stayed on Thee.

As our judgment is so weak and limited, and as our sufficiency is alone of Thee, O Lord, we beseech Thee, leave us not to execute the desires of our own waywardness; but let Thy righteous will be done, however it may cross our own inclinations; and hold Thou us up, and we shall then be safe. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY EVENING.

ALMIGHTY God and beneficent Saviour, Thou art the true Light, and without Thee we must ever walk in darkness. Unto Thee, therefore, would we come, and in the spirit of humility we would supplicate Thee to receive us into Thy presence, and to instruct us in the things which pertain to our eternal peace.

Thou hast added another day to our existence, and hast abundantly supplied our every want, and now Thou waitest to bless us with Thy good Spirit, and desirest only that we should be so prepared that there be no obstruction to the entrance of Thy divine influence. Assist us, O Lord, to cultivate a candid and conscientious disposition; to guard against evil, and to refrain from exercising a rash and hasty judgment. As Thou art the essential truth, help us to love it for its own sake, for the sake of that humility of heart and simplicity of spirit which may bring us under the perfect government of Thy love and wisdom; and lead us in all things to learn of Thee, that we may find rest unto our souls. Thou hast been pleased to appear a second time unto salvation, and in the power and glory of the spiritual sense of Thy Word, to reveal Thyself as the Lord, "the Lord God, plenteous in mercy, and abundant in goodness and truth." O prepare the hearts and understandings of mankind that they may gratefully receive the truths of Thy divine Word, and live by them. We ask this, O Lord Jesus Christ, for Thine own name and mercy sake. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY MORNING.

O LORD our heavenly Father, our souls wait upon Thee this morning, and our expectation is from Thee. "Thou only art the rock of our salvation, therefore shall we not be moved."

Thou hast created us that we may be eternally happy in Thy kingdom; and the condition of our happiness is, that we "love the Lord above all things, and our neighbour as ourselves." To the innocent no laws are necessary, for they are a law to themselves. We are therefore constrained to acknowledge that the necessity for this law is grounded in our intense love of the world and of ourselves, to the neglect of the more perfect love of Thee and of our neighbour. O Lord, with shame we acknowledge that this selfishness lies at the root of all our actions, and is the source of all our evils; and so deeply is it interwoven in all ranks of people that all seem to be contending who shall be greatest. Even in our attempts to do good, and in the sacred duties of religion, this selfishness too frequently predominates. Our charities are often bestowed from the desire of the praise of men; we violate the precept

“Let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth;” and our religious exercises are contaminated by the belief that we are righteous, and from this self-righteousness we despise others. Lord, there is none good, none righteous, but Thee. Help us, we beseech Thee, that we may become holy as Thou art holy. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY EVENING.

O LORD our heavenly Father, Thou knowest what is best for us, and though we in our blindness murmur too frequently against Thee, Thou changest not, and the purposes of Thy love remain stedfast; for Thou desirest only that we may secure the blessings of eternity, and Thou disposest all things consistently, that man, by reflection, may be taught how advantageous to his eternal interests it is that he should be purified by trial and suffering. Grant, then, O most merciful Father, that in every condition we may conform ourselves to Thy will. May the pains which sharply afflict our bodies be instrumental in healing those of our souls. Without Thee it is impossible to enter into life; without Thee we can do nothing; and as Thy humanity was glorified and made perfect by suffering, so do we feel assured that it will be by great tribulation that we shall be saved. Thou didst indeed forewarn us of these sufferings, but Thou didst not leave us without consolation. “In the world ye shall have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” May we, when trouble or distress comes upon us, struggle against it, knowing that Thou art at all times near to help us. O give us of Thy fortitude, that we may be firm in the work of the regeneration. Enter into our souls, and possess them by the power of Thy love and wisdom. Where Thy love is, there is power omnipotent. Where Thy truth is, darkness and error must flee away. In Thy love and truth, O Lord, be near us. And in our trials and vicissitudes, help us to overcome. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY MORNING.

ALMIGHTY and eternal Lord God our Saviour, we approach Thee this morning with feelings of gratitude and thanksgiving, and pray Thee that Thou wilt accept our humble offering of praise for Thy divine protection of us during the past night. O how great is the love wherewith Thou hast loved us! When “there was none to help,” when “there was none to uphold, Thine own arm brought salvation unto Thee,” and “in Thy love and in Thy pity Thou didst redeem us and hast become our Saviour.”

Thou didst glorify Thy humanity, and by that inscrutable and divine process, Thou didst set before us the labour necessary to accomplish the new birth of the regeneration. And as the great work of Thy glorification was purely divine, neither angelic wisdom, and much less the wisdom of man, being capable of fully comprehending it, so are we instructed that regeneration is of Thee, O Lord, alone. We know that of ourselves we can do nothing, but Thou hast not left us entirely incapable

of either apprehending Thine own stupendous work, or of being able to distinguish what our own duties are. Lord, help us, we beseech Thee, to attain to such a fulness of wisdom as shall show the necessity of our co-operating with Thee to "work out our salvation with fear and trembling."

Thou hast clearly instructed us in the nature of the regeneration by likening us to trees bringing forth their fruit in due season. As the earth bringeth forth fruit of itself,—first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear,—so must it be with us in the regenerate life. Help us, O Lord, we beseech Thee, that we may bring forth fruit to perfection, and unto Thee will we ascribe all the honour and all the praise, for ever and ever. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY EVENING.

ETERNAL Lord God and Saviour, Thou art the only safe Counsellor, and in Thy Word we may find advice upon every subject connected with our peace here and our happiness hereafter. In the great duty which we are now engaged in, Thou hast instructed us to "enter into our closet, and when we have shut the door to pray to our Father which is in secret, and our Father which seeth in secret shall reward us openly."

Lord, help us to be obedient to this wise injunction; and that our obedience may be the result of conviction, give us, we beseech Thee, a right understanding of its divine meaning.

Another week of our existence has passed, and at its conclusion we would enter into and explore the interiors of our minds, that we may see how we have progressed in our journey, or whether, indeed, we may not have stood still, or even retrograded. Lord, help us in this important duty. While in Thy presence, may our minds be shut against the world and its concerns; may nothing now distract us; but may we, without reserve, spread out the whole of our thoughts and affections before Thee. Lord, we cannot but confess that the world has engrossed too much of our attention, and those pursuits which increase our temporal advantages have been persevered in most industriously. We have laboured for the bread which perisheth. O help us, we beseech Thee, to labour for the bread which endureth unto everlasting life. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TWENTY-SEVENTH WEEK.—SABBATH MORNING.

OLORD God Almighty, we desire humbly to express our dutiful sense of all Thy mercies, and to draw near unto Thee in the spirit of gratitude and love.

We are, by Thy holy Word, assured that in this we most resemble Thee,—when we have "love one to another"—and by this are we known to be Thy disciples. Lord, enable us to acquire Thy blessed Spirit of love and charity; we can do nothing without Thee—for in this, and in every thing else, we have no strength but that which is derived from Thee, and we can exhibit no love that is truly heavenly, but such as has its origin

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in Thee. O let Thy love be shed abroad in all our hearts, so that from it, as from a blessed centre, there may go forth a perpetually hallowing warmth, to give life and animation to all our actions. Enable us for this purpose to keep our affections and thoughts fixed continually upon Thee as the Supreme Divine Good, and in every engagement upon which we may enter, suffer Thy love to permeate it, throughout.

All goodness is from Thee alone. O grant that, as we see this goodness manifested in our brethren, in varied and innumerable modifications, we may love all mankind. May we seek the good by which they are distinguished, and strive to make it the model by which we ourselves would shadow forth, in our own persons, our portion of Thy heavenly goodness. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SABBATH EVENING.

LORD Jesus Christ, help us to follow that example of goodness which exemplified itself when on earth, by letting our charity be known of all men. May we seek occasions for its exercise without vanity and without ostentation. May we remember Thy divine counsel, and when we bestow alms, let not our left hand know what our right hand doeth, not seeking the praise of men, but lifting up our eyes and beholding Thee only, and seeking our reward from Thee alone; who, seeing in secret, will reward every one of us according as his works shall be.

Lord, let Thy blessing rest upon Thy Church, and upon every individual member thereof. O may we see our neighbour (next to Thee, who hast condescended to be our neighbour in the supreme sense) in Thy Church, and strive to promote its advancement among men; happy that Thou hast permitted us to "become the visible members of Thy Church on earth," may it be ever dear unto us. May its interests be our interest, its privileges our privileges, its life our life; and enjoying in it that happiness which can nowhere else be enjoyed on earth, may we strive to make others acquainted with its heavenly doctrines; may we be diligent to proclaim "the Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering and abundant in goodness and truth." May we, with fervent spirits, intreat our fellow-men to hearken unto us, that we may tell them all that Thou, O Lord, "hast done for our souls;" and, O Lord God our Saviour, aid us, we beseech Thee, to perform all our duties in singleness of eye and purity of heart; for in doing this our charity becomes known to all men.

Remove from us all selfishness; teach us to shun every evil as a sin against Thee. Sanctify to our eternal happiness, and to the good of our fellow-creatures, the duties of this day, and may we feel that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY MORNING.

O THOU whose merciful providence hath watched over and preserved us during the past night, and hast, by the refreshment of sleep, rendered us strong to labour; help us to approach Thee with a spirit of

reverence and devotion, and to acknowledge, with humble and grateful hearts, that hitherto Thou hast upheld us, and we know that Thou wilt continue to be our guide even unto death.

Help us to serve Thee with newness of spirit, and to enter upon this day's duties under the influence of Thy love and fear. Help us to become of the number of Thy true and faithful disciples, to subdue within us the pride of self-love and the love of the world, and to be willing to become the least of all and the servant of all.

Thou alone canst discover the heart's secrets, and knowest the motives which prompt men to action, therefore Thou alone oughtest to be the judge of men's actions. O make us sensible of this truth, that we may never presume to judge of the actions of others, or pass censure upon what we so imperfectly behold and understand. Remembering Thine own words, "Judge not, and ye shall not be judged; condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned;" may we, while we abhor evil and strive to avoid error, be anxious rather to heal than to injure, to cast a veil over the infirmities of others rather than to expose them; and from a deep and humble sense of our own iniquities, consider how difficult we have found the relinquishment of our own selfish gratifications, and thus learn to make allowance for others. Assist us to labour indefatigably for our own conversion; and when we are converted, then may we be zealous to strengthen our brethren. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY EVENING.

O GRACIOUS Lord, our heavenly Father, we approach Thee this evening, grateful for Thy divine protection during the day, and humbly acknowledging our unworthiness.

Mingling with the world as we have been, we confess that its temper and spirit is partaken of by us, and our affections and thoughts lean too much to its pleasures and enjoyments. We feel, O Lord, that it is a great privilege to be able to withdraw ourselves from its concerns, and to meditate upon that eternal world where charity is exercised in its own heavenly spirit, and all the blessed inhabitants really love their neighbour as themselves.

O how marvellously hast Thou arranged our affairs here, and how wonderfully, by Thy providence, dost Thou dispose our affections to the conviction that "this is not our rest"! We see the rapid changes to which every thing is subjected, and in nothing is the uncertainty of the world more distinctly seen than in the removal into eternity of those upon whom our natural affections have been fixed, and with whom we have interchanged all the kind offices of family love. It is these changes and vicissitudes that draw us continually to Thy presence; and Thou art found by all those that diligently seek Thee.

Thou art ever present in Thy Word of divine truth—that divine book, filled with Thy Spirit and life; and by a devout contemplation of Thy works in nature, we may also be instructed and prepared for our eternal habitation in the heavens. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY MORNING.

ALMIGHTY God, our heavenly Father, again has the light renewed the day and brought us into Thy presence. Thou only art the true source of wisdom, and, to become wise unto salvation, Thy Word of truth must be explored by us. "And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament, and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever." Assist us, then, O Lord, we beseech Thee, that we may, by exploring Thy Word, acquire this true wisdom,—the wisdom which cometh from above; the wisdom to know Thee, the only true God, who in Thy divine humanity art over all blessed for evermore; the wisdom which shall enable us to behold Thee in all Thy dealings with us as a tender and beneficent Father, whose great delight is in beholding His children prosperous and happy.

O heavenly Father, how great is Thy goodness and how great Thy mercy to enable and permit us thus to know Thee! Thy revealed words proclaim Thee, as Thou art, a fountain of inexhaustible love. We look at the tenderness of our earthly parents, we behold their solicitude for our welfare, the watchfulness they exercise over us, and we hear the warnings they address unto us of the snares and dangers which beset our path; and by their love for us are we led to form a faint idea of that love wherewith Thou hast everlastingly loved us. But all that our earthly father can do is finite, and bounded by his limited perception and limited knowledge. Thy love leads us to behold Thee in the tender character of a Father, while we adore Thee as our Creator, Redeemer, and Saviour. We glorify Thee, O Lord Jesus Christ, who art over all, God, blessed for evermore. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY EVENING.

ETHERNAL, omnipotent, and glorified Lord God Almighty! In Thy divine humanity every attribute of the Deity dwells; in Thee "dwells all the fulness of the Godhead bodily." O Lord Jesus Christ, we worship Thee, and Thee alone, and we pray Thee assist us, that we may acquire a deep reverence for Thy high and holy name. Thou hast enjoined us to be holy, even as Thou art holy. Thy holiness is grounded in Thy essential love; and holiness is an accommodated expression unto us, that, as Thou hast ever evinced Thy love to us, we ought to reverence Thee with deep and fervent and undisguised affection. To be holy as Thou art holy is to return Thee love for love—to display in a finite degree that love which Thou hast ever infinitely bestowed upon us.

Thou dwellest in the high and holy place, in the inmost of the celestial heavens, which is love celestial; in the inmost of Thy Church, which connects Thee with all true worshippers; and in the high and holy place of man's regenerated will, filling it and blessing it with that goodness by which it can best exhibit Thy love to others.

O give unto us clean hearts that Thine abode may be taken up within us, and that the inmost of our affections may be the high and holy place in which Thou delightest to dwell. It is impossible for us to show forth Thy goodness to the world unless it has its abiding place within

our souls, and by putting away the evil of our doings from before Thine eyes, Thou wilt enter into us, wilt record Thy name upon us, and wilt bless us, and wilt give unto us a new name—"the new, best name of Love."

O Lord, we beseech Thee, open up before us all the qualities by which Thy divine name is distinguished, that we may adore and reverence Thee in all Thy manifestations. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

O LORD God our Saviour, who hast instructed us that men ought always to pray and not to faint; keep us, we beseech Thee, in a prayerful spirit, and enable us to approach Thee this morning with reverence and godly fear. Help us to show forth Thy loving-kindness, and to adore Thy high and holy name for the protection extended to us during the past night. We have opened our eyes to the light of another day; may we elevate our affections, so as to behold Thy love shadowed forth in the glorious orb of day; beholding it as a natural symbol of Thy divine presence, and looking through it up unto Thee, that as the heat and light it emits cheers and animates, and enables us to perform our natural avocations, so may Thy light and heat, which is Thy love and wisdom, enter into our souls, and be as the Sun of righteousness arising within us, with healing in His wings.

Lord, we desire to adore Thee for the renewed opportunity of approaching Thee, and of reading Thy holy Word. May we with fervent gratitude admit its sanctifying influences into our inner man, and suffer its truth to fall upon our affections as the dew of Hermon, preparing them for the blessing of life for evermore. We confess, O Lord, that much of Thy Word of truth is dark and mysterious, and many are the passages that are hidden from our view; but we feel assured that this obscurity results from our own states, and will give way to clearer light, as we more faithfully perform Thy will. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

GREAT Father of eternity! Thou art the King of kings and Lord of lords; Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and Thy dominion that which shall not be destroyed. Thou reignest in all the kingdoms of the world, and there is none that can say, What doest Thou?

Thou hearest and answerest prayer, and we desire with gratitude to acknowledge Thee as the merciful Saviour of the world, who hast deigned to call us Thy children, and permitted us to approach Thee as our Father. Set up within our souls Thy kingdom, O Lord, and reign There as undisputed Sovereign; for Thou art the source of moral and spiritual truth, and we can never perform Thy word, or be obedient to Thy commandments, only as the wisdom of Thy directing providence is suffered to exercise entire control over us.

O Lord, we earnestly supplicate Thee for power to subdue the tendency to evil and falsehood which lurks within; for in the gratification of the

delights of evil consists the chief elements of the kingdom of self, and where self exists, there, we humbly confess, the kingdom of heaven can never have place.

O how grievously have we erred from the way of Thy commandments! How headstrong have we been in the pursuit of evil! We have set aside Thy righteous commands, which we have considered grievous, and have abused the liberty and freedom with which Thou hast endowed us. Pardon us, O Lord, we beseech Thee, and enable us to turn unto Thee, that we may walk in newness of life. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY MORNING.

O LORD God of our salvation, our souls wait upon Thee this morning, from whom cometh our help. Thou art our rock, our fortress, and our Deliverer, and from Thee alone cometh our salvation. We pray Thee, assist us to acquire that spirit of obedience which shall lead to the establishment of Thy kingdom within us. Obedience is indeed better than sacrifice, and to hearken to the voice of the Lord than the fat of rams. By obedience our minds become prepared for the reception of Thy truth, and by Thy truth, united with goodness, Thy kingdom can alone be established in our souls.

As Thy children, O Lord, bring us into this state of obedience, and instruct us by Thy Word that our state of ignorance may be reached, and that we may be withdrawn from darkness into light, and from the power of sin to the power of Thee the living God. Impress upon us the certain conviction that there is nothing which Thou canst order but that is grounded in perfect love; that the end Thou hast in view is our happiness; and in keeping Thy commandments "there is great reward."

Whichever way we turn our eyes, there is evidence that Thy kingdom is one of order and peace, and the kingdom of self is one of confusion and strife. While indulging in our vicious inclinations, many are the proofs we have had that "the way of the transgressors is hard." Help us, O Lord, we beseech Thee, that we may repent, and do the first works; so iniquity shall not be our ruin. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY EVENING.

O MERCIFUL and gracious Lord; Thou art a God of truth, and from Thee flow all the energies of wisdom; there is no knowledge but that which is derived from Thee, and he who lacketh wisdom, and asketh of Thee, will receive according to his need. We desire, this evening, again to offer our grateful thanks and praises for the blessings of this day, for the health and strength which has enabled us to accomplish our duties, and for the preservation of our sanity, whereby we have had ability to think and liberty to act according to our judgment.

All our blessings have their origin in Thy divine beneficence. But, O Lord our heavenly Father, though by Thy truth we have had our understandings opened, and though we see the necessity of obedience unto

Thy truth, that we may live as it directs, we acknowledge that there has been more of selfishness in our obedience hitherto than real affection. We feel and acknowledge that our states of mind are still low and grovelling; and we fear that our obedience is the result of a desire for the praise of men rather than from real love of Thy Word. O help us, Lord, we beseech Thee, so to receive Thy truth, and love it for its own sake, that Thy kingdom of truth may not only be established in our understandings, but the love of Thy goodness find an abiding place in our wills and affections. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY MORNING.

ALMIGHTY Lord God and Saviour Jesus Christ; Thou art the Lord of life, and Thou hast so created us that we may receive continual supplies of life from Thee. Thou hast endowed us with liberty and rationality, and hast set before us life and death, blessing and cursing; and though Thou art continually exhorting us to choose life, that we and our seed may live; yet hast Thou left us in perfect freedom, and we can turn either to the kingdom of light and glory, or to that of darkness and death.

Every day of our existence places before us the reality of our dependence on Thee for happiness; for when we turn to our own evil gratifications, misery and suffering result from them; but when we return unto Thee, our minds find rest and peace. Thus are we by experience taught that there is no peace to the wicked, but that he that trusteth in the Lord, mercy shall compass him about. O blessed Lord our Saviour, we see and acknowledge, by the vicissitudes through which we pass, that if left to work out the gratifications of our own will, a state of suffering is constantly induced, but by submitting ourselves to Thy will, we are brought into order, and enabled to see that there is nothing really good but that has its origin in Thee. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY EVENING.

ALMIGHTY Lord, the Regenerator of the world; Thou hast instructed us that "unless a man be born again, he cannot enter into the kingdom of heaven." We feel more and more the truth of this divine declaration; but, alas! we also feel that our hearts are set in us to do evil, and that continually; and thus are our understandings in a state of darkness, because our deeds are evil.

O send forth Thy light and Thy truth, that our sinful states may be made manifest before us, and thus that we may enter upon that *new birth*, that *regeneration*, without which all hope of happiness is vain. We pray Thee, O Lord, make us acquainted with Thy truth, and continue to unfold it before us, that it may be to us what light is to the path of the natural man, becoming brighter and clearer unto the perfect day.

Thou hast not created us to be mere inhabitants of this lower world, Thou hast not chained us to external materiality, but hast designed us

for an eternity of happiness in Thy kingdom ; and to attain to this high and blessed state, we must gradually put off the sensual, corporeal, and natural, that we may put on the spiritual, celestial, and divine. Give us, then, O Lord, we entreat Thee, a clear understanding of the distinction existing between the degrees of the new birth, or regenerate life ; that we may aim at becoming perfect in each state, and by such perfection, wait to hear Thy gracious command, "Come up higher!" Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY MORNING.

GREAT Lord of all things, our protector and continual benefactor ; we come before Thee this morning imploring Thy divine aid to enable us to perform the duties of this day, so that another week may have been spent in the performance of uses and in preparation for that eternal state to which we are so rapidly hastening.

O assist us to bring our affections and thoughts into a state of order, that we may make steady advances in the path of the regenerate life. How dark and chaotic are our minds, till the light of Thy truth instructs us in the nature and necessity of the regenerate life ! When we look to the quality of our affections and thoughts, and see the confusion and disorder which reigns in our minds ; when we see that there is nothing good or true, but that is assaulted by hosts of evils and falses, while our natural inclinations and desires tend rather to the encouragement of that which is evil, than to contend against it ; and when in many instances evil is presented before us, and we know not that it really is evil, O how necessary it becomes that this confusion and disorder should be subdued ! Let Thy divine fiat go forth, O Lord, to the re-creation of our inner man. Speak Thou to us in this our rude and wilderness state. Make Thy voice to be heard and to penetrate into our souls. "Let there be light" to discover our evils, and grace to overcome them. We ask this light, O Lord, for Thy name sake. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY EVENING.

O LORD Almighty, Thy Word has declared unto us that the kingdom of heaven shall be within us. Our prayer, O Lord, this evening is : Set up Thy kingdom within us, we beseech Thee. There dispense Thy set and wise commands. Bring all our affections and thoughts under Thy divine supremacy. May they become the people whom Thou delightest to bless, in their several degrees of spiritual, rational, and scientific ; may they be ordered and controlled by Thee as the King, the Lord of life and glory : then shall all our knowledge be consecrated to Thy service, all our actions be regulated by reason and justice, and our inward parts become so purified as to be Thy inheritance ; then shall we be indeed possessed of that blessing,—even Thou, O glorified Lord,—in the midst of our land, which shall extend to "Egypt, Thy people, to Assyria, the work of Thy hand, and to Israel, Thine inheritance."

Again, O Lord, do we adore Thee for the strength Thou hast given us

to labour. We have gone through this day's duties in peace, for Thou, Lord, hast sustained us; and now we are about to close the last day's duties of another week, still be with us, O Lord, we beseech Thee. To the aged be Thou their stay and support, upon which they may rest. To the young be Thou an ever-present light, by which the snares spread in their path may be avoided. To all be Thou an ever-present help, and may Thy name be unto us as a horn of salvation, a strong tower, into which we may enter and be safe. We resign our spirits into Thy hands, O Lord, our strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TWENTY-EIGHTH WEEK.—SABBATH MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, help us, we beseech Thee, to serve Thee in newness of spirit on the return of this Sabbath-day; help us to contend against our passions, and against those seducing influences which would withdraw our souls from Thee. May this day be unto us as the beginning of a new period of our existence; and, O Lord, we beseech Thee, from this moment help us to keep down pride, anger, jealousy, and bitterness of spirit. From being servants to the world, and from suffering it to tyrannize over us, may we render it tributary to ourselves. O help us to keep our hearts with all diligence. Whatever may be the opposing influences which obstruct our progress, may we be able, through Thy grace, to overcome them. O give us an inward feeling of the truth, that the troubles and vexations which are permitted to assail us, are only so many evidences of the malignity of evil, which do but prove the necessity of putting our trust in the Lord rather than having any confidence in man. Bless the services of the sanctuary to our eternal happiness. This day may Thy word find an abiding place in our souls, and may its solemn engagements prepare us for the more glorious duties of eternity. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SABBATH EVENING.

ON the eve of this day, O Lord, we join in thanksgiving to Thee, for the blessings we have participated in. May all who love Thy Word, and teach Thy truth, according to the light that is in them, and live in accordance with Thy divine precepts, behold the reward of their labours in the improvement of the souls entrusted to their care. May all who are led to worship Thee be also led to set Thee continually before their eyes. May they walk in Thy light, may they live by Thy love, and show its purity and extensiveness by assisting in its universal diffusion. May the mind which was in Thee, while tabernacling in the flesh, be in them. May Thy charity be the distinguishing mark of their profession; may they strive to be as universally engaged in the diffusion of good, and may they look constantly to Thee to enable them to adorn the doctrine of Thee our God and Saviour in all things.

While we pray for the success of all ministers of the gospel, and for the advancement in spiritual goodness of all those who constitute the professed members of Thy Church on earth; we would not be unmindful

of those who spend their time in Sabbath-school instruction. O be Thou with them in their labours of love. Inspire them with ardour in the work to which they have put their hands, and fill their souls with the innocence of angels, that they may be winning in their addresses to their young charge, and attach them to their duty by affection and tenderness. And lastly, O Lord, bless this family, and grant them Thy assistance, that they may attain to those blessings which Thou hast laid up in store for them that love Thee. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, our King and our God; Thou art the source of all that is good and true. May every good deed have its origin in Thy goodness, and a devout acknowledgement be made to Thee that all the power we possess is derived from that infinite power which is our ever present help. And, O Lord, not only give us power to do our duty, but grant unto us wisdom that it may be performed with prudence and discretion, and aid us also, that with cheerfulness and willing minds we may engage in all our avocations. Free us from anxiety respecting the world and its opinion of us, and help us to acquire a conscience which shall enable us to act with justice and uprightness to all; and having the approval of Thee, O Lord, and of our own conscience, and feeling an inward serenity from being enabled to do our duty to Thee and to our neighbour, may we not feel concern or anxiety, even though the world should condemn instead of approving us.

Guide us, O heavenly Father, by Thy good Spirit; and grant that the abundant blessings showered down upon us by Thy bounteous providence may be enjoyed with temperance and moderation. Wherever we may be called to labour, in what company soever we may be compelled to mingle, still may we be kept unspotted from the world, and with faithfulness may we execute everything we take in hand, and do our duty in "that station of life in which Thou shalt be pleased to place us." Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY EVENING.

O GOD of love! How marvellous has been Thy divine love towards us! When we were at enmity with Thee, and dead in trespasses and sins, Thou, in Thy love and in Thy pity, didst visit us, and become our Saviour. Not remembering our iniquities nor visiting us according to our transgressions, Thou didst mourn over us; and taking our nature upon Thee Thou didst mingle with us, everywhere contending against and overcoming our spiritual enemies, relieving our distresses, curing our diseases, raising our souls from pollution, and breathing upon us the influences of Thy Spirit. Never was love equal to Thine! never was mercy so rich, so abundant, so free! never was parental solicitude so deep and intense! O that there were hearts within us to fear Thee always and keep Thy commandments!

As Thou hast reduced the infernals to order, and now art in Thy

glorified humanity seated high above all heavens, Lord, with fear and trembling we bow the knee in Thy presence. But grant, Lord, that our fear may not be servile; but a fear to offend against Thy holy laws—a fear to do that which is evil. Every day's existence tends to remind us of our weakness, and of the necessity of a constant waiting and dependence upon Thee. We need Thy omnipotent aid more and more as our journey progresses towards its completion. Each day unveils before us some hidden evil which we knew not had found a place within us, and requires increased strength to dislodge. Alas, Lord! our evils are indeed legion, for they are many. Help us to cast them out.

May all the members of this family, now prostrate before Thee, while they acknowledge their sins, find grace to help in every time of need. Pardon our evils which have this day been committed, and give us spirits of greater watchfulness, that we may go and sin no more. Amen.
Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, we acknowledge Thou hast innumerable reasons to complain of us; help us, we beseech Thee, to cease complaining against Thee. Help us to reflect upon the wonderful extent of Thy divine wisdom, which not only has the present but the future before Thee; and that Thou, from this knowledge, arrangeest and dispocest all things for the benefit of man, never permitting an affliction without a visit of divine consolation.

If any severe dispensation fall heavily upon us, give us, O Lord, to see the hand of mercy which does but permit it, that greater suffering may be spared. With equal gratitude may we receive the visitation which purifies, as the mercy which consoles. Give us, then, O Lord, we beseech Thee, the most perfect submission to the dispensations of Thy providence, so that whatever may happen we may learn in patience, to possess our souls. Thy fear, O Lord, is wisdom; and that wisdom can, by a contemplation of its wonders, charm all our weariness. Thy wisdom can raise our thoughts from the sad condition induced by our sufferings here, soften our melancholy feelings, soothe our bitterest anguish, and cheer us with the sweetness of Thy love. Thy love will fill us with a tranquil joy, and imbue us with the tranquillity of spiritual peace, which the world and its amusements can never impart.

Great God! awaken us to a knowledge of our eternal interests; exercise Thy dispensations in any severity, so that thereby we may be saved. Make our crimes especial scourges, that we may feel there is no peace to the wicked. Humble us, that we may feel that the meek delight themselves with the abundance of peace. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ; with the sweet singer of Israel, may we say, "O how we love Thy Word: it is dearer unto us than thousands of gold and silver." May it be unto us as the angel of Thy presence, to bless us in all states and under all trials.

While we pray for our own spiritual advancement, O suffer us not to be unmindful of that of others. O that men could be brought to love and serve Thee from the highest even to the lowest. Turn Thou the hearts of the people unto righteousness, O Lord, we beseech Thee; from the sovereign of this country to the humblest of Thy creatures, may Thy merciful loving-kindness be known, so that all the people may praise Thee, O Lord God of truth.

Lord, we desire to praise Thee, to magnify Thy name, for the protection of another day, for all the comforts Thou hast bestowed upon us, for all the privileges we have enjoyed. Thou hast crowned us with loving-kindness and tender mercy; Thou hast preserved us in health, and hast suffered no evil to come near unto our dwellings. The day is now spent, and another night is before us; take us, O heavenly Father, under Thy care during its silent watches; preserve us against the infestations of our spiritual enemies, and grant unto us calm and refreshing sleep, so that we may arise strong to labour, and able to perform our duties faithfully so long as we continue in this lower world. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

“THE grass withereth, the flower fadeth, but the name of the Lord endureth for ever.” O Lord Jesus Christ, help us to wean ourselves from this world and all its fleeting joys. Help us to subdue our passions, and to set our affections on things above. Help us to subdue pride and presumption, and to be armed with humility, that we may submit to all Thy dispensations with resignation. Help us to acquire a settled calm, and to be anxious only to do our duty, leaving everything to the wise direction of Thy providence.

Thou art our Father; why should we be anxious, why take thought for the morrow, why enquire, What shall we eat, or what shall we drink, or wherewithal shall we be clothed? O Father, teach us to submit our entire lives to Thy wise government and providence. Thine eye is ever open, Thy love never sleeps, Thy paternal goodness knows no ebb; and if Thou hast placed us here as probationers, Thou hast not left us in ignorance of our immortality.

Lord, as Thou delightest to shower blessings on Thy creatures—as Thy goodness and mercy have followed us all the days of our lives—give unto us hearts that we may love that only which is good; hearts that may be as simple and confiding as those of children on the wisdom of their parents; hearts in which piety, and virtue shall serve as the throne on which Thou, O glorified Redeemer, mayest sit, and reign as King and Lord of all. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

“COME unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” Such is Thy beneficent invitation. O Lord, may we cast our care upon Thee, for Thou carest for us. Still may we remember that one object is ever kept in view by Thy wisdom—THE SALVATION OF OUR SOULS.

The life which leads to heaven cannot but be beset with innumerable difficulties, since all the powers of darkness are in league against us to prevent our being constant and stedfast in the path. But Thou, Lord, wilt not forsake us ; Thou wilt be with us, even to the end of our course. Though hosts of enemies beset us round about to accomplish our destruction, yet, in the name of the Lord, we will overcome them ; for Thy name, O Lord, is a strong tower: the righteous enter into it, and are safe. O suffer us not to relax in our endeavours to work out our salvation with fear and trembling. May we watch over our hearts with unceasing solicitude, remembering that if we give way to the enjoyment of our corrupt inclinations, or descend into a careless or lukewarm state, our enemies then become too powerful for us, and the loss of our souls becomes more and more in jeopardy.

Teach us, therefore, to go on to perfection, never to rest satisfied with the state in which we are, but to remember that he who would be perfect must sacrifice all of sin and self, and surrender himself entirely to Thy divine government, or he cannot be Thy disciple.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, Thou hast instructed us in the precepts of Thy Word, and hast declared, "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them." May we never separate charity from faith; while we *believe* Thy truth, May we look to Thee for constant aid to do it. Inspire us with an abhorrence of the loathsomeness of vice; may we deny all that pertains to self, and crucify the flesh with its affections and lusts.

Keep before us, O Lord, we beseech Thee, the solemn truth that "every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh he to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved." O grant that we may exercise that constant faithfulness to ourselves which may keep our consciences clear and void of offence before Thee and before man.

Preserve us against temptations which beset our way, and which strive to withdraw us from our duty and our allegiance unto Thee. May we never lose sight of the exhortation contained in the divine words, "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." Keep us in all our doings, in our going out and in our coming in, and grant that we may this day be preserved from every evil, and be advanced (by doing our duty) on our road to heaven. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY EVENING.

AND it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it." O Lord, hasten this glorious time, we beseech Thee, and grant that all who are engaged in disseminating a knowledge of its glorious truth, and of its

inestimable benefit to mankind, may be prospered in their labours; and, O keep them stedfast in the way, that the seed sown may not be caught away from them by the enemy of souls.

Help us to labour for the true riches, and suffer not our souls to be misled by a thirst for the unrighteous mammon, or to be entangled in the snares by which it is accumulated. But grant unto us rather an earnest desire to buy wine and milk—that sincere milk of Thy Word, that wine that maketh glad the heart of man, that oil which makes his face to shine, that bread which strengtheneth man's heart.

For the blessings Thou hast showered down upon us, O Lord, make us grateful. To the commandments Thou hast seen fit to enjoin upon us, O make us obedient, by the influences of that Spirit by which Thou waitest to guide us. O send Thy grace that we with willingness may follow; and may a conviction of Thy omnipresence prevent our weakness from sinking under the trials necessary for our purification. May Thy words be ever unto us as assurances of Thy presence: "Behold I am with thee, and will bless thee in all things whithersoever thou goest. I will not leave thee until I have done that of which I have spoken to thee. Fear not, for I am with thee. I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward." Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY MORNING.

LORD, we confess that we are too frequently envious and jealous of what others do, lest they should do more than ourselves, or should do what we intend to do, before our purpose is matured. Thus do we fret ourselves to do evil, and thus do we become associated with the workers of iniquity, and are as those that go down into the pit.

But O, how great, how marvellous is that wisdom, which out of evil still educes good, which causes the wrath of man to praise God, while the remainder of wrath is mercifully restrained. Thy providence interweaves itself with all our purposes, and where our own waywardness would bring sin and death, Thy providence, by a way we know not, convinces us of sin, withdraws us from self-dependence, shows us that "men of low degree are vanity, and men of high degree are a lie; and, laid in the balance, are altogether lighter than vanity."

Adored be Thy name, O Lord, for these Thy fatherly interferences which bring us to a more correct knowledge of ourselves. To Thee belongeth mercy, for Thou renderest to every man according to his work.

Lord, be with Thy people this day, and enable them to behold Thy providential hand in the disposal of their affairs. Above all things, O Lord, assist us to subdue our selfishness, and suffer us not to labour under mistaken notions of our own righteousness. May we in all things bend our wills to Thy providence, and from our hearts be able to say, "Not our will, but Thine be done." Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY EVENING.

“THEY that wait upon the Lord shall be as Mount Zion, that cannot be moved, but abideth for ever.” Lord, may this encouraging precept be always near us; and amidst the darkness and despondency which our spiritual adversaries are constantly striving to infuse into our souls, may there be a brightness and a glory which shall penetrate through every gloom, and dissipate every darkness,—a light which shall continue to increase and shine more and more unto the perfect day, till, being filled with Thy light and love, whatever afflictions may visit our bodies, our minds may still be joyous and buoyant, and we may thus become like unto Thy true and faithful disciples, who loved not their own lives, but endured unto the end.

And as Thou, O Lord, hast loved us, so teach us to love one another. In this family may brotherly love continue, and throughout our intercourse with the world, may love, guided by truth, be our distinguishing quality. Assist us to put away selfishness, pride, strife, and envy; assist us to be upright, benevolent, and sincere; renouncing the world and its vain delights, may we live in it as strangers and pilgrims; and having our conversation in heaven, may we stand as beacons in the midst of a wicked and deceitful generation; and while we do our duty may we still ascribe unto Thee all the honour and all the glory, remembering we are still unprofitable servants. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jehovah, who hast declared that on Thine altar the holy fire shall burn continually, it shall never go out; kindle within our hearts, we beseech Thee, the flame of heavenly love; may it burn with a steady and fervent heat, diminish not in potency, but burn in perpetuity—never be quenched, never die!

Lord, we are again about to enter upon the duties and concerns of natural existence, and we feel more and more the necessity of Thy love, to enable us to discharge them with fidelity; for if we possess not the fire of Thy love, our own unhallowed fire will burn and consume us. We profess to have devoted ourselves to Thee, and to desire above all things to live in Thy love and fear; if, then, we forsake Thy love, and turn to our own evil gratifications, and indulge our evil lusts, like Nadab and Abihu of old, we offer strange fire upon Thy altar, and we shall be consumed by our own lusts. O help us, then, that Thy fear may be ever before our eyes that we sin not. Aid us so to discharge our every duty with faithfulness as though Thou wert personally present before us. With our affections set upon things above, with a remembrance that here we have no abiding city, may we live in this world as though we lived not, and pursue our secular avocations from a sense of duty to our fellow-creatures, free from the tormenting cares and anxieties of the sensual mind.

Look down, we beseech Thee, upon this family, and upon every family, with the eye of Thy protecting providence; and while we know that Thou Lord seest us, may we be so guarded from the subtle devices of our spiritual enemies, and preserved against indulging in our own besetting sins, that we may pursue our way in steadfastness and holiness. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY EVENING.

THOU, O Lord Jesus Christ, hast declared, through the medium of Thy holy Word, that whosoever's name was not written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire. Our actions are inscribed on the interiors of our minds; and this is the book from whence we shall be judged. Alas! we are constrained to say that in our hot pursuit of the things of this world we have not really loved our neighbour as ourself, for his good has scarcely entered our thoughts. Our present absence from the world, and entering into the closets of our inner man, we perceive we have done wickedly. In truth, Lord, we have greatly erred from Thy ways; our thoughts and affections have been disorderly, and from the inmost of our affections to the extreme external of our thoughts we have no soundness in us, we fear we have not advanced, but have gone backwards; not one of us hath wrought righteousness, no, not one.

O merciful Lord our Saviour, we implore Thy gracious pardon. Enter not into judgment with us. From Thy high and holy place look mercifully upon our imperfections, and grant unto us the necessary strength to resist evil for the future. Afford us, O Lord, the consolations of Thy good Spirit, and suffer us not to sink under the weight of our evils, but make Thy strength manifest in our weakness, and give unto us such a portion of the influences of Thy Spirit as shall enable us to come unto Thee, so that we may be filled with Thy love, and guided by Thy truth, and strengthened by Thy grace, to be more zealous in our duty, and to repent and do the first works. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TWENTY-NINTH WEEK.—SABBATH MORNING.

ALMIGHTY Lord God and Saviour, we acknowledge and worship Thee as the Lord of the Sabbath, and we would humbly approach Thee and devote the first moments of the day unto Thee, that the afterpart may be blessed as well to the rest of our souls as our bodies.

O God, Thou art our God, early will we seek Thee. We feel our need of Thy bounteous providence. Open Thine hand, O Lord, and feed us with Thy heavenly goodness. Refresh our understandings by Thy truth, which, without Thee, are as a dry and thirsty land, where no water is. But Thou canst pour out Thy Spirit upon us, Thou canst open springs in the desert of our minds, and make them to flourish as the garden of the Lord. O let the river of the water of life flow forth this morning into our souls. Make this day unto us as a day of rejoicing, and help us so to prepare ourselves that every truth we hear may find an abiding place within us, until the solitary places of our souls shall be gladdened with the light of Thy countenance, and all our affections and thoughts unite in the song of the good king of old: "Thou art our God, we will praise Thee; we will exalt Thee for ever and ever." Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SABBATH EVENING.

O LORD, we acknowledge with shame that Thy lessons of wisdom are too easily effaced from our remembrance. Truly we are often like

those who, beholding their natural resemblance in a mirror, turn aside and forget what manner of persons they are; and Thy Word often falls pleasantly on our ears; but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the good seed, and thus break off for a time our attendance upon Thee. But even in this our waywardness Thou dost not leave us; Thou art still by Thy providence operating in our behalf; Thou permittest trials to assail us until we are convinced that there is no pleasure and no happiness equal to that of waiting upon, loving, and serving Thee. O cause Thy Word to take such deep root in all our hearts that the fruits of a holy and devout life and conversation may be evidenced in all we do.

Another Sabbath has been added to our lives, another week of ordinary duties must be now entered upon. In all that we have heard and read this day, may we have experienced delight and satisfaction. May this family retire to rest deeply grateful for the blessings they have enjoyed, and may the healthful spirit of Thy grace fill us with humble confidence. May we individually be enabled to exclaim, "I will lay me down in peace; I will sleep, for Thou Lord sustainest me."

Forgive, O Lord, for Thine own name's sake, the sins of this family, and grant us Thy grace, that we may sin no more. Accept our thanksgivings for all Thy mercies, and make us more and more grateful. Lord, we desire Thy protection during our defenceless state this night, and we cast ourselves upon that providential love which never sleeps. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY MORNING.

ALmighty God, our heavenly Father, there is none like unto Thee, whose mercy endureth for ever! there is none who can compare with Thee, whose love never faileth; therefore do we approach Thee with humble confidence and with heartfelt gratitude; we praise Thee for Thy mercy, and with our mouth will we make known Thy truth unto all generations. "In Thee mercy and truth have met together, righteousness and peace have kissed each other." In Thy glorified person Thy truth enters into union with Thy divine goodness; and Thy conquering power, having subdued all our enemies, has established the reign of peace, so that there is a divine union between Thy good and truth, Thy love and wisdom; we see Thee as Thou art, and worship Thee as the only wise God our Saviour.

O Lord, most merciful and gracious, as Thou hast permitted us to enter upon another week, we implore Thee to be with us; and as we commence our duties by invoking Thy divine aid, extend to us, we beseech Thee, that assistance which shall endow us with new strength, and fortify us to go through the further trials which are necessary for our purification.

As we read Thy Word every portion of it convinces us of the necessity of regeneration. We cannot but behold that we must be born again, and Thy Word discloses unto us that the new birth can only commence and go on to perfection as we sink our own selfishness in striving to do good to our neighbour. Help us in this great duty, for Thy name and mercy sake. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

P

MONDAY EVENING.

O LORD of hosts, God of all the families of the earth, Thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever Thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting Thou art God. "Thou sittest upon the throne of the heavens; Thine eyes behold, Thine eyelids try, the children of men." There is none so mean but is the object of Thy care; none so mighty but that owes all his power unto Thee. Thou art ever the same,—merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth. Thou desirest the happiness of all, and Thy righteous dispensations are exercised, that all may be made partakers of Thy eternal kingdom.

With feelings of contrition, O Lord, we acknowledge that we have sinned against Thee, and have too frequently stifled the voice of conscience, which, pleading within us, has convicted us of sin. We cannot say we have this day preserved ourselves free from evil, nor can any one of us with truth declare that we have been obedient to Thy divine precepts. We have felt the love of evil warring within us, and striving to suffocate the desire of doing good; and, O Lord, we acknowledge that we are at all times too prone to give the rein to our licentious appetites rather than to bring ourselves under the restraining power of Thy Word. O forgive us, most gracious Saviour, for Thou only art our Propitiator, our most Merciful One. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY MORNING.

O INFINITE, eternal, and omnipotent Jehovah; Thou art the Creator and Sustainer of all worlds, and there is no one of Thy creatures but that is the object of Thy paternal care. All Thy works declare Thy wisdom, and all speak to the praise of Thy goodness. Of things in the heavens, and of things upon the earth, and of things in the sea, there is a constant witness that Thy love is universal, and Thy tender mercy is over all Thy works. Even in the fearful storm, in the thunder, and hail, did we but know how to read Thy visitations aright, we should still adore Thee: while we stood in awe, we should still look through Thy judgments to the love that permitted them, and acknowledge that there was none like unto Thee in all the earth, who alone knew what was best for us.

While fire and hail, snow and vapour, and stormy wind fulfil Thy Word; while the evidences of Thy paternal goodness are before us in the provision which is made for all that is created; while the adoring hosts of angels magnify Thy name, and man is gifted with high and lofty intellect, that he may the better show forth Thy goodness in themes of praise and thanksgiving,—O aid us in all these symbols to read the page of Thy Word aright, and to look within our souls, and call our faculties, powers, and talents to praise Thee, who alone doest wondrous things. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY EVENING.

GREAT and glorious Creator, how wonderful is Thy power! equalled only by Thy goodness: Thy love and wisdom call for the deepest veneration of Thy children, and teach them equally in the calm and in the storm that Thou alone canst guide the world and arrange its vicissitudes with unerring skill.

We have beheld with silent awe the heavens above us black with storms; and while our hearts have sunk within us, we have reflected upon our numerous evils; we have seen our fellow-creatures stricken down by our side. They were in the same health and vigour as ourselves. They were planning years of pleasure and of hope, anticipating wealth and honours, reputation and worldly prosperity, and lo! the lightning struck them, and their hopes and fears, their anxieties and anticipations, are at once and for ever ended. It cannot be denied that Thy permissions of destruction are exercised to bring us to a deeper sense of our evils, and by such visitations to warn us of the uncertainty of our existence here, as well as to be careful for nothing but the one thing which is needful; and to remind us of our duty to choose that good part which may find us ready to depart, under what dispensation soever it may please Thee to call us. O Lord, we acknowledge the wonder-working power of Thy providence; help us, we beseech Thee, to meet Thee, our God and Saviour, whenever it shall please Thee to call us. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

O LORD God and Saviour, with the return of the morning we desire to approach Thee, and again to offer our humble tribute of prayer and praise. Blessed be Thy name for the protecting providence which has watched over and sustained us through the night season. Fill our souls with adoring love, that we may better express our gratitude and veneration.

But the day alone is Thine, and we cannot perform the duties allotted to us unless Thy presence sustains and continually goes with us. For this, O Lord, we pray; O let Thy holy influences be felt by every one of us. Assist us that we may celebrate Thy divine perfections in language suitable to Thy purity. Assist us to place our entire trust and confidence in Thy mercy. When our enemies approach us, be Thou near to us, and may the qualities of Thy love and wisdom be that rock upon which we may stand impregnable against all the assaults of evil.

Help us to commit our way unto Thee, O Lord, that Thy divine guidance may direct us safely to Thy heavenly kingdom. We stand in the midst between life and death. Thy holy angels would draw us into communion with them and with Thy kingdom, but we too frequently subject ourselves to the spirits of darkness, and thus bring ourselves under the dominion of evil. O God, we implore Thee that Thy angels may have charge over us and keep us in all our ways. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

O GOD of love, who can set forth in order the wonders of Thy goodness? who can fathom the ocean of Thy beneficence? or who can separate us from that love which we have in Thee, O Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Another day has witnessed Thy goodness, and leaves us utterly incapable of return. But what doth the Lord our God require of us? but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with Thee.

Lord, help us to regulate our lives by Thy truth, help us to be merciful, as Thou our Father in the heavens art merciful. Help us that we may learn of Thee, be meek and lowly, and so find rest to our souls.

Blessed be Thy name, O Lord, for the gift of Thy divine truth. There is a river, the stream whereof shall make glad the city of our God. O may that river be unto us as the purifying waters of Bethesda. May we watch diligently for the descent of Thy gracious influences, and when the angel of Thy presence appears, may we plunge into the waters and be healed of our infirmities. In the various gifts bestowed upon us we desire to thank Thee for those healing streams which purify our bodies and heal our weaknesses and infirmities. How wonderfully hast Thou adapted those medicinal springs to the renovation of our bodies and to the healing of our souls! We glorify Thy name, O Lord of Heaven. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY MORNING.

GRACIOUS Lord and merciful Saviour, we draw near to Thee this morning, and under a deep sense of Thy continued beneficence we desire to adore Thee for all Thy goodness. Accept our gratitude for the blessings of the past night, and grant us Thy divine protection and guidance on our going out and coming in this day. May we be preserved in humility by a contemplation of what Thou hast done for us. If it had not been for Thee, O Lord, our enemies had proved too mighty for us, and we should have been like to them who go down into the pit. But Thou, O Lord, hast not given us over as a prey to our enemies; Thou hast not suffered us to be entangled in their snares, but hast preserved us amidst all our trials, so that we have been kept in safety until this day.

O God of the spirits of all flesh, help us to enter upon the duties of this day with a humble determination to set Thee ever before us, and in all that Thou hast ordained strive to render unto Thee a willing obedience. Temptations of every kind cross our path, but our sufficiency is of Thee; and we would throw ourselves upon Thy directing providence, and go forth this day with a fervent prayer to serve Thee in newness of spirit, and walk before Thee in holiness of life. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY EVENING.

O THOU whose presence fills all creation with gladness,—for Thou art the life of all,—we come before Thee this evening under a deep conviction that Thy goodness and mercy have followed us all the days of our lives. As the sun has withdrawn his light, and the moon in mildness has arisen we are reminded of that transcendent glory which is encircled

in the Sun of the spiritual world, and of that beneficent accommodation which veils itself by Thy divine humanity, so that the states of all Thy creatures may be reached, and every one receive so much of the light of Thy truth as shall gradually prepare him for still more interior views of it.

How long, O Lord, how long shall the world be ignorant of Thy true nature? How long shall Thy perfections be hidden? Thy gracious attributes misrepresented? How long will many have eyes and see not? O hasten the period when all mankind shall know Thee, from the least even unto the greatest, when the knowledge of Thee shall cover the earth as the waters cover the sea. Prepare Thou the hearts and understandings of men that they may behold the descent of the Holy Jerusalem, and with fervent devotion bring their glory and honour into it. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY MORNING.

O GRACIOUS Lord our Saviour, whose divine protection hath preserved us during the night season, help us to come before Thee this morning with a new song of gratitude; help us to show forth Thy salvation from day to day, to declare Thy glory and to speak of all Thy marvellous acts. Impart unto us the graces of Thy Spirit, and teach us to address Thee in such language as shall best express our sense of Thy loving-kindness. Daily and hourly and momentarily Thou carest for us, and whether we receive temporal or spiritual gifts, all are bestowed by Thy free bounty.

Lord, assist us to walk worthy of the vocation whereunto we are called; assist us in our endeavours to devote ourselves to Thy service. May we set Thee ever before our eyes; may we imitate Thee, and learn of Thee as Thou hast desired; and, in all that we do, may we remember that our sufficiency is of Thee alone, and without Thee we can do nothing.

Lord, we beseech Thee, let Thy love rule in our hearts, that every affection and desire may be bowed down humbly to Thy service. May we eschew pride, levity, worldly-mindedness, and vain-glory; and may Thy fear be ever before us, that we sin not. We desire to bless and praise Thy holy name for the diversified charities which abound in this our country. We praise Thee that Thou hast touched the hearts of the prosperous in worldly affairs, and hast induced them to become mediums of dispensing Thy bounty. O grant that every good that is done by them may be ascribed unto Thee, as the source whence all good originates; for all glory and honour belong to Thee alone. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY EVENING.

O LORD of grace and truth, whose divine goodness we have again participated in, at the close of another day we humbly draw near Thy mercy seat. How beautifully hast Thou bedecked the earth to gladden the eye as well as to minister to the enjoyment of Thy creatures. Thou art indeed our divine Leader, the Good Shepherd who

carest for Thy sheep; and as we in humble confidence follow Thee, so wilt Thou make us to lie down in green pastures, and lead us beside the still waters of rest and tranquillity. O help us to carry with us into these green pastures tender and grateful hearts—hearts melting with love; love towards Thee and towards each other—hearts at once pitiful and sympathising, and anxious only to do good and to communicate; knowing that with such sacrifices Thou art well pleased; and may the freshness and verdure which everywhere surrounds us at the present season of the year, enkindle our affections into a holy and pure flame of heavenly love. May the sight of the grass, and the odour of the flowers, deeply impress us with the recollection of the inexhaustible bounty of Thee, our most beneficent Father. May we feel a thorough conviction that the goodness of our God is everywhere displayed, and that there is not a corner of the earth in which Thou, O Lord, hast not manifested traces of Thy tender providential care. Thou hast made the whole earth one vast treasurehouse of Thy divine bounty. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY MORNING.

THOU, O Lord, reignest, let the earth be glad, let the inhabitants of the earth rejoice, let all who have seen and tasted of Thy mercy say continually, The Lord be magnified.

O Lord, permit us, after the refreshing influences of sleep, to approach Thee, and to offer unto Thee our morning tribute of praise and adoration. All our hopes centre in Thee. Thou art our Creator, Redeemer, and Preserver, and we would humbly adore Thee for all the wonderful displays of Thy boundless love.

Great Author of our being, we desire to approach Thee as the eternal Truth, the glorious Sun of righteousness. Arise, shine within our souls, we beseech Thee; send forth Thy light as we are prepared to receive it. As the twilight ushers in the morn, so may the first principles of truth dawn upon our understandings and prepare them for the more glorious revelation of Thy wisdom when we shall have advanced in the way of the regeneration. Teach us to look through the emblem of Thy presence—the sun—up to Thee, the Creator of that glorious luminary; that we may feel in his fervent heat a symbol of Thy perfect love, and see in his glorious light a faint resemblance of Thine all-perfect truth; and O help us to open our hearts and understandings that Thy love and wisdom may find a ready entrance into our souls. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY EVENING.

ALmighty and most merciful Father, permit us, at the close of another week of our existence, to approach Thee, to magnify that love which has so unremittingly been bestowed upon us, and to adore Thee for that providential care and solicitude, which has hitherto sustained us. When we look back upon all Thy tender mercies, upon all the benefits which have so unceasingly been bestowed upon us, and compare them with our constant unworthiness and frequent ingratitude,

we cannot but exclaim in wonder, "What is man, that Thou art mindful of him, or the son of man that Thou visitest him." O that we may from this time forth serve Thee with newness of spirit, and bring our souls under a more perfect obedience to Thy divine precepts.

We bow before Thee in humble thankfulness that our existence is preserved, that time is still afforded us to repent and do the first works. How many have been called into Thy presence during the past week! How many who began it in high health, and with anticipations of long continuance in this world, are now in that eternal world, where their state will determine their happiness or misery. May these solemn recollections impress us with the certainty of our own removal, and teach us to give due heed to our ways, that when we are summoned we may be found worthy to enter Thy heavenly kingdom. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THIRTIETH WEEK.—SABBATH MORNING.

LORD of the Sabbath, who hast taught us that "men ought always to pray and not to faint," help us to approach Thee this morning, and in a spirit of grateful adoration to worship Thee in spirit and in truth. We humbly thank Thee that Thy preserving providence has protected us during the unconscious hours of sleep, and that Thou hast refreshed our bodies and preserved our minds in health and sanity; and we pray Thee, O Lord, that throughout this day we may so conduct ourselves, as to receive the communications of Thy love and truth, and be advanced on our way towards Thy heavenly kingdom.

Thou reignest, O Lord, in the heavens; Thou sittest between the cherubim. Thy love is so pure and holy that the cherubim are as the guard of Thy providence, to prevent the too near approach of those who are not prepared for beholding Thy truth and feeling Thy love. We pray Thee, therefore, to create within us a clean heart, and to renew a right spirit within us, that in lowly-mindedness we may approach Thee, and praise Thy great and reverend name, for it is holy. May all our thoughts be elevated by Thy truth to a contemplation of Thy infinite wisdom, and may all our affections be raised in love towards Thy holy mountain—the Zion in which Thou delightest to dwell. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

SABBATH EVENING.

O LORD our God, who art ever near to Thy people, we humbly bow down before Thee this evening; we adore Thee for the blessings which have been so plentifully showered down upon us. Our feet have stood within the gates of Thy Church on earth; O grant that what we have this day heard may prepare us to sit within the courts of the supernal Jerusalem, and join in the company of the spirits of the just made perfect to serve Thee in newness of spirit. Lord, help us to improve to our eternal advantage, the services in which we have engaged. Inscribe Thy truth on our inward parts, and being written on the inmost of our affections, may it beautify the understanding with the graces of integrity, piety, and wisdom.

Lord, help us to enter, as we rest upon our pillows, into an examination of our souls, that we may thereby reflect how we have performed the duties of this day; and as our consciences reprove us of sin, may we look to Thee for help to resist every evil thought, and may we not only make, but strive to keep, resolutions of amendment. Helpless as we are when stretched upon our beds, and more liable then, than at other times, to the assaults of our spiritual enemies, what could save us from their malice, but Thy watchfulness and love? Yea, Thy "love never sleeps." We therefore commit our souls into Thy hands. Preserve us, we beseech Thee, for Thy mercy sake, O Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

MONDAY MORNING.

ETERNAL and omnipotent Lord, we, Thine humble and unworthy servants, blessed so much above our deserving, protected amidst the perils of the night, and permitted to rise in health and safety, draw near to Thy mercy seat; O "hear our prayer, and let our cry come unto Thee, our King and our God." After the blessings of the Sabbath, the refreshment of our bodies by sleep prepares us again for the labour of another week, and brings us before Thee to supplicate Thy divine aid that those labours may be faithfully and effectually performed. Upon Thee, O Lord, we depend for help in every time of need. Thou art the Father of our spirits; hold Thou us up, and we shall be safe.

Help us to acquire spirits of dependance and resignation to Thy will, that we may so bend to Thy providential dispensations as to submit to all Thy wisdom shall ordain or permit, not only without murmuring, but with cheerful resignation, as knowing that the infinity of Thy wisdom cannot but arrange all things for our present and future good. May we in truth pray that Thy will may be done.

In the prosecution of our various avocations may diligence distinguish us: never may we be slothful in business; but grant that this activity may not originate in the desire of worldly distinction, or in an undue anxiety to acquire wealth; but, as Thou knowest what we have need of before we ask Thee, we commit ourselves to Thee, and pray only for that which is needful. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY EVENING.

GRACIOUS and holy Saviour, with gratitude and thankfulness we humbly approach Thee this evening. Thy divine and holy arm hath upheld us through this day, protected us in all our duties, and brought us again in peace and safety to our home; so that here are we enabled again to unite in worship, and with truth to exclaim, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us; the Lord hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad."

Enable us, O Lord, we beseech Thee, to enter upon an examination of our actions during the past day, so that those things which accuse us may be repented of, and we be enabled to serve Thee more faithfully for the future. O help us to keep our own state under constant review.

Help us to discover those deviations from the laws of order, which, if not repented of, would but tend to our future destruction. So many evils lurk within us that assume the appearance of good; so much of error attaches to our thoughts which assumes the appearance of truth, that we are daily and hourly in danger of being misled by false prophets, who come to us in sheep's clothing, but who inwardly are ravening wolves. Frequently do we experience the truth that Satan disguiseth himself as an angel of light. Lord, we trust in Thee. Help us to defeat his wiles: O hear us and answer us, for Thine own name sake, O Lord. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY MORNING.

O LORD God our Saviour, "how excellent is Thy name in all the earth! Thy glory is above the heavens." All the angels adore Thee; glorifying Thy name, hearkening to the voice of Thy Word, they execute Thy divine mandates. All Thy ministers who do Thy pleasure magnify Thee in the performance of their duties; and we, O Lord, the members of this family, desire to praise Thy holy name, for Thou hast provided for us both in soul and body, and hast mercifully protected us from danger, and brought us safely to the present moment.

With reverence and godly fear, Lord, we desire to humble ourselves in Thy presence this morning; with a deep sense of the gratitude that is due to Thee, we desire to worship toward Thy holy temple.

Lord, so teach us to pray that our supplications may find acceptance. Give unto us that which tends most to the advantage and safety of our souls, and grant that every duty in which we engage may serve as a work of preparation for the perfection of our future state. O teach us to reverence Thy great and holy name. All Thy divine qualities and perfections, all Thy divine attributes and powers: Thy love and wisdom, Thy forbearance and long suffering, Thy tender mercy and patient endurance of our waywardness, Thy not dealing with us according to our sins nor rewarding us according to our iniquities—all call for the deepest gratitude we can offer, and for the most devout reverence and thanksgiving. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY EVENING.

MOST holy, most gracious and glorious God, with reverence we desire to approach Thee this night, and with grateful hearts to adore Thee for the blessings of the past day. Heaven and earth are full of the majesty of Thy glory; and if we read aught of the wonders of heaven above and of the earth beneath, which Thou hast created, we shall also be enabled to enter into the inmost of our own minds, and there, contemplating the noble powers with which Thou hast endowed us, we shall see still further cause to glorify Thee, because Thou hast so created our spirits, that by attention to Thy Word of truth, and by the application of its regenerating influences, we can prepare our souls to be the dwelling place of Him who, though high and inhabiting eternity, dwells also

with the humble, to revive their spirits, and fill with joy their contrite hearts.

O Lord, we beseech Thee, let Thy gracious Spirit possess our souls, and turn Thou all our faculties to Thy service, that there may be from within those regulating powers which shall preserve in order all the members of our bodies; thus, that everything we do may be done to Thy glory, and to the welfare of our future state, as well as for the happiness of our fellow-creatures. Grant our request, O Lord, we beseech Thee, for Thine own name's sake. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

INFINITE and omnipotent Lord God, while the morning calls us into Thy presence to pay our adoration unto Thee for the blessings and protection afforded us during the past night, we cannot but be sensible of Thy divine condescension, in that Thou waitest to be gracious, and even to be present with us in our adoration, imparting unto us the full blessedness of Thy glory as we are prepared to enjoy it. O Lord God our Saviour, Thou art very great, Thou art clothed with glory and majesty, Thou investest Thyself with light as with a garment, and over Thy glory there is at all times a covering, so that Thy divine presence may be attempered to the state and condition of those who worship Thee. How infinite is Thy love towards us and towards all Thy creatures, O Lord! As a Sun of righteousness, Thy divine perfections are revealed. Through Thy glorified humanity, all Thy creatures have access to that perfect love, that divine goodness, which is the very essence of Thy being. There are none of Thy creatures so lowly as to be overlooked by Thee; there are none so exalted as not to need Thy divine favour and countenance. The most suffering among Thy children may hear Thee, in accents of perfect love, exclaiming, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest; take my yoke upon you and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly, and ye shall find rest to your souls." Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

O LORD, merciful and gracious, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin, what can we, Thy sinful creatures, offer unto Thee for all the bounties we daily receive from Thee! Day unto day continues Thy goodness, and night unto night declares the unwearied love with which Thou regardest us. No good thing has Thou withheld from us, but Thy goodness and mercy have followed us all the days of our life.

By Thy kind and merciful providence, we have safely been brought to the close of another day; still Thou surroundest our habitation with every comfort, still is Thy bounteous hand open, and our bread and our water has been made sure unto us. O how can we express ourselves, or show our gratitude for the wonders of Thy love; or what can we render unto Thee for all the benefits Thou hast showered down upon us? Help us, O Lord, to fulfil that which Thou requirest at our hands; "to do

justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with Thee our God." Help us, O Lord, to perform this our reasonable service. Preserve us in integrity and uprightness. May our utmost efforts be (depending on Thy help) to form within our souls a conscience that shall be clear and void of offence. May every action in which we are about to engage be regulated by the wisdom of Thy Word, and may the wisdom which cometh from above permeate all our doings. Grant this, O Lord Jesus Christ, for Thine own name's sake. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY MORNING.

O LORD God Almighty, we thank Thee for the renewed opportunity of approaching Thee; we praise Thy holy name for the blessings we have enjoyed, and we supplicate a continuance of them; for Thou art our Father, our Saviour, and our God, and Thy goodness and mercy have followed us all the days of our life.

But while we acknowledge Thy bounties, and praise Thee for their uninterrupted continuance, O suffer us not to be unmindful of the necessities of others. While Thou hast opened our eyes to behold Thy truth, enable us to pray continually for the sight of those who have eyes but see not.

Alas! how has goodness vanished from the land; how is truth perverted and falsified by error! We see on each side of us a grievous famine; a famine not of bread, but of hearing the Word of the Lord. Though Thy truth is preached, there seems to be no love of it; no obedience to its divine precepts. Darkness seems indeed to cover the whole spiritual land, and gross darkness the people. Our whole mind seems overrun with error, and the pride of self-derived intelligence is as the Goliath which continually vaunts itself against the spiritual Israel; and there is no David at hand to overcome these boastings of self-love, and the pride of arrogant self-intelligence. How long, O Lord, shall Thy people travel in fear? How long shall faith alone be dominant? Where is the charity to join with faith, by which Thy true disciples shall be known?—where the desire to see Thy Church grow and become a praise on the earth? O help us, Lord, we beseech Thee, and build Thou the waste places of Thy Church. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY EVENING.

O MERCIFUL Lord God and Saviour, mindful of Thy gracious promise, that whatsoever we shall ask in Thy name, Thou wilt bestow upon us, we desire humbly to approach Thee this evening, and together with the many families who acknowledge Thee as the only wise God, our Saviour; we draw near unto Thee in humble confidence, we worship Thee, and pray that we, and every soul that waiteth upon Thee this evening, may be refreshed by Thy good Spirit, and strengthened to pursue that straight and narrow path which terminateth in everlasting life.

Before Thy name can be spiritually inscribed upon us, both our hearts

and understandings must be turned unto Thee, and there must nothing of self or the world dispute with Thee the sovereignty.

O Lord of heaven, assist us to bring the affections of our hearts into harmony with the convictions of our understandings, that we may "abhor our evils, and repent in dust and ashes." Give us a clear perception of Thy divine injunction: "Ye that love the Lord, see that ye hate the thing that is evil." May we consider evil as our greatest and deadliest enemy, and hate it with perfect hatred. May we avoid indulging in evil, not from worldly or prudential considerations, not because our reputation will be endangered in the estimation of men, but because it is sin against Thee, because it is detrimental to our souls' eternal happiness. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY MORNING.

O LORD, whose ears are open to the prayer of the destitute, who despisest not the humblest suppliant, be with us this morning, we beseech Thee, and listen to the voice of our petitions, for on Thee alone do we depend. We praise Thee, O Lord, that Thou hast raised us up from sleep; that Thou hast renewed our strength by refreshing our bodies, and rendering them strong to labour.

Again, we desire to consecrate our lives to Thy service, and every faculty and talent of our souls we would humbly dedicate to Thee. O Lord, accept our humble offering, and instruct us in the proper use of our talents, that whatsoever we do may be done to the glory of Thy holy name.

We need continual assistance from Thee; for so prone are we to indulge in evil, and so easily are we drawn aside to commit it, that unless we are restrained by Thy grace, we should be continually violating Thy precepts. Assist us, O Lord, to keep Thee ever before our eyes. Assist us to explore our affections, knowing that our hearts are deceitful above all things and desperately wicked: O aid us to turn away from that which is evil, to seek Thy truth, and to walk by it. Every day's experiences convince us that the heart of man is set in-him to do evil, and that continually. Help us, therefore, O Lord, we beseech Thee, and enable us to repent and turn unto Thee with full purpose of heart and life. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY EVENING.

O LORD our God, in whom alone is our strength, and without whom we can do nothing; it is by Thy power and through Thy divine aid alone that we have been enabled to perform the duties of this day. With humble and thankful spirits we therefore approach Thee, O God of the spirits of all flesh; we adore Thee for the strength with which Thou hast endowed us; for the intellectual ability, and for all the faculties of invention and rationality, whereby our labour is rendered profitable to ourselves, being conducive to our health, and productive of comfort to the community of which we are members. Thou alone art the source

of all good. Thou alone art the fountain of all wisdom and knowledge. As Thy creatures look to Thee and acknowledge Thee as the essence of all design—as Thy creatures, in their humble endeavours of use, strive to imitate Thee in Thy glorious works, and labour to increase the amount of the comforts of mankind by works of beauty, diversity, and use—so do they best exhibit their sense of that Almighty Goodness, who, in creating the world, and storing it with materials on which the creature may exercise his ability and ingenuity, desires nothing so much as to see His creatures happy, doing good to all, and glorifying their Creator in their bodies, as well as in their spirits. Lord, we desire to thank Thee for the diversity of gifts and of talents with which Thy divine Spirit has endowed us. Help us to glorify Thee in our talents and faculties, and thus to show that we return Thee Thine own with usury. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY MORNING.

O LORD, who art ever merciful and gracious; we desire to approach Thee this morning to renew our grateful acknowledgments of Thy bounty, and to dedicate ourselves anew to Thy service. Summer and winter alike remind us of Thy fatherly care and providence; but the present season of the year places before us in all profusion the treasures of the field, which Thou, O Lord, hast blessed. O God our heavenly Father, fill our hearts with adoring love and gratitude, and grant unto us a correct knowledge of Thy truth, that we may employ all our talents and faculties under the guidance of Thy wisdom, and in the faithful performance of our duty to Thee and to our fellow-creatures.

Which way soever we turn our eyes, we behold the creatures whom Thou hast made filling their allotted sphere, and performing their duty with a willing cheerfulness. We behold nothing created in vain—nothing useless. The seed dispersed by the wind is, by Thy wonderful guidance, deposited in the earth most suited to promote its growth, and minister in future usefulness to the good of the world of which it forms a created part.

Thou hast taught us in Thy Word that the very hairs of our head are all numbered; that nothing perishes, nor can anything be removed without permission from Thy providence. There is no such thing as chance, for Thou overrulest all things for good, to the happiness of Thy favoured creature man. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY EVENING.

LORD, Thou art our only hope; in Thee put we our trust; Thou art our help and our shield. At the close of another week we approach Thy footstool, to adore Thee for Thine infinite goodness; to acknowledge that our lives have been abundantly satisfied with blessings, and to pray that Thou wilt continue to be our guide, even unto death.

Our souls wait upon Thee, O Lord; Thou art the rock of our salvation, our shield and buckler; and while we have Thee for our defence, no evil can befall us.

O Lord, enable us to look back upon the past week, to bring our actions to the bar of our own consciences. What have we done? in what have we transgressed? what good have we shown unto our fellow-creatures? what is the evil which has most retarded our progress in the regeneration? Help us to take a strict account of our lives, that we may know in what we have sinned, and what are the steps we ought to take that we may be preserved from the commission of evil for the future.

There is nothing in which we have engaged but that seems to partake of the infirmity of our nature. The law of self rules in our members, and we acknowledge that we have transgressed against Thee. O Lord, pardon our infirmities, and help us to serve Thee more faithfully for the future. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THIRTY-FIRST WEEK.—SABBATH MORNING.

MOST merciful Redeemer and Saviour, we adore Thee; we praise Thy holy name for all the wonders of Thy redeeming love. The Sabbath brings to our remembrance the period when, having overcome our spiritual enemies, Thou hadst also overcome death and the grave, bursting the bonds of the one and overcoming the other by Thy omnipotence, and giving us the assurance, by Thy resurrection, that we also should rise to newness of life.

O how deep are the obligations we are under towards Thee! May our hearts be filled with adoring love and gratitude, and may we strive with greater faithfulness to do Thy will, O God.

The gracious Word of Thy truth has been again read in our ears; it has made known to us Thy will, it has pointed out Thy kingdom, and counselled us so to live that its beatific delights may hereafter be enjoyed by us. O Lord, we pray Thee give us understanding, that what we read may be comprehended by us, and that all the holy requirements of Thy law may be obeyed, from a conviction that obedience to them brings peace and tranquillity of soul. Through Thy precepts do we get understanding; in keeping of them there is great reward. O help us to shun every evil way, that we may bring our lives entirely under the government of Thy divine truth, and that we may find rest to our souls. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SABBATH EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, the light of another Sabbath has risen and set upon us. Lord, grant that in Thy love and fear it may have been spent. Be near us, O Lord. Let the promptings of Thy good Spirit so influence us that whatever our actions may be, they may tend to Thy glory. Bless Thou the labours of all who this day engage especially in Thy service. To the parents, be Thy goodness the soul of their instructions to their children. Fill their hearts with Thy love, that they, feeling its potency, may communicate to their offspring instructions for the faithful performance of their duties, beseeching them by the love and tenderness of Thee their God and Saviour. To teachers of Sunday-schools extend Thy especial grace and influence, that the children intrusted to their guidance

may be trained in Thy nurture and admonition. To those who minister in holy things, who stand as Thy representatives before a sinful and corrupt people, O endow them with a winning and persuasive power of speech, that they may turn sinners from the evil of their way; show them faithfully the awful consequences of indulging in evil, and enforce the great duties of repentance, reformation, and regeneration; and in all their addresses may they teach the truth in love. Finally, O Lord, let Thy gracious influence descend upon and be felt by all devout worshippers, and grant them a spiritual perception of Thy glorious presence. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, our heavenly Father, as the law of heaven is the law of goodness, may goodness be our constant end and aim. Thou hast made of one blood all the families of the earth, and as Thou hast scattered in abundance over the earth all that can conduce to render man happy, and hast thus shown, by the variety of Thy gifts in various regions, that man should hold constant intercourse with his fellows, so may we actively engage in our various occupations, that we may render to the necessities of others, as they render to ours, that what we receive from their abundance may be returned in kind from ours, and thus that we may fulfil Thy divine injunction, "Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them, for this is the law and the prophets." O Lord God our Saviour, assist us to cultivate this spirit of use, which is the spirit of charity. Assist us to diffuse throughout the world the principle which shall make men wiser and better. Prosper every calling that has this tendency, bless every effort that is made in this direction. May the labourer, the artisan, the merchant, the teacher, and the man of science, individually and collectively, exercise their various callings, that "the blessings of order and civilization may be extended throughout the world," and to Thee, O Lord, alone shall be the glory. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, we are instructed that "they who go down to the sea in ships, and do business in great waters, these see the works of the Lord, and His wonders in the deep." These words of truth open before us the wonders of our own progress, and show to us that nothing great and good can be achieved otherwise than by labour and patience in well doing. We behold the flux and reflux of the sea, and wonder at its continual motion. "There go the ships," bearing within their bosom the treasures of various nations and the work of many hands; while myriads of living creatures, over whom is the dominion of man, exist for his use, and to show forth Thy glory. And how great is the labour of the mariner, how many the storms he encounters, how anxious the thoughts that arise in his mind, how many the expedients he adopts, ere he reaches the destined haven!

Help us in this, O Lord, to behold our own progress, and not be weary in well doing. Our bodies are the frail barks exposed to the sea of troubles and trials so necessary for our purification, and the waves of our passions too frequently endanger our progress. We are instructed, "There is an influx universal into the souls of men, teaching them that there is a God, and that He is one;" but O how deeply is this truth hidden from many! and it will be hidden from all until the evils of self-love and the love of the world are removed, and thus afford free scope for the divine influx to operate. In this, then, as in everything else, O Lord, may we be perfected through suffering. Let trial exercise our faith, let temptation purify us from evil, let suffering render us perfect, and in every stage help us to say, It is the Lord who purifies us, and may His holy will be done. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, we worship Thee as an omniscient, omnipresent, and omnipotent God. Thou disposest our condition by infinite wisdom.

Give unto us, O Father of eternity, a deeper sense of Thy goodness, a more interior feeling of Thy fatherly love; and while it is our duty to adore Thee for the gift of the model set before us when tabernacled in the flesh at Thy first advent, impress us with a deeper reverence for Thee, and from the purified affection of our hearts with a more willing obedience to all that Thou hast seen fit to ordain. Confirm in us a full conviction of the plenitude of Thy divine perfections, and as Thou hast revealed Thyself as God manifest in the flesh, may all Thy attributes, Thy qualities, and the divine names by which Thou art distinguished, still lead us to behold Thee in the tender character of Father.

As our Father, and existing in Thy inmost purity, no man hath or can see Thee; but as the only begotten Son in the bosom of the Father, Thou hast been graciously pleased to manifest Thyself before us.

In our lost and fallen condition, we can never attain to a just knowledge of Thee but by the medium Thou hast appointed, and that medium is Thy divine humanity; we are taught that no man cometh to the Father but by Thee. May we ever, therefore, look unto Thee, and know Thee by whatsoever name Thou art distinguished as the only wise God our Saviour. May we consider Thy Word as the best medium of approach to Thee; and as in Thy gospel Thou hast promised rest to the souls of all that come unto Thee, so may we take Thy yoke upon us, and learn of Thee, that we may be among the number of Thy children on whom it is Thy good pleasure to bestow the kingdom of heaven. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY EVENING.

TEACH us to know Thee, to love and serve Thee, by Thy name of "Creator," as our beneficent Father in heaven; by Thy name of "Redeemer," as our mighty deliverer from death and hell; by Thy name of

“Regenerator,” as the giver of those holy influences by which we are freed from error and preserved in the path of truth; by Thy name “Omnipotent,” as the God possessing all power in heaven and on earth, who will not suffer our spiritual enemies to prevail against us; by Thy name “King,” as the power alone worthy to exercise dominion, and to control all our purposes and thoughts, so as to bring them under Thy divine government; by Thy name “Priest,” as the author of our salvation, and as our teacher in the truths of Thy holy Word; by Thy name “Prophet,” as the alone instructor in all sound doctrine by which we can become wise unto salvation; and by whatsoever name Thou art distinguished,—still may we see a representation of some one of Thy divine qualities, and reverence Thee and hallow Thee as the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity.

O heavenly Father, Thou hast permitted us to bear Thy name, and by Thy apostle hast exhorted us to be followers of Thee as dear children. Help us, then, to be obedient to Thy divine instructions, that we may never sully the name we bear; but may our conduct be such as shall shadow forth the qualities of Thee our Father in the heavens. In love may we constantly engage in all manner of good works; in truth may we sustain our souls, and by integrity preserve a conscience void of offence; in self-denial may we account it our duty to prefer the good of others before our own; and in all things may we learn of Thee to be meek and lowly that we may find rest unto our souls.

Heavenly Father, we resign our souls into Thy gracious keeping. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, whose name is called the Word of God, preserve us, we beseech Thee, from falling into unbelief and hardness of heart. O may we be deeply impressed by the truth of Thy words, “This is the condemnation: light is come into the world, but men love darkness rather than light, because their deeds are evil.”

Impress us with a deep reverence for Thy Word’s sanctity. May we never lightly take up, or quote, any passage in the sacred records, but when we have occasion to defend the truth; may a deep feeling of its sacredness take possession of us, and may lightness and levity never sully any of our remarks upon its solemn truths.

Lord, help us to place Thy name in the inmost of our affections. May the essential divine qualities of Thy nature so impress us, that no action of our lives may be commenced without a previous consideration as to whether it is in harmony with the quality of Thy love. May we set our seals to nothing but that which bears the impress of Thy truth, so that whatsoever we do, may carry with it the sanction of Thy divine authority. In all things we desire to become humble, teachable, and poor in spirit; that, while we call Thee our Father, we may by Thee be acknowledged as Thy children. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, our God and Saviour, under a deep sense of our utter unworthiness we come before Thee this evening. Our hearts convict us of the grievous evil of having inwardly, frequently expressed, "We will not have the Lord to reign over us." All the faculties and talents Thou hast bestowed upon us we have abused. We have laboured only for the gratification of self; and, though Thou hast repeatedly sought fruit from the vineyard Thou hast Thyself planted, yet has it produced only "grapes of gall, and clusters of bitterness." Thus have we alienated our thoughts and affections from Thee, and have been the miserable subjects of sin.

But, O the goodness and mercy which has followed us all the days of our lives! Thou hast not left us to perish in our sins, but, ever anxious for our eternal happiness, Thou hast interfered in our mad career by the wonder-working power of Thy providence. Thou hast not left us to exercise uncontrolledly our vicious propensities and inclinations; but hast, by the dispensations of Thy love, weakened our selfishness, broken down our stubbornness, punished us even in our most cherished delights, and brought us to perceive that "there is no peace to the wicked." Then have we cried unto Thee in our trouble, and Thou hast heard us, and delivered us out of our distresses.

O King of heaven, reign Thou within us, and be Thou King over all the earth; and prepare us so that Thy kingdom of righteousness and peace may be established within us. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, Thou hast promised that if we return unto Thee Thou wilt have mercy upon us, and wilt abundantly pardon. We desire to acknowledge that, by Thine aid, each successive victory we achieve over the kingdom of self, prepares the way for the more permanent establishment of the kingdom of heaven within us.

Dispose us, then, O merciful Saviour, to receive Thee in whatsoever way Thou mayest reveal Thyself, and through whatsoever dispensation of Thy providence Thou mayest make Thyself known. So long as evil has dominion over us, Thy kingdom cannot be established within us. So long as we refuse to yield Thee unconditional obedience, we are, like the Jews, under law. But when we no longer oppose the kingdom of self to Thy love and wisdom, when we are so far humbled as to see that in all Thy dealings with Thy creatures there is the stamp of Thy wisdom, impelled by the perfection of Thy love, then there is no longer any spirit of opposition within us; then there is no longer an opposition of our own wisdom to Thine; then Thy government is with meekness and gratitude submitted to; and from henceforth, with the humility of the mighty king of old, we can say, "Now we praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and His ways judgment: and those that walk in pride He is able to abase." Set up this Thy kingdom within us, O Lord, and let the government be Thine alone. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, Thou hast taught us to pray, that as Thy will is done in heaven so may it be done on earth. In heaven the blessed know not selfishness; theirs is the delight of love for its own sake; goodness is the very life of their existence, and to them it is indeed more blessed to give than to receive. *There* there is not the mere appearance of holiness, but the very spirit of it; and *there* their neighbour is, in the celestial kingdom, loved even *better* than themselves. As these important truths develop themselves before us, from the study of Thy Word, O Heavenly Father, help us to acquire the state which shall enable us to love our neighbour as ourselves. Help us to do good and to communicate, and to do good for the sake of good, remembering that with such sacrifices Thou art well pleased.

O help us to remove from our understandings all that is opposite to Thy truth, and from our wills all that is opposite to Thy goodness; that there may be a clean heart given us, and a right spirit renewed within us; and that thus, with Thy divine assistance, we may be enabled to do Thy will on earth as it is done in heaven.

Lord, we pray most earnestly for the purifying power and regenerating influences of Thy Spirit. Thou knowest the hereditary bias which is in us, yea, that our hearts are set in us to do evil, and that continually. Do Thou, then, give us power to resist the bias of our hereditary promptings; to practice constant vigilance and self-denial; so that our wills may become more and more receptive of Thy love, and more completely surrendered to thy divine government. O help us to acquire that temper and spirit which, under every trial, may exclaim, "Not our will, but Thine be done." Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, we acknowledge that while vicissitude and trial are necessary for us, to exercise that freedom of will with which Thou hast endowed us, and without which we could not become accountable creatures, we feel that we have need of the constant aid of Thy righteous dispensations, so that our ruling affection may be turned towards goodness, and thus towards heaven; and as Thou art essential goodness, our duty plainly is to love Thee above all things; that Thy love may be shed abroad in our hearts, and that from it every affection and desire may be purified and rendered holy; that, from the inmost affection of our souls to the natural desires and external affections of our minds, we may glorify Thee in our bodies and in our spirits which are Thine.

O heavenly Father, reign Thou in our understandings. Be Thou King over all the earth of our natural or external minds; and grant that Thy kingdom of spiritual truth may be established within us, so that every thought may obey the dictate of its own guiding principle of wisdom. And bow Thou our wills in submission to Thy divine will, until every affection has so learned to be submissive, that whatever may happen unto us, may Thy directing providence have its termination in our ever-

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lasting good. So shall Thy kingdom come, and Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven.

May this day's duties be performed under the influence of Thy light and love; and help us so to exercise our freedom of will, that our affections and thoughts may be kept in a state of elevation to Thy truth and goodness, and thus that we may be prepared for the beatitudes of Thy heavenly kingdom. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, we acknowledge that, while in the state of innocence, and before man had perverted his nature by the abuse of his freewill, Thy divine influence descended into man's inmost nature, and he walked and talked with Thee. But, alas! evil so took possession of him that order became inverted, and the principle of innocence seemed suffocated; so that now the celestial state is imperviously hidden in the spiritual, and the spiritual in the natural, and we can only enter upon the spiritual state as the natural becomes instructed, purified, and perfected.

O heavenly Father, we pray Thee guide and direct us in our search after truth. The knowledges of natural things have led us on to natural uses: but we feel that many of these have been exercised more from the love of self and the world than from the love of our neighbour. O help us to do our duty from higher motives, instead of the lust of gain, and the desire of pre-eminence over others; help us to become humble and lowly minded, and if Thou hast endowed us with great natural talents, let Thy light so shine in our minds that they may be turned in a right direction, and exercised in a gentle spirit, under the conviction that they can only be eminently beneficial, as all ability is acknowledged to have its origin in Thee.

O let the Dayspring from on high dawn upon our souls, that the first step in the regeneration may be taken by the light of life being received into our understandings; and being adapted to our state, may it gradually disperse the darkness of error, and prepare us for the bright effulgence of the perfect day. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY MORNING.

ALMIGHTY Lord our heavenly Father, we pray that Thy divine light may enter our minds, and grant unto us that discrimination which shall enable us to choose that which is good, to seek peace and pursue it.

In our present condition darkness covers our land, and even our natural affections and desires are misdirected, because they lack the arrangement which the light of Thy truth can alone give them.

Breathe on our barren souls, O Lord, we beseech Thee; send forth the influences of Thy good Spirit, that we may be encouraged in the path of difficulty which lies before us. As obstructions meet us, grant us the power of Thy truth to contend against and overcome them. Help us to

delight ourselves in Thee, that in the pursuit of our natural callings and uses we may find continual aid from Thee to advance step by step—or from the commencement of one state up to its summit, never losing sight of the truth that Thou art in every state that is good, as well as in all the intermediate steps that conduct to the consummation of one state and to the commencement of another.

Gracious Lord, while we go sorrowing through this world of trial, suffer us not to be without our moments of joy and sunshine. Though we are born to sorrow, yet give us to feel that every trial does but bring us nearer to the source of perfect joy; and may each trial increase our discrimination of evil, and urge us to look more devotedly to Thee for strength to overcome it. So may we go on from strength to strength, until we put off the cares and anxieties of the body, and put on the joys and beatitudes of the spirit. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY EVENING.

O LORD our Saviour, impart unto us we beseech Thee just ideas and a right apprehension of those important words of Thine apostle, "Set your affections on things above," "beware of covetousness, which is idolatry." O help us to beware of all those acts of idolatry which result from the worship and exaltation of self. Suffer us not to delude our souls that the good we do is the result of our own excellence, nor imagine that the pleasure we feel is from the perfection of our own virtue. For there is nothing good but that has its origin in Thee—nothing perfect but that comes from the Father of light. May we be prevented from hearing the praises of others, lest we be turned aside to vanity; for this is to rob thee, O Lord, by ascribing to ourselves what of right belongs to Thee alone. May the good we are instrumental in performing, and the truth which we are enabled to place justly before others be ascribed to Thee, and acknowledged as proceeding from Thee, the Father of light and life. O prevent us from being secretly enticed from our allegiance unto Thee.

Lord, have compassion upon us! We mourn over all our corruptions, over all our evils, and especially over those we commit when we are even attempting to do good. In all things preserve us from sin. We do not ask Thee to spare the rod of Thy correction, but by Thy providence to guard us against offending Thee. Chasten us in Thy love, that we may be purified from our natural defilements. These things we ask, for Thy name and mercy sake, O Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THIRTY-SECOND WEEK.—SABBATH MORNING.

O GIVE thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; His mercy endureth for ever."

We desire to praise Thy glorious name, O Lord, for the accomplishment of our redemption. We glorify Thee for the fulfilment of Thy gracious promise, "The seed of the woman shall bruise the serpent's head." We magnify Thee that Thou hast made us to partake in Thy

triumphs; that Thy promise to assist us in the work of our regeneration secures us an immortality of bliss, and because "Thou livest we shall live also." While we unite with the great congregation this day, grant that we may feel an inward conviction of the necessity of vital religion, remembering that Thou, "Lord, lovest the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob;" that there is more real holiness in the practice of goodness, even though it be but of an external or elementary kind, than in all the knowledges of truth that we may acquire, where practice joins not with them. And grant, O most merciful Father, that of those who are filled with Thy love, and who delight to do Thy will, it may be said, "The Highest Himself shall establish them." O help us to worship Thee in spirit this day; and "Let the people praise Thee, O God, yea, let all the people praise Thee." Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SABBATH EVENING.

O LORD, Thou art our God, we will exalt Thee; we will praise Thy name for ever and ever." "Thou hast made heaven and earth, the sea, and all things that are therein." Thou needest not the praises of men; Thy divine nature, which is love, has displayed its unchangeable quality in redeeming us after we had, by the abuse of our own free will, alienated our souls from Thee. Thou delightest to see Thy creatures happy, and Thou hast created innumerable multitudes of rational beings capable of serving Thee; and by constantly waiting upon Thee, capable of shadowing forth Thy divine qualities in forms of varied charity and use. O help us to become like-minded with Thee.

This day we have been blessed by attending upon Thy sanctuary, and by hearing Thy Word read and explained. We have been instructed in the true nature of regeneration, and been comforted by the assurance of Thy holy angels watching over us, bearing us up in our trials, urging us onward in our ascent to Thy kingdom, and filling our minds by Thine own spiritual breathings. O Lord, grant unto us, we beseech Thee, Thy never failing help; impart unto us a spirit of unwearied perseverance and love. Breathe into our souls a portion of that wisdom which will enable us to mount up toward heaven as with the wings of eagles, and to run in the way of Thy holiness without weariness. Fill our affections with that charity which thinketh no evil; enable us to acquire that temper and spirit which beareth, hopeth, and endureth all things; ever overcoming evil with good. May Thy Word dwell in us with all wisdom, leading us from this world to the heavens. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, we feel how great the struggle is between good and evil within us; how earnest the labour of sin to have dominion over us. We feel the absolute truth of Thy words: "Unless the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it; unless the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain."

Gracious Father, we wait upon Thee that we may renew our strength.

Give unto us that earnest desire for charity that our love to our neighbour may increase, and that it may be so sincere as to prove that we are Thy disciples, by having love towards each other. Instruct us by Thy truth, that we may delight ourselves in Thy law, and have respect unto Thy commandments, and observe all Thine ordinances, and do them.

O strengthen by Thy truth the things that remain and which are ready to perish. Assist us to keep in view the period of our natural existence, and amidst all the conflicts, temptations, and trials to which we are exposed, let the angel of Thy presence go with us to defend us; and may the prospect of our glorious reward keep us steadfast to our duty, and stimulate us to a faithful performance of it. Lord, let Thy blessing descend upon all the families of the earth. Visit with Thy divine consolation the sons and daughters of affliction. Extend Thy healing hand to those who are diseased in body, and let Thy holy influence enter into and minister to the mind diseased. All these mercies we ask for Thine own name's sake. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, amidst all our backslidings Thou only art careful for us, and Thy gracious dispensations are ever exercised, that we may be brought to a proper sense of our danger while time is afforded us to repent of our evils.

O gracious Father, make us sensible, we beseech Thee, of all Thy loving-kindness. May the blessings of this day call forth our devout gratitude. May a reflection of Thy fatherly care render us more dutiful and obedient, and may the trials which have been permitted to assail us tend to alienate our affections from the world and purify our hearts from evil.

In our anxiety to receive from Thee the blessings of natural existence, may we never be unmindful of our fellow creatures, of those who cannot, and of those who will not pray. While we enjoy health and sanity, we would offer our humble supplications in behalf of those who labour under the grievous affliction of minds diseased. O gracious Father, mitigate, we beseech Thee, their heavy affliction, and restore them to a knowledge of themselves and of Thee, and be Thou the consoler of the afflicted; and unto all that are oppressed with disease let Thy healing hand be extended. Hear us, O Lord, for Thy name and mercy sake. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY MORNING.

YE that love the Lord, see that ye hate the thing that is evil. We pray, O Lord, that the feelings of celestial love may be enkindled within us, so that we may be as fruitful trees. May spiritual wisdom continue to increase, that our understandings may grow as the cedar in Lebanon. May all the good of charity be so fully developed in our souls as to fill every natural affection and desire with the charity which thinketh no evil. As the winged fowl fly in the midst of heaven, so may

our thoughts aspire towards heaven, and all the beautiful intelligences of truth be found in the midst of the spiritual hemisphere of our understandings. Thus may no feeling, nor affection, nor thought, nor desire, wander from its allegiance to Thee; but may all our faculties unite in praising Thy name, O Jehovah, and in magnifying Thy glory above the earth and the heavens.

O help us, while we profess to believe that godliness is great gain, to apply the power of godliness in all that we think, say, and do. As Thou hast bestowed upon us exceeding great and precious privileges, may we take heed to use them aright.

In the labours of this day, O heavenly Father, help us to keep our eyes meekly raised to Thee, and may we sanctify all our powers to Thy service, remembering that without Thee we can do nothing. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, Thou art a God of love, wisdom, and providence. Help us, in any visitation of Thy providence, to sink our sinful murmurings in the humble acknowledgment that as Thou art essential love Thou canst not do otherwise than well. May we all unite in the prayer, "Thy will be done."

Shouldst Thou change Thy nature (which cannot be); shouldst Thou, indignant at our sinful murmurings, withhold the thunder storm from earth, how would the atmosphere reek with noxious and pestilential vapours; how would putrid and poisonous effluvia render the air we breathe fatal to our bodily life; how would the enervating heat of summer relax our energies, impede our respiration, and deject our spirits; and men and animals, and plants and fruits, would sicken and die, and perish from the earth.

Great God! how wonderful, how great, how good art Thou! The stormy wind, indeed, fulfils Thy will! The winged lightning pursues its course; but tends rather to purify than destroy. The rain descends to fertilize rather than to overwhelm. Thou dealest with us still as Thy children. Thou speakest to us in thunder, not to curse, but to bless us. Teach us, then, O Lord, when Thou speakest, to listen with humility, gratitude, and humble confidence; and teach us in all states to say from the heart, let "Thy will be done." Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, Thou hast exhorted us to keep our hearts with all diligence, for out of them are the issues of life. Help us, O Lord, to govern our passions; may anger, which is the fire of hell, be subdued by the spirit of gentleness and love. May revenge, hatred, and strife, and all those infernal influences which ascend from beneath, to infest us and alienate our souls from Thee, be met by self-denial and forbearance, and when by dire infestations we are tempted to speak unadvisedly with our lips, O bring to our remembrance the prayer of Thy tried humanity to Thy essential divinity: "Father, forgive them, for they know

not what they do." Assist us at all times to exercise gentleness to the accusing spirits, lest we be brought into a state of greater suffering by spiritual captivity, from which there can be no release until full repentance be performed.

Lord, help us this day to keep a watch upon our tongue; every bitter word we utter, or every angry thought we cherish, brings us under the dominion of evil. May we, therefore, in all our trials, possess our souls in patience, and serve Thee, the living God, in righteousness and true holiness. To Thee, O Lord, we commend ourselves this day. Suffer not the arrow that flieth, nor the deadly pestilence, nor any evil to approach us, but in all things be near for our defence, and so teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

"**T**HERE is a river the streams whereof shall make glad the city of our God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the Most High." It is Thou, O Lord, which causeth springs to arise, and Thy hand impregnates them with healing virtues. It is by Thee that man is led to them, and the earth with all its products does but provide food or medicine to sustain, or to nourish man in health, or to restore him when his health faileth. From a contemplation of these Thy temporal benefits, Lord, lead us to view those which are spiritual. From the fountains of medicinal waters which bring health to the body, O Lord, lead us to the fountain of living waters which heal and purify the soul. From the rivers of Damascus, symbolic of the truths of self-derived intelligence and spiritual pride, Lord, lead us to the river of Jordan, that we may dip in its purifying stream, and have ourselves restored to innocence and childlike simplicity and dependence upon Thee, while we feel ourselves healed of spiritual leprosy. And O grant that, like the honest Syrian captain, when we are convicted of our evils, and have dipped seven times in Jordan, we may with humble gratitude acknowledge the cleansing efficacy of truth, and know and worship no other God than Thee our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, our heavenly Father, we desire humbly to thank Thee for Thy revealed Word, and for all the glorious promises which it holds forth unto us. Thy whole work of creation is a book of wisdom and instruction, teeming with intelligence, if we could only look unto Thee for light, to enable us to read it aright. O help us to consider Thy works; not only as they present themselves to our contemplation in external uses, which are obvious, but to explore them in every point of view, that we may gain more interior knowledge of the wisdom with which they are constituted and arranged. On every side the earth teems with Thy blessings; even the very dust has the stamp of Thy divinity set on it, and a world of minute beings has been discovered in a grain of sand. We acknowledge Thy beneficence, because Thy

blessings are showered down in rich profusion upon us, and we cannot but behold them ; but the blessings we behold are as nothing to those which are hidden. O help us to become more and more grateful. Help us to serve Thee with more willing spirits. Grant that this day may be spent faithfully in Thy service, and in those acts of duty which devolve upon us in our present station in this life. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, the Sun of righteousness ; when we behold the sun of this world, and feel his fervent heat—when we behold the moon walking in brightness, bring to remembrance, we beseech Thee, the fervency of Thy divine love, the brightness and purity of Thy divine truth ; and let Thy love be as a sun, set in the centre of our affections, and Thy truth, deriving all its light and brilliance from Thy love, be as the moon in the centre of our understandings, and do Thou reign within our souls, so that there may be none of the false heat of self-love, nor the lumen of self-derived intelligence, to take from the glory and brightness of Thy love and wisdom. Bring all our affections into attraction with the sphere of Thy goodness, and all our thoughts into attraction with the sphere of Thy truth, so that our wills and understandings may become an epitome of Thy true Church, in which there is no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it ; for Thy glory, O Lord, shall light it, and the luminary thereof shall be Thy glorified humanity. Lord, instruct us, we beseech Thee, in the necessity of submitting to those vicissitudes which tend to purify us and advance us in the regeneration.

Never may we murmur when change is permitted to come upon us, for it is impossible that Thy providence can fail in adapting our day to our strength. When health and joy and affluence shed their brilliance around our path, may we rejoice with trembling. When sickness and sorrow and penury visit us, may we know that there is some advantage designed for us, which our shortsightedness alone prevents us from discovering. In our prosperity may we rejoice, in our adversity consider, and in all states pray that Thy will may be done. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, Thy divine command is, "Do good, hoping for nothing again." We pray Thee, therefore, while Thy people are engaged in dispensing Thy beneficence, give them to perceive the sin of arrogance or self-merit : keep them in humility, and grant that they may be led to feel how great is the reward of disinterestedness, giving, not to receive as much again, but to imitate Thee ; that they may be the children of their Father which is in heaven, who causeth His sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

But while we adore Thee for all the temporal benefits showered down upon us, of which Thou makest man Thy appointed medium, we desire

especially to adore Thee for the gift of Thy holy Word ; for the freedom with which it is dispensed ; for the languages in which it is diffused, all being preparatory towards the establishment of that glorious period, when it shall no longer be said, " Know ye the Lord ; " for " all shall know Thee, from the least even unto the greatest, " and Thy " knowledge shall cover the earth as the waters cover the sea. "

And now, Lord, we humbly implore Thee to guide us through the dangers of this day ; prosper the labour of our hands, and grant that all we do may be done with a single eye, to the praise of Thy glory, and to the benefit of our fellow-creatures. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY EVENING.

O LORD our heavenly Father, as we raise our eyes upward " the heavens declare Thy glory, and the firmament showeth Thy handiwork. " As we seat ourselves on the verdant turf, and gaze around on the herbage, as the flowers expand their delicate blossoms, and send forth their influence in delicious fragrance, may the sphere which surrounds us tend to stimulate our gratitude and adoration, and may the spiritual beings which invisibly draw our souls upwards, rejoice with us, that sin hath no longer the dominion over us.

As the evening shades surround us, and we return, weary in body, from our labour, yet shall the recollections of Thy love render our spirits buoyant, and, with the feathered inhabitants of the grove, who swell their little throats in praise to Thee, we will strive tacitly to join the sacred chorus, individually exclaiming, " Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless His holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits. " We desire also humbly to adore Thee for the manifestation of Thy truth ; for that divine union of Thy love and wisdom which our charity and faith is but the faint shadow of.

O God of love, accept this our humble tribute of thanksgiving and praise, and help us to love Thee and serve Thee with increased spirituality " every day that we are spared to enjoy Thy mercies here. " Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY MORNING.

O LORD Almighty, Thou hast graciously permitted us to address Thee as our Father. We are Thy children, O Lord ; Thy hands have made and fashioned us, and Thou hast created us that we may be eternally happy in Thy kingdom. In infancy, the twilight of our existence, Thou hast blessed us with knowledge and instruction, as our opening minds were prepared to receive it. In youth, Thou hast still farther expanded our faculties ; Thy divine sun has penetrated to our inward parts, and Thy goodness and mercy have followed and protected us, and kept us under the wings of Thy providential love ! In manhood, Thou hast presented before us abundant symbols of Thy glorious presence, and taught us to read the book of creation, wherein Thou hast shown us that " man is one world and has another to attend upon him. " And even to old age Thou

hast conducted us ; and while the declining sun admonishes us that our race is nearly run, it still assures us that, if we have followed Thee in the course of our natural existence, we shall enter upon a new and glorious period, where age cannot approach, but where eternal youth shall endure.

O Lord, we praise Thee, Thou art the preserver of our souls ; we give Thee thanks, Thou hast abundantly supplied us with good. Let Thy goodness and mercy continue to follow us all the days of our life, and when this our natural existence is ended, receive us, of Thy mercy, into Thy heavenly kingdom. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY EVENING.

O LORD Almighty, our heavenly Father, assist us to acquire grateful hearts, that the position which Thou hast placed us in, in this world, may be filled without murmuring, and that we may faithfully do our duty without envying the lot of others. We have great cause to adore Thy goodness for the blessings we enjoy, for Thou hast withheld no good thing from us ; Thy goodness and mercy have followed us all the days of our life.

And now, O Lord, that Thou hast brought us to the eve of another Sabbath, help us to prepare for entering upon the duties of its solemnity. May the words of Thy truth, which we have heard or read during the past week, furnish us with themes for spiritual reflection ; and may the privileges which the Sabbath brings with it impart unto us those feelings of spiritual joy and rest which are the accompaniments of the eternal world. As a family we unitedly express in Thy presence our sense of Thy loving-kindness and mercy, and in prospect of the enjoyment of the day of rest, we surrender our souls to Thy gracious keeping. Defend us through the night season, we beseech Thee, from the assaults of our spiritual enemies. Lift Thou up the light of Thy countenance upon us. May we lay ourselves down in peace, and sleep, under the devout conviction that Thou, O Lord, wilt sustain us. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THIRTY-THIRD WEEK.—SABBATH MORNING.

O LORD Almighty, our heavenly Father, as the word of Thy truth, in the letter, which we have read, is the means of access to Thy higher glories, and as we can only enter into the inmost of Thy temple by first going through Thy courts, may Thy holy Word be unto us as the introductory medium which shall conduct us to Thy mercy seat.

Write Thy law on our inward parts, we beseech Thee : grant that it may be unto us as our great teacher—our spiritual Moses—to guide us through the wilderness of sin, and bring us safely to the land of promise.

Lord, be with us as we enter the public courts of Thy sanctuary this day. Assist us devotedly and unreservedly to dedicate our whole souls to Thy service. Once entered into Thy house, may all thoughts of the world be banished : and, falling on our knees, may we, by prayer and supplication, prepare for participation in those holy services in which

Thy servant, our minister, in Thy name engages: and O bless all his efforts; sanctify his every act; fill him with the graces and influence of Thy Spirit; pour upon him the unction of Thy perfect love, and grant that he may experience a refreshment of spirit, by beholding his congregation attentive and devout. Through his instrumentality may sinners be converted unto Thee. And may all who assemble in Thy name feel the blessedness of Thy sacred presence, and be strengthened to go on their way rejoicing. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SABBATH EVENING.

O GOD of providence, into Thy hands we commit our spirits this evening. Enable us to rest in peace and safety. May we lay ourselves down in humble confidence, knowing that Thou wilt sustain us. May we be among the number of the beloved, for "so givest Thou Thy beloved sleep." But if, during the silent watches of the night, wakefulness should come upon us, may we meditate upon our beds and be still. May some divine theme be brought to our recollection, and may blessed and holy influences from a heavenly society so take possession of us, that the night may pass in silent but profitable conversation upon Thy peerless excellence, Thy never-failing love, Thy constant and unwearied mercy, and Thy righteous dispensations. May the page of truth be illuminated by the glorious rays of Thee, the Sun of righteousness, so that, though darkness and silence may reign in our chambers, the interiors of our minds may be filled with the light of truth, and the Sun of righteousness arise upon us with healing in His wings. O grant our prayers, merciful Saviour, for Thine own name's sake. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, we beseech Thee, help us to keep a watch upon our passions and inclinations. May the knowledge of Thy goodness and truth enable us to place ourselves entirely under Thy divine guidance. Fill every affection in our wills with Thy love, and enlighten every thought in our understandings with Thy truth, so that the hereditary bias to evil and falsity, which exists in the mind of every one of us, may be prevented from becoming actual sin; and grant that this day, and every day, our chief desire may be to "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness." May pride, malice, and uncharitableness be subjected to the reign of humility, love, and forbearance. Whatever the trials may be which this day are permitted to assault us, still may our hearts experience a settled steadfastness in Thee. May the seed of truth which this morning has been from Thy holy Word sown in our understandings, be watered by the dew of Thy blessing; may it prosper abundantly, and bring forth fruit according to our several degrees of reception, some thirty, some sixty, some an hundred-fold. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY EVENING.

“WITH what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.” Help us, O Lord, to acquire a just knowledge of these important words. While we judge others, how is the door open for the admission of every evil to which humanity is prone ! How readily we detect the faults of others ; how blind are we to our own ! How censorious and uncharitable are we ; and in how many instances, sinful as we are, do we thank God that we are not as other men ! Judging others by our own perverse perception, we excite the evil propensities within us, and we are judged harshly in return. Thus are we like the children of Ishmael : our hand against every man, and every man’s hand against us.

O heavenly Father, assist us to give due heed to the work of our own conversion. As hastening from the city of destruction to the mountains of Zion, may we press onward towards the little Zoar of safety ; may we not tarry in the plain of unhallowed desire ; may we look not back with reluctance on the scenes of sensual pleasure we are leaving, but press onward lest we be consumed. Suffer us not to reflect upon the follies and vices of others, but to amend our own. Humble our self-love, we beseech Thee, and keep down the accusing spirit which so frequently infests us. Give unto us the spirit of humility and true repentance, that so we may judge, not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, with thankfulness for Thy divine protection during the past night, we desire to take up the language of the royal prophet, and from the depths of our heart exclaim, “O give thanks unto the Lord, call upon His name, make known His deeds among the people. Sing unto Him, sing psalms unto Him. Meditate ye on all His wondrous works ; glory ye in His holy name ; let the heart of them rejoice that seek Jehovah.”

Nor suffer us to use these divine words only, without a knowledge of their true and proper meaning ; but may we, in heart and understanding, love and practice Thy truth, by putting away the evil of our doings from before Thine eyes, by ceasing from doing evil and learning to do well.

And forasmuch as we are incapable of doing anything that is good of ourselves, may we constantly look unto Thee for help ; ever draw near to Thee, worshipping Thee in spirit and in truth ; and show our love and reverence for Thee by doing all Thou hast enjoined with humble and willing minds. Assist us to delight in works of charity, piety, and usefulness ; assist us to exhibit a true spirit of neighbourly love. May we be prepared for the blessedness of Thy kingdom by the discipline of regenerating trials ; and through this discipline may we be made perfect. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, in all our approaches to Thy divine person may we remember the reverence that is due to Thy perfections. May we hold in deep veneration all Thy divine qualities, attributes, and powers. May Thy divine name, and all that pertains to Thy sacred person, be uttered with that subdued feeling of piety, which expresses a deep sense of our many evils, but which at the same time expresses the most fervent devotion and gratitude for the permission which is accorded us of approaching Thee. Thou knowest what we need before we ask it. Blind as we frequently are to our true interests, we neither know what to pray for, or how to pray. O Lord, teach us to pray—not for the blessings of this world, not for earthly prosperity and length of life, great as these blessings may appear in our own estimation—but teach us to pray for the graces and influences of Thy Spirit, for the truth which, by its application, cleanses us from sin; for the good which, derived from Thee, enables us to pursue our various avocations, and practically to exhibit our love for Thy truth. Lord, so teach us to pray, that our whole affections and thoughts may be so turned to Thee, that our greatest desire may be to “seek first, the kingdom of God and His righteousness,” knowing that all things needful will then be added unto us. May our affections and thoughts be ever lifted up to Thee; so shall we be endowed with power from on high to do our duty to Thee and to our neighbour. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, how great is Thy love towards us! When we were dead in trespasses and sin, it was Thy love that raised us to newness of life. When our souls were as those that go down into the grave, it was Thy love that “brought us up out of the horrible pit, and out of the miry clay, and set our feet upon a rock, and established our goings:” yea, “Thou hast, in love to our souls, delivered us from the pit of destruction, and hast cast all our sins behind Thy back.”

Great and glorious Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier, as Thou hast thus in Thy love and mercy revealed Thyself before us, O grant that we may be deeply impressed by a sense of Thy goodness, and strive to show our gratitude by serving Thee with newness of spirit. As Thou orderest all things well, may it be our care to follow in the order of Thy providence. Whatsoever Thou appointest or permittest, grant us willing minds to submit to. Avert all anxiety respecting the things pertaining to this world. “May we be careful for nothing; but in everything, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, make known our requests unto Thee.” And, O Lord, assist us to follow after “whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report,” that all our affections and thoughts may be sanctified to Thy service. Be with us through this day, we beseech Thee, and prosper Thou the labour of our hands, for Thy own name sake. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

GRANT, O merciful Father, that the mercy we supplicate from Thee may find an abiding place within our affections, and lead to a merciful consideration of the faults and failings of others. Prevent us from indulging in rash, unjust, and hasty judgment: for as Thou only canst search and know the heart, and thus judge of the moving cause of men's actions, Thou only canst judge righteous judgment. O may we keep in remembrance Thy divine caution: "Judge not, and ye shall not be judged; condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned." And, O merciful Lord, keep us, we beseech Thee, in meek and lowly frames of mind. In all things may we learn of Thee, and walk humbly with Thee; that, departing from all iniquity, and shunning every evil as a sin against Thee, we may bring no reproach upon the sacred name we bear, but glorify Thee in our body and in our spirits which are Thine. Help us to look with compassion upon the needy, the aged, and the infirm, and to render them all the assistance that our circumstances will allow; and to Thee, O blessed Jesus, will we ascribe all the power to will and to do; for Thou art the sole cause of everything good and true, and without Thee we can do nothing. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, the great Head of the Church, we implore Thy divine aid to make known Thy Word of truth. Assist us to discover the traditions of men, to separate them from Thy truth, and to cast them out. Assist us with the sling and the stone of David, and be Thou near us at all times to nerve our arm, to direct the missile, and to carry it home to the head of Philistine annoyance, so that all the nations may be brought to acknowledge, "The Lord, He is the God! The Lord, He is the God!" As Thou didst foil Satan and all the powers of darkness by Thy divine weapons; as, when destruction was designed for us, Thou didst vanquish death and hell for our sakes; as Thou didst triumph over all the powers of the enemy, and, glorifying Thy humanity, didst rise in all the glory of a divine Conquerer,—so help us to achieve a like victory over our spiritual adversaries, those powers of evil and error which dwell within us, those enemies of our own household, which, if not expelled, must bring us into eternal condemnation. And, O gracious Father, be Thou near to all who are contending for the truth; give unto Thy servants the weapons of a spiritual warfare, and prepare the understandings of the people, that the divine prophecy may have a speedy fulfilment, and all men be brought to know Thee, from the least even unto the greatest. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, we pray Thee to create within us a new heart; "take away from us our stony hearts, and give us hearts of flesh." Make every affection, every desire, every feeling new. May all our lives be holy. First, a devotedness of affection to Thee; next to Thy Church,

and then to all mankind. Grant us the new heart, to love our enemies, to do them good, and return a full measure of blessedness upon their heads for all the evil they may have intended us. Nor do we pray for a new heart only: give unto us, we beseech Thee, a new understanding. Assist us to look upon our inward parts with the severest scrutiny. May the specious reasonings of the natural man be overturned and silenced by the resistless justice of conscience,—of that conscience which shall preserve us from sinning against Thee and injuring our neighbour. Make all our thoughts to rest upon Thee, as well as all our affections; so that old things may pass away, and all within us become new. Bind us into perfect submission to Thy divine will; make us in all things humble, poor in spirit, and pure in heart, that Thy providential dealings with us may, with humble resignation, be submitted to, and sanctified to the good of our immortal souls. Fit us, we beseech Thee, for our last solemn change,—for our translation from the world of matter to the world of spirit; and as Thou only knowest the season best for our removal, may we so strive to prepare ourselves, as to be ready when it shall please Thee to call us. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, we confess not only the depravity of man, but our own wickedness too truly witnesses against us; and, but for the restraining power of Thy providence, we should become the prey of the destroyer.

O how great is Thy goodness, and how great Thy mercy in watching over us; how infinite the love that condescends to frail and erring man; how anxious the paternal solitude of the divine Father, who giveth the angels charge over man to keep him in all his ways; who, desiring not the death of a sinner, seeks only for the restoration of the soul's happiness and heaven; whose constant call is, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Merciful and redeeming Lord, we pray that we may be deeply impressed by Thy goodness. We pray Thee for strength to contend against our corruptions; we implore power from Thee that we may slay the evils which infest us, whether they be those just rising and pleading for gratification, or more especially those who have long held dominion over us.

Thou seest our weakness, O Lord. It is by Thee alone that we can contend against our corruptions. May we hate every thing that is evil, and put away the evil of our doings from before Thine eyes. May a godly sorrow which worketh repentance take possession of us. May this sorrow be to us as the parent of joy; while it leads us to mourn over our evils and put them away, may it bring comfort to our spirits and healing to our wounds. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, we acknowledge that all finite perfection is but the shadow of which Thou art the substance; even the world and its pursuits may awaken within the soul feelings of devotion and love. Even the busy scenes of man's labour may be made subservient to lessons of pure and practical charity. We pray Thee make us thankful for the activity which we see everywhere prevailing, for the various fields of use which Thy numerous children are occupied in; for the labour of charity and love which crowns the earnest desires of those who, learning of Thee, and striving everywhere to diffuse their good, do but exhibit traces of that expansive benevolence, which dwells and burns with such unextinguishable potency in Thy divine mind.

O Lord, Thou hast likened Thy kingdom to a merchantman seeking goodly pearls. We thank Thee for thus placing before us the diversified operations of charity, which we are exhorted also to make known unto all men. O give us to see that we most resemble Thee when we are engaged in doing good. That, as Thy love knows no limit, so does our love most resemble Thine when its universality extends to all the creatures Thou hast made, to all Thy children that dwell upon the face of the earth. Prosper, O Lord, we beseech Thee, the labours of our hands, as we engage in them with singleness of purpose. Prosper the merchants that trade to foreign parts; prosper the artisan that labours at home; prosper the teacher that sows the seeds of truth in the young mind; prosper all Thy creatures who do their duty faithfully; and to Thee be all the glory. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, who givest liberally to all men, help us, we beseech Thee, more fervently to love Thee, more faithfully to serve Thee, more dutifully to obey whatsoever Thou enjoimest. All the works of Thy hand bear the impress of perfection; and in the smallest thing Thou hast created, there is a use and a beauty which our shortsightedness alone prevents us from at once perceiving.

By obedience to Thy gracious injunctions, we humbly hope to have a more interior knowledge of the works of Thy hands; help us therefore, O Lord, we beseech Thee, to acquire this obedience, that every duty which devolves upon us may be willingly and cheerfully performed, and that all our engagements may be sanctified to Thy glory.

O let Thy gracious presence go with us this day. Assist us to keep Thee ever before us. May no one duty in which we engage be performed without our remembrance that the power and ability to perform it belongs to and is derived from Thee, the fountain of all wisdom and intelligence. O hold Thou us up and we shall be safe; direct us in all our paths; sustain us in all our progress. Help us to acquire meek and forbearing spirits. May gentleness, meekness, and love be our attendant virtues. May we overcome the assaults of our spiritual enemies, by the pure force of goodness; and keeping in remembrance our own numerous imperfections, may we be forgiving one to another, even as Thou for Thine own name sake forgivest us. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, we acknowledge that it is the love of self that is the grand obstacle to our spiritual progress. Lord, forgive us for Thy name sake; and as for our transgressions, purge them from us, we beseech Thee, and let the light of Thy truth guide us in the way we should go; and the heat of Thy love perfect us in all that is good and heavenly. O wash us thoroughly from our iniquities, and purify us from our evils, for we have no hope, O Lord, but in Thee. Without Thine aid, we have no strength to keep even those resolutions that are good. May Thy loving-kindness and Thy truth be ever before us; and as we look to Thee in all that we do, and pray to Thee for counsel in all that we undertake, so may we be preserved from our evils for the future, and be led in the way everlasting.

Help us, Lord, on the eve of another Sabbath, to form anew a resolution to serve Thee with greater spirituality; and O help us to keep such resolution. Help us to prepare our minds for the instruction which awaits us. Confessing our sins, and not attempting to hide our evils from Thee; help us to compass Thine altar, free from worldly cares and worldly distractions, and to worship Thee in the beauty of holiness. Endow us with grateful hearts for the mercies of the past week, and fill us with the graces of Thy Spirit, that we may go and sin no more. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THIRTY-FOURTH WEEK.—SABBATH MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, we bow before Thy footstool on the return of the day of rest. Thou bringest with it the most exalted privileges; and one of the greatest of these is holding especial communion with Thee. We praise Thy holy name for the appointed means whereby we may approach Thee, and hold conversation with Thee; Thy holy Word is ever open; Thy speech in it is constantly heard by those who listen to Thy divine voice, and we behold in it the appointed medium of communication between earth and heaven; between Thee, O God, and Thy creatures.

We praise Thee that Thou hast not left us without a visible but spiritual perception of Thy presence. In Thy divine humanity Thy glorious perfections are so attuned as to be adapted to the respective perceptions of Thy creatures. Thus we behold Thee as the medium between God and man; and thus are we brought near to Thee by the display of Thy divine perfections, veiled in accommodation to our weakness.

Lord, we beseech Thee, assist us to prepare ourselves for the duties of this day. Pour Thy Spirit upon us; quicken and elevate our affections. Impart unto us that true humility which shall lead to a devout surrender of all our powers to Thy service; and grant that this day may prepare us for the enjoyment of the more perfect Sabbath in Thy kingdom. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SABBATH EVENING.

O LORD our God, with grateful hearts we approach Thee, to offer our united thanksgivings for the enjoyment of another Sabbath, and to implore Thine assistance to enable us to observe the lessons of wisdom with which we have been instructed. Thy Word which we have read discloses to us the extent of Thy mercy: "Except the Lord of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, we should have been like unto Gomorrah."

O merciful Father, Thou hast preserved in every human being some sparks of heavenly life, which, though unobserved by men in general, and hidden (to all appearance) even from him in whose inmost affections they lie almost in a state of suffocation, are yet capable of being kindled into a flame which may serve for the future regeneration of the soul; and to kindle this spark, and to fan it into flame, the watchful eye of Thy providence marks the proper period: Thy Spirit is constantly moving over the dark waters of the soul, until the period shall arrive when Thy creative voice with effect shall exclaim, "Let there be light;" and light is. O God, we thank Thee for the day of rest, for the preaching of Thy Word, for the prayers which have ascended upward.

Pour Thy truth over our repentant souls, we beseech Thee; O cause Thy light to shine into the dark places of our understandings, and we shall be saved. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY MORNING.

O THOU great Husbandman of the fold, help us to see our utter wretchedness without Thee; and help us to remove that wretchedness by constantly bringing our souls under the divine government of Thy love and wisdom. May the truths we have this morning heard from Thy Word enter into and contend against our evils, and overcome them; and may the evils ejected be replaced by goodness and holiness of life. Bring us, we beseech Thee, this day through all the trials necessary for our purification. As Thy compassions fail not, as Thou knowest the frailty of our nature, fit us for the burdens we have to endure; and according to our day of labour, so let strength be given unto us.

We desire to acknowledge, with humble gratitude, Thy mercy during the past night. We feel our bodies invigorated and rendered strong to labour by the refreshment of sleep; and we now humbly supplicate a continuance of Thy watchfulness and providential care through the labours of the day. May we deal honestly and righteously with all our fellow-men; and when we have concluded our labour in this world, may we receive the reward of our labour in that eternal rest which awaits those who overcome. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY EVENING.

O LORD God our Saviour, as Thou hast clearly shown us that without regeneration all our hopes of happiness are vain; teach us continually to keep our eyes fixed upon the mark of this, the prize of our high

calling. That we may strive daily for the mastery over our corruptions, arm us with fortitude, provide us weapons from the Word of Thy truth, and give us power so to wield them that everything opposing our progress may be overcome. O impress us with the certainty of our glorious reward; an incorruptible crown—a heaven of never-ceasing beatitude; the society of glorious and perfect beings, and above all, the constant uninterrupted happiness of dwelling in Thy presence. May the prospect of these glorious enjoyments withdraw our minds from the things of time and sense: and while we are called upon to fulfil our relative duties in the world, may we remember that these, though they must be faithfully performed, are but of secondary consideration to the more important duties which devolve upon the soul. May every trial that awaits us, and in which we must engage, bring with it the promise: *He that overcometh shall inherit all things; he shall be my son, and I will be his God.* May these soul-reviving words animate us continually, until the good fight is fought, the victory won, and we entered into that rest which is the result of spiritual conquest. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, there is no escape from the darkness of the soul but by coming to the light of Thy truth. Thou only canst discover to us the hidden causes of all our evils. Arise, O Lord! cause Thy face to shine, and we shall be saved. Cleanse, first, that which is within. Purge us with hyssop, and we shall be clean; wash us, and we shall be whiter than snow. Never has our wretchedness been made more plain to us, than by the Word we have read, and yet we know not how to escape, or flee from the wrath to come. It is Thou, O Lord, that must be our instructor, as well as our deliverer. "Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain." Lord, we desire to humble ourselves for our manifold transgressions, O give unto us broken and contrite hearts! Remove from us the bitter pressure of a terrified mind, and speak peace and pardon to our affrighted souls. Fill us with devout gratitude for Thy long-suffering and forbearance, and give us to feel

"that a grateful mind
By owing, owes not, but still pays; at once
Indebted and discharged."

Keep us in humility this day; assist us in the great work of repentance; may we become more and more lowly, till deep abhorrence for our sins, and humble watchfulness to prevent their recurring, brings us into a state where Thou canst whisper peace and pardon to our souls. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, who hast promised Thou wilt never leave us, Thou wilt be with us even to the consummation of the age. Thou art, indeed, ever with us; for Thou art ever present in Thy holy Word,

and Thou hast bestowed upon us this Word that it may serve as a counsellor in all our difficulties ; be light in our darkness, wisdom in our folly, life in our death. It is Thy Word which renders Thee to us an ever present God and Saviour. Thy Word points out the way in which we should walk ; Thy Word displays before us the pure and essential truth, which emanates continually from Thee ; Thy Word is the stream by which we are carried to the haven of eternal life ; Thou art, indeed, the way, the truth, and the life, the beginning and the ending, the Almighty. All power is Thine, both in heaven and on earth, and beside Thee there is no God.

Lord, let this great truth be deeply engraven upon our hearts. As the world recedes from the natural eye, may our prayer be *Lord Jesus, receive our spirits*. Wherever there is occasion to attest Thy Deity, may we with reverence adore Thee as *our Lord and our God*. And, though our feebleness of perception may be inadequate to the right apprehension of Thy triune nature, still may there be within our souls this tacit acknowledgment of the truth, that Thou art the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and to Thee be dominion and power, for ever and ever. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

○ LORD Jesus Christ, we pray for the peace of Jerusalem. Hasten the period when there shall be nothing to hurt or destroy in all Thy holy mountain, but the earth be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea. Lord establish Thou this reign of peace within our souls. Subdue every principle which has a selfish tendency, and reduce to perfect obedience all which Thy Word enjoins. May rapine and cruelty be ever banished from our souls, and innocence and humble dependence be established ; and may that watchfulness and prudence be associated with innocence and humble dependence on Thee, which may cause the craft and subtlety of evil to be subdued, and give place to cheerfulness and humble confidence : may energy for the subjugation of evil be coupled with pure natural affection, and may innocency, gentleness, and truth, so soften all our feelings that innocence may guide them in their progress to heaven.

Lord, we see the struggle between self and the world, in the images and qualities of the untamed beasts of the earth. But we see, also, the omnipotent power of gentleness and affection : this power is acquired by all who follow and learn of Thee. All things are possible to him who so learns, and so follows : O help us to enthrone Thee in our inmost souls. Make our souls the mountain of Thy holiness ; there reign supreme. Subdue all our feelings to Thy righteous will, so that there be nothing to hurt or destroy in all Thy holy mountain.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

○ LORD Jesus Christ, who art the God of truth, help us to keep our minds open for the reception of Thy truth, and purify the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Thy Holy Spirit. May unbelief,

hardness of heart, and insensibility to spiritual things be removed, and may we be deeply impressed with a sense of the responsibility entailed upon us, and remember that here we have no abiding city.

Knowing our own weakness and inability, may we feel it a privilege that our affairs are so wisely ordered by Thy providence, as that all things may work together for good, if we fear Thee and keep Thy commandments. O Lord, bend our wills to Thy will; that at all times we may thankfully exclaim, "Not our wills, but Thine be done."

We desire to thank Thee for the gracious privileges we have this day enjoyed, and for the supply of all our necessities. We thank Thee for the strength which has brought us through the labours as well as the conflicts of the day. It is of Thy mercy that we have been upheld. Thou hast redeemed us from the power of our enemies; Thou hast sustained us in the path of duty; Thou hast multiplied our joys, and diminished our sorrows, and in all things Thou hast shown Thyself unto us as a tender and beneficent Parent. Glory be to Thy holy name, O Lord. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY MORNING.

O LORD our Saviour, Thou waitest to be gracious; Thou waitest to bestow upon us Thy goodness and truth, Thy flesh and blood; Thou standest at the door, waiting for admission; but we, thoughtless and apathetic, careless of that which would so richly bless us, we neglect to open the door, to open our affections and thoughts for the bread and the water of life; and as Thou hast endowed us with freedom to choose life or death, Thou canst not force Thy blessings upon us. Instead of praying, "Evermore give us this bread," help us, the rather, that we may pray for an appetite, a desire to possess it; for we are assured that where this appetite exists, Thou art ever near, ever ready to satisfy it. Thine own eternal Word of truth affirms, "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled." As bodily appetite stimulates us to seek after our daily bread, grant that an internal stimulus may urge us onward in the pursuit of that bread, of which, if we partake, we shall never hunger more. O fill our hungry souls with goodness. Open the interiors of our minds, that we may behold Thee in Thy beneficent act of daily supplying our spiritual wants, and grant that every blessing may bring with it a perception of Thy glorious person, that Thou mayest always be known to us in breaking of bread. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY EVENING.

O LORD, Thy Word instructs us, that "while the earth remaineth, seed-time and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night, shall not cease." All these vicissitudes, and many others, are but as spiritual lessons unto us, and have a tendency to purify the soul.

The atmosphere above us, the abode of the winds, has mercifully been

provided to conduce to the health of man as well as to the fertility of the earth. How soon would the earth be desolated, how soon would the world become one vast charnel house, did not winds, by their winged course, sweep away all pestilential exhalations, and carry healing in their wings with them. And where would be the soul of man, if Thy divine influence were withheld? As the earth, without the intervention of the atmosphere and winds, would be one vast source of contagion and pestilence, so would the soul become polluted and corrupt, without the purifying influences of Thy truth; soon would it be over-run with evil, and finish its course in the regions of eternal death. O Lord, enable us, in every vicissitude that is permitted to come upon us, to adore Thine infinite wisdom, which can permit nothing but that is conducive to our eternal interests. O may Thy fear be ever before us, and may we, collectively and individually, experience the blessedness of the divine promise: "On they that fear Thy name, shall the Sun of righteousness arise, with healing in His wings." Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY MORNING.

O LORD our heavenly Father, many are the dispensations of Thy providence which teach us to avoid pain and suffering. Help us to profit by these divine interventions; and when we have looked well to our purposes, and have exercised all prudence and forethought, and have invoked Thy blessing on our labours, and offered our prayers for our safe conduct, then may we rely on the guiding wisdom of that providence, which will either conduct our affairs to a prosperous issue, or in the end give us good reason why success would be more prejudicial to our eternal interests than failure.

Lord, we entreat Thee for assistance to exercise aright the talents Thou hast given us. We would not covet any man's ability; we would not envy any of the talents with which Thou hast so variously endowed our fellow-creatures: we would only pray for sufficient wisdom to direct our own, and if we do this, and Thou seest fit, Thou to whom belongeth all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge can add unto our ability, and increase the amount of our usefulness.

Make us, O Lord, we entreat Thee, whatsoever Thou seest fit; only continue to us Thy grace, that we may rightly exercise our talents, and unto Thee will we ascribe all the honour and all the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY EVENING.

O LORD our heavenly Father, Thy divine cautions are in Thy Word given, that we may avoid evil. "Blessed is 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." O Lord, we beseech Thee, be continually before us, and show us the way in which we should walk. O help us to detect the sophistry of evil, and especially the sophistry of our own evil propensities, which, prompting to impure or unholy grati-

fiction, seek to indulge themselves by plausible reasons which bear the appearance of truth. O help us to keep down these promptings to impure gratification, which, though they appear innocent and assume the external guise of simplicity, are but false prophets in sheep's clothing. May we never walk in the counsel of these ungodly lusts: remembering that if we walk contrary to Thee, and refuse to hearken unto Thee, Thou wilt also walk contrary to us.* But if we love Thee, our only God and Saviour, and walk in all Thy ways, and cleave unto Thee,† then Thou wilt deliver our souls from death, our eyes from tears, and our feet from falling, and we shall walk before Thee in the light of the living.

For all the blessings we have this day enjoyed, O Lord, we humbly offer our united thanksgivings, and now that we are again about to seek repose, we implore Thy protection through the silent watches of the night. Keep us in freedom, we beseech Thee, from the assaults of our spiritual enemies, and suffer us again to rise with renovated spirits, to enter on the duties of another day. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY MORNING.

LORD Jesus Christ, we pray that we may not be weary in well-doing. Give unto us persevering spirits, that we may strive to enter in at the strait gate. Help us to strive against our corruptions within and our enemies without, so that our principal labour may be to qualify ourselves for the glorious inheritance laid up in store for us.

Help us to keep self in subjection. The relation with our fellow-men in which Thou hast placed us, requires that we should pray, not for ourselves alone, but for all our fellow-creatures. O let Thy light and Thy truth shine upon them, Thy heat and Thy love warm and animate them; that while their understandings are instructed by the one, their hearts and affections may be purified by the other. Send forth the righteous dispensations of Thy providence, that immorality may no longer prevent the establishment of Thy kingdom within the soul. Let godliness universally prevail, and let brotherly love be more and more extended. Let the Word of Thy truth find heralds to proclaim it from the rising of the sun to the going down of the same, until all the nations are made acquainted with the glorious sound of the gospel, and every family be brought to acknowledge that "The Lord He is the God; the Lord He is the God." Hasten the glorious day, O Lord our strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY EVENING.

LORD, we beseech Thee, enlighten our understandings by the truths of Thy holy Word, and mould our hearts into the form of Thy perfect love. May we strive to be conformed to Thy image and likeness, approving ourselves, by Thy assistance, so as to be numbered among Thy disciples. Help us, O Lord, to crucify the flesh, with its affections and

* Lev. xxvi, 21-24.

† Deut. xi. 22.

lusts. May we take delight in doing Thy will. May Thy law be in our hearts and in our inward parts, that we sin not; and O make us zealous in the performance of every good work, that we may ultimately become "perfect, even as our Father which is in heaven is perfect." To thee, O Lord, we now desire humbly to surrender ourselves. Protect us, we beseech Thee, through the night season. Thy goodness and mercy has followed us all the days of our life; Thou hast preserved us from all our enemies, and there is no being to whom we can so safely entrust ourselves as He who hath declared, "I will be your guide even unto death." Enable us to lay ourselves down in peace, with a humble confidence that we shall be permitted to enjoy the blessings and privileges of the forthcoming Sabbath; and permit us, O Lord, to ascribe unto Thee all honour and glory, praise, might, majesty and dominion, for ever and ever. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THIRTY-FIFTH WEEK.—SABBATH MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, we implore Thee to assist us in the great and important duty of regeneration. We feel that our inclinations turn rather to evil than to good; that in many instances even our acts of devotion are not sincere, and that while we profess to be Thy servants, we are in reality the servants of sin. "O wretched creatures that we are, who shall deliver us from the bondage of this death?" There is no escape, O Lord, unless by the power of Thy omnipotence; and no man can come unto Thee, unless he is drawn by the light of Thy truth. We pray Thee, therefore, O most merciful Saviour, to lift up the light of Thy countenance upon us; turn us, O Lord, and so shall we be turned; O cause Thy face to shine, and we shall be saved. Give us to perceive how gradual, and yet how indispensable, is the work of spiritual purification; and with the knowledge before us of the uncertainty of life in the body, may no moment of our existence be spent carelessly or negligently. At such an hour as we think not, Thou comest, and if we have not Thy love shed abroad in our hearts, if our lamps be destitute of the oil of goodness, we cannot enter into Thy rest. O Lord, help us to strengthen the things which remain, for our works have not been perfect before Thee. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SABBATH EVENING.

O LORD, the divine Word hath assured us that whosoever waiteth upon upon the Lord shall renew his strength. It is Thou alone that canst enable us to tread on serpents and scorpions and all the powers of the enemy. It is by the force of Thy truth that we can subdue the serpentine cunning of our own sensualism. It is by the constant application of Thy truth that the poison of error and the deadly things of the world can be rendered innocuous. O Lord, be Thou our strength, be Thou our all-sufficient help. We have repeatedly experienced that self-dependence does but deliver us into the power of the enemy, who constantly goeth about seeking whom he may devour. But dependence

upon Thee invests us in an invincible panoply, and under the shadow of Thy wings no weapons of the world can find a vulnerable part. Lord, we humbly pray for such a spirit as may bring us into willing obedience to Thy will, and teach us to feel that the wisdom of Thy providence cannot but conduct us safely to the end of the journey of natural existence. Safe in Thy protection, and humbly expressing our gratitude for the blessings and privileges of this day, Lord, we desire to resign our spirits into Thy hands. Do with us as best seemeth good to Thee, and may we, with resignation, exclaim, Let Thy will be done. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, the great Captain of our salvation, we implore Thine assistance, that we may be enabled to engage in the conflicts which are necessary for our purification. Every day's experience convinces us that while Thy divine encouragement is extended, while Thy voice is constantly exclaiming, "Fear thou not, for I am with thee; be thou not dismayed, I am thy God," our adversary, the accuser of the brethren, strives to excite the evil propensities within us, insinuating that they are too urgent to be withstood; that our nature is too frail and our selfishness too natural to engage in so unequal a conflict. O God of strength, suffer us not to trust in self; we feel that without Thee we can do nothing. Strong though our faith may be, it becomes powerless if destitute of that love which overcometh in all things. We feel our utter dependence on Thee. We believe Thy power, Thy omnipresent aid; O help Thou our unbelief.

Prone as we are to give our evil passions license, and weak as we are to resist the temptation, we can but overcome by constantly praying, "Lord, help us; we perish!" We acknowledge the truth of Thy apostle, "There hath no temptation taken you, but such as is common to man;" but still when temptation comes we are ready to use the language of denial: "*Woman, I know Him not,*" and thus to lose sight of the power who alone can deliver us. Heavenly Father, be near us during the present day, and grant that we may feel Thy presence, and be endowed with strength to endure unto the end. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, help us when temptation assails us to overcome by Thy strength; for there is no deliverance but by the arm of the mighty God of Israel. In the direst trials Thou art nearest to Thy suffering creatures, and stretchest forth Thy arm for their rescue and salvation.

O merciful Redeemer, suffer us not to fall into doubt or despondency; to despair of Thy help, or to imagine that we are too vile to deserve Thy interference. Sinful as we are and have been, if we repent and turn unto Thee, Thou art faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. May we never cloak or attempt to hide our sins. May we remember that to give way to our evil propen-

sities is to sin against Thee ; and although Thou permittest temptation to assail us, that evil may thus be made manifest, Thou yet endowest us with strength equal to conquest ; Thou dost not suffer us to be tempted above that we are able, but strengthenest us at all times, and keepest us from falling. Even in the direst assaults, and those which appear to bow us down and leave us to the mercy of our enemies, Thy compassions fail not. Thy mercy is from everlasting to everlasting, and Thy forgiveness not until seven times, but until *seventy times seven*. O God of all consolation, be with us in this our wilderness state, and work in us both to will and to do Thy good pleasure, that we may hold Thee all in all. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, we confess our adversary is so subtle that we more frequently work for him than against him ; and thus we strengthen the hands of our spiritual enemy while we weaken our own. Bemoaning the power of evil, wailing over our own weakness and sin, we mistake the mode of resisting it, and become more and more entangled in the meshes of the wicked one.

Yet do we feel we must labour. O heavenly Father, leave us not without Thy countenance. How shall we conquer sin ; how shall we work out our own salvation ? Alas ! our greatest difficulty is to work out our salvation under the acknowledgment that it is God that worketh in us, both to will and to do of His good pleasure. We must be brought to **FEEL** as well as to see that there is only One stronger than the strong man armed ; and that one is Thyself, O Lord God omnipotent ! Thou, as the Redeemer and Saviour, was manifested that Thou mightest destroy the works of the devil. Lord, help us practically to realize this oft-repeated, but little understood truth. If a succession of triumphs from our spiritual enemies have been permitted, it must be to teach us the lesson of self-abasement ; designed to lead us with humility to the throne of mercy, where alone we can find help in every time of need.

Lord, help us to see that our whole existence is designed to be one of conflict and labour ; there is no immunity from the assaults of our enemies ; but he that endureth to the end, the same shall be saved. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, we acknowledge the Word of Thy truth, " Blessed is the man whom Thou chastenest, that Thou mayest teach him out of Thy law. Thy divine chastisements lead to the practice of virtue ; and as all commands from Thee originate in good, and obedience to Thy commands fills the soul with good, so does obedience to Thy will fortify us in the hour of trial, give us confidence in the justice of our cause, and fill us with satisfaction that nothing ordained by Thee can terminate ultimately in anything but the peace and happiness of the whole human race.

O heavenly Father, help us to be obedient to the injunction of the Word of Thy truth in the gospel, "Be ye perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

Thou hast bestowed upon us many precious and ennobling gifts, and hast enjoined only a faithful exercise of them, and a grateful acknowledgment of the source whence they are derived. O teach us rightly to understand the perfection after which we are to labour; that it lies not in the magnitude of the blessings bestowed, but in faithfulness to the measure of those blessings, according to the capacity with which Thou hast endowed us.

Merciful Lord our Saviour, with thankful hearts we acknowledge the bounties we have this day received. Keep us safely through the night; whatsoever Thou seest good for us, may Thy will be done. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

O LORD, we adore Thee, we worship Thee as our God and Saviour. In descending upon earth, Thou didst bring life and immortality to light by Thy gospel; and in Thy Word didst show us the way of salvation, and didst graciously promise to be with us; and as we feared Thee and were obedient to Thy commands would so prepare us for the reception of a purer light and more perfect knowledge, until we should be fitted to be instructed in more interior wisdom, and shown plainly of the Father.

Blessed be Thy holy name, O Lord, that in these last days Thy gracious promise has been redeemed; Thy Word of truth has been unfolded—its divine and spiritual sense has been explained, and Thou art now clearly seen; not only as our Saviour and Redeemer, but as the mighty God, the everlasting Father, having all power in heaven and on earth.

O God of heaven, make us sensible of the magnitude of these blessings. Quicken us by the Spirit of Thy truth, and help us so to treasure it in our inmost souls, that it may preserve us unto everlasting life. Let the portion we have read this day be blessed to our respective states; and O give us a sensible perception of the watchfulness of Thy providence. If left to ourselves, our enemies would prove too strong for us, and our own evil desires would too earnestly seek for gratification. But under Thine eye we are safe. Guide and guard us, O Thou great Jehovah, we beseech Thee. Keep us in integrity and uprightness, and bring us safely through all our difficulties. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

THOU, O Lord Jesus Christ, art our Father. Infinite love dwells within Thee. Thou, O Lord, art the Son, bringing the Father forth to view; from this divine union proceeds the Holy Spirit, whose sanctifying influences tend to the regeneration of man. Give unto us then, we beseech Thee, that true faith, which believes that THOU ART, and that Thou art the rewarder of them that diligently seek Thee. Give unto us that faith which evidences its truth by delighting to do Thy will,

to be constant in labours of love and charity; and to be so submissive to Thy wise dispensations as shall give the assurance of that perfect love to Thee which casteth out all fear. Give us to perceive that when faith includes charity it conducts to heaven, when it is alone it is powerless. Give us therefore, we beseech Thee, an interior perception of Thy truth; and grant us Thy grace that the truth we perceive may be rightly exercised in the direction of true charity. Above all things grant us the grace to look continually unto Thee for help, and to have no doubt that that help will be afforded us, if it be rightly sought. Give unto us that true evangelical faith, which gives vigour and light to the understanding, and add unto it that living charity, which bears, hopes, and endures all things, while it is full of good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY MORNING.

O LORD our Saviour, Thou hast declared that the meek shall inherit the earth. O keep us free from pride and vain-glory. May we never forget that all our talents, whether natural or acquired, are derived from Thee; and to be of service to our fellow-creatures, we must be guided by the influences of Thy good Spirit: and, to be so guided, we must wait upon Thee, daily and hourly remembering that without Thee we can do nothing. With this knowledge before us, with the assurance that to be Thy disciples we must love one another, grant unto us a spirit of pure, disinterested, brotherly love, that in all we say or do there may be nothing of a selfish or mercenary spirit. As we are commanded to forsake all that we have, to relinquish our own life before we can find life eternal, so help us to make this complete surrender of ourselves. As Thou art essential love, as the blessed angels are the more immediate recipients of Thy love, that they may respectively act as mediums of conveying Thy love to us; so, O Lord, we earnestly pray to be preserved in such a temper and spirit as may present no obstacle to the entrance of their love; but may we at all times learn of Thee, and be found among the number of Thy true and faithful disciples. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, who art the essential truth, make us grateful for the measure of truth meted out to us. Thy glorious perfections, Thy infinite love, are revealed in purity, and with so much plainness and truth that we cannot resist their potency. Make us grateful, then, O Lord, for the spiritual view we have of Thy perfections; assist us to make a right use of our knowledge! Be it our aim to be constantly shadowing forth Thy love in all humility and tenderness of soul; but O prevent us from censuring or judging others; suffer us not to exercise any spirit of phariseism, or to use the vaunting language, "God, I thank Thee that I am not as other men are!" Keep us in humility and lowly-mindedness. Bring us to the reverent and devout acknowledgment, that the most perfect seasons of enjoyment, the most blissful moments

that man experiences on earth, are those in which he is engaged in humble duty to his Lord, by being willing to be esteemed the least of all, and the servant of all, in imitation of that divine Example whose time was spent in doing good to all, and whose tender mercy is over all His works. Lord, hear us, and bless us with this catholic spirit, for Thy own name sake. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, merciful and gracious, long-suffering and abundant in goodness and truth, help us that our charity may be known of all men. Where true charity is, there Thou art; for true charity is the life of goodness, and Thou art in everything that is good. But while we know the blessedness which true charity is adapted to produce, O Lord, impress us, we beseech Thee, with a due sense of the danger which results from the spurious exercise of this heavenly grace. Never may we arrogate to ourselves what of right belongs to Thee. Never may we be guilty of that grievous profanation which trusts in its own righteousness and despises others; but may a deep sense of our own demerits, and a conviction of the imperfect manner in which we perform our best duties, teach us that, after all, we are unprofitable servants. Lord, keep us humble. As our duties are fulfilled, teach us who it is that imparts the power which enables us to fulfil them. O remove from us internal depravity; assist us to cleanse first the inside of the cup and platter, that the outside may be pure also. Form our understandings by Thy truth; fill our affections by Thy good; aid us to pursue our avocations from an internal love of our neighbour, and from a devout and willing obedience to Thee. So shall charity be to us as the end of the commandment, out of a pure heart and faith unfeigned. Amen

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY EVENING.

GREAT Lord of all things, we have, indeed, need constantly to wait upon Thee, to pray for Thy guidance, to scrutinize our motives, and to bring all our actions under Thy divine government. Seeing how prone we are to mingle evil with good, and to contaminate that which is really good by the selfishness of our nature, we have, indeed, need to pray that we may be cleansed from secret faults. Help us then, O Lord, to keep Thee continually before us. May the fear of Thee be before our eyes continually, that we sin not. When our corrupt inclinations would tempt us to a violation of any of Thy righteous laws, may the example of one of Thy tried servants come to our rescue: "How can we do this great wickedness and sin against God?" May our prayers and our alms come up as a continual memorial before Thee. And may both our prayers and our alms be in secret; may no vain-glory accompany either of them; may they be formed from a conviction of their blessed tendency, that what we do from that which is hidden, may by Thee be rewarded in that which is manifest.

May Thy holy name be magnified, O Lord, for the blessings which this

day have been showered down upon us. We repose ourselves in safety, under Thy protection, for Thou art a strong tower, and into Thy hands we commend our spirits. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, Thou art mighty to save. Thou hast overcome the direst of our enemies, and in the great work of our redemption Thou hast led captivity captive. Thou hast glorified Thy humanity to its very ultimate principle, so that the vilest of the vile might have access to Thee. Can we then fear that the power of our enemies is greater than Omnipotence itself? In what can unbelief originate, but in evil and hardness of heart? O teach us that Thou art still the same; Thou art still mighty to save; Thy hand is not shortened. "In the time of trouble Thou shalt hide us in Thy pavilion; in the secret of Thy tabernacle shalt Thou hide us; Thou shalt set our feet upon a rock." Lord, teach us to rest more fully and faithfully upon Thee. Bring us out of our wilderness state of doubt and perplexity. Our minds have been as a desert, where no water is. Do Thou open up springs in them. Irrigate them by the water of Thy divine truth. Prepare them by trial for holier and purer states, so that there may be in our individual experience a fulfilment of the words of prophecy, "In the desert, the thirsty land where no water is, He openeth springs. Instead of the thorn, He maketh the fir tree to come up: instead of the brier, the myrtle. In the midst of the habitation of dragons, He maketh green pastures arise, and still waters flow round His people." Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, we humbly pray Thee to increase our faith. Thou, who hast been our unchangeable Friend, let gratitude mark our sense of Thy love. As often as the friendship of man has failed, Thou hast been even closer to us than a brother. Kindle within us the holy flame of gratitude. Make us sensible of how great things Thou hast done for us, and hast had compassion upon us. Teach us how best we can show our gratitude for all Thy benefits. It is by doing our duty faithfully, by loving our neighbour as ourselves, by distributing with a free and bounteous hand to others what Thou so freely and bounteously hast bestowed upon us, and acknowledging Thee as the source of all good, that our gratitude is best shown. When we comfort the afflicted, when we minister to the distressed, when we deal out, both spiritually and temporally, our bread to the hungry, that Thou art pleased with us, it is then that we feel inward peace and joy, and the words of the wise man come pleasantly to our souls, "Go thy way, eat thy bread with joy, and drink thy wine with a merry heart, for God now accepteth thy works." Lord, make us grateful in the true spirit of Thy words. With this petition we finish another week of our existence. Bless all the good we have done, and may we feel grateful for the

power with which Thou hast endowed us, and enabled us to perform it. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THIRTY-SIXTH WEEK.—SABBATH MORNING.

O THOU, whose presence is the source of life to all, whose divine love, by its vivifying properties, constitutes the life of all created beings, permit us, this morning, to approach Thee, and to express our unfeigned gratitude for all Thy blessings, and especially for the blessing of heat, which is as the going forth of Thy love, and the source of all our enjoyments.

Thou hast arranged all things for the benefit of man, and the proofs of Thy love are every day new. The more we contemplate Thy works with seriousness, the more perfectly Thy love becomes visible. It is Thy love which gives heat and fervour to the sun of the natural world. It is from Thy love and truth that the seasons vary, and the agreeable vicissitudes of summer and winter, seed time and harvest, succeed each other, and remind us of the immense obligations we owe to Thee, the Father of light and life.

It is from the vivifying power of Thy love that the branch is preserved in the bud, the plant in the seed, and the embryo in the egg. O Lord, when we consider all the benefits which spring from Thy love, we are struck with amazement at its extent, and we feel the truth of the words of Thy apostle, "that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from Thy love." Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SABBATH EVENING.

HOW often has man, lost in sin and folly, heedlessly entered the house of prayer; and in that house the happy hours of infancy have been recalled to his recollection, and the prayer of affection has suddenly revived his soul with heavenly warmth, and the tender love of a mother has again fell warm upon his heart, and touched that expiring spark of love, and kindled it into a flame, and softened every feeling, and led to the repentant exclamation, "I have sinned against heaven! I will arise and go unto my Father." It is Thou, O Lord, who hast preserved this small remnant; it was Thy providence that led the prodigal to the house of prayer; it was Thy love which touched his heart with heavenly fire, and awoke him to the sense of his awful state; it was Thy encouragement that prompted him to return, and in the midst of his newly awakened sense of guilt to exclaim, "In my father's house is bread enough and to spare, while I perish with hunger; *I will arise and go to my father.*" O God of love and compassion, we magnify Thy name for preserving this very small remnant. We adore Thee that Thy good Spirit is ever striving to reclaim us from the cold shade of spiritual death. Thou art indeed long-suffering, abundant in goodness and truth. When the sinner turns to Thee, Thou dost not upbraid him with the

past ; Thy fatherly love is at once expressed—"This my son was dead, and is alive again, was lost, and is found."

And now, O Lord, our Creator, our God, our Redeemer, our Saviour, our Holy One, our Omnipotent Father, our unchangeable Friend, we commit ourselves to Thy care. We would be anxious for nothing : Thou art all-sufficient. Whether we live or whether we die, we desire to commit our souls to Thy gracious keeping. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY MORNING.

MOST merciful and glorified Lord ! we approach Thee this morning to implore Thy divine blessing upon the labours of this week upon which we are now entering ; and we invoke Thy divine protection, that we may be defended against our spiritual enemies, and especially against our bitterest enemies,—the enemies of our own household,—the evils which infest us. While we thank Thee for the religious privileges we have enjoyed during the past Sabbath, we entreat Thee that they may be made available for our guidance and life during the present week. As trees placed in the garden, may our affections and thoughts be so nurtured by the heat and light of the Sun of heaven, that we may bring forth fruit to perfection. May we so live as to feel our position midway between earth and heaven. Exercising all our natural abilities and talents, for our own and our fellow creatures' good, may we still avoid grovelling in the earth, and live in the world as though we lived not. Exercising our thoughts and affections upon the good and truth of Thy Word, may our conversation be in heaven, and while we are continued in this sphere of our being, may we seek Thee and Thy kingdom as the most desirable of all blessings. Guide us, O heavenly Father, in the way we should go. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY EVENING.

O LORD God, merciful and gracious, we humbly come into Thy presence this evening, we adore Thee for Thy divine protection, and we know from Thy Word of truth that Thy compassions fail not, Thy mercy is from everlasting. Thou art our unchangeable Friend, and Thy presence and blessing await all who will humbly prepare themselves for their reception.

Lord, we beseech Thee, grant that the duties we this day have performed may be rendered beneficial to our fellow-creatures, so that all may experience the blessings which a life of usefulness is calculated to impart. Assist us to perceive that the faithful performance of our duties is also the performance of true charity ; and charity, when exercised from an interior principle of good, is the very essence of religion, since "the life of religion is to do good." May we never rest in the impression that religion consists only in the performance of external duties ; but, remembering that our conversation should be in heaven, may we look to Thee for aid to become heavenly minded. May we strive earnestly for the attainment of holy principles and affections, and may we exercise these

continually, that everything unworthy and selfish may be avoided, and that we may be filled with that peace which the spiritually minded can alone enjoy. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY MORNING.

O GOD our heavenly Father, be merciful unto us, spare us that we may recover strength before we go hence and be no more seen. With the returning day returns our duty to Thee; and we now kneel in Thy presence that strength may be given us to discharge our duty faithfully. We feel how truly Thy holy Word describes our state: that the heart is set in us to do evil, and that continually; that it is deceitful above all things, who can know it? We feel that escape from this evil state is altogether impossible unless through Thy divine interference. As we look at our unreformed condition, our minds are as a dark abyss, where not a ray of light can penetrate. Evil seems to have taken a firm hold of us; horror at our past life, and doubt and distraction as to the future presses upon our consideration, seems to close every avenue against the entrance of hope, and we carry about with us a fearful retribution for the evils we have committed.

Lord, to whom can we go? who will deliver us from the bondage of this fearful death? who will bring us out of this horrible pit of evil, which continues to drag us down still further to its noisome depths, and plunges us nearly into despair? O help us, Lord; for vain is the help of man. Deliver us; for of ourselves we can do nothing. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, Thou art a God of infinite love, mercy, and compassion; there is no God else beside Thee, a just God and a Saviour. To Thee do all the prophets, evangelists, and apostles bear witness. O hasten the day when the immutable truth, that Thou art "God over all, blessed for evermore," shall not be acknowledged merely with the lips, but felt as the very essence of truth in the heart. O who can describe the extent of the love which Thou hast ever had towards us? "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friend!" Thy love, ever pure, sought to save, when Omnipotence alone could accomplish the work; Thou didst bow the heavens and come down; Thou, the Lord of life and glory, didst take upon Thee the form of a servant, becoming the least of all, and the servant of all. In Thy love and in Thy pity Thou didst redeem us and became our Saviour. Glory be to Thy holy name, O Lord! Heaven and earth are full of the majesty of Thy glory. Thou art infinitely wise—the source of all wisdom. Thy wisdom is only equalled by Thy love, and truly Thy name is "Wonderful," for who can fathom the depth of Thy knowledge? such wisdom is too wonderful for us; it is high, we cannot attain to it. O Thou source of all wisdom, Thou only art our Counsellor, and in Thee alone do we trust. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

O GRACIOUS Lord, our heavenly Father, with the returning light comes the returning duty of praise, thanksgiving, and prayer. We praise Thee for Thine ever-present love : we thank Thee for the blessings daily, hourly, and momentarily bestowed upon us ; and we now kneel before Thee and offer our supplications that we may be rightly directed through the day, and that our passions, feelings, and intellect may be subjected to the regulating power of Thy Word.

Thou art the good Shepherd, and unto Thee alone do we look for help. Aid us, by learning the true meaning of the representative symbols assumed by Thee, to keep our hearts with all diligence ; to order our feet, that none of our steps may slide, and to bow down our inner man to the government of Thy love and wisdom. Thou who hast represented Thyself in the qualities of a lion and a lamb, the "Lion of the tribe of Judah," the "Lamb once slain," assist us so to blend these qualities in our souls that pure evangelical religion may be restored, and that, in imitating Thee, there may be peace established between the warring elements of strife and passion which have so long alienated our hearts from Thee, their rightful sovereign ; O bring about the glorious period, when righteousness shall be the girdle of our loins, and faithfulness the girdle of our reins : when the wolf shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard lie down with the kid, the calf, the young lion, and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

O LORD Almighty, the God of the universe of worlds, how small in the scale of existence, how limited and imperfect a creature, is man ; and yet Thou hast created him in Thine own image, after Thy likeness, and hast so endowed him that he can increase in knowledge and wisdom even to all eternity, and though Thou art high above all the heavens, Thou still condescendest to the lowest estate of Thy creatures.

O Lord, permit this family to approach Thee, and so prepare our minds for coming into Thy immediate presence, that, while acknowledging our own weakness, we may at the same time be deeply impressed with reverence for Thine infinite perfections, and may we humble ourselves so as to receive with meekness the communications of Thy love and truth. Assist us to subdue the pride of self, and to renounce all ideas of our own righteousness. May a remembrance that without Thee we can do nothing keep us meek and lowly ; but may the high destiny for which we are created, impel us constantly to raise our affections and thoughts to Thee, that our conversation may be in heaven, and that our chief desire may be to prepare for its more perfect enjoyments. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY MORNING.

O GOD ! whose providence, ever bounteous, ever watchful, suffers nothing however trivial to escape Thy notice ; assist us so to submit ourselves to Thy directing wisdom, that whatever may happen unto us, we may learn

that Thy wisdom either appoints or permits or sanctions; and that it is our duty, while we labour, not to be anxious over-much, but to commit our way unto the Lord. Thy Word enjoins a surrender of all our talents and faculties to Thy service, and whether we eat, or whether we drink, or whatsoever we do, we should do all to Thy glory. In giving us bodily senses Thou dost but remind us of the more noble senses of the soul, and while we value the senses of the body, our duty is to direct their use in such a way as shall rightly minister to the senses of the soul. O may we never abuse any of the members bestowed upon us. Suffer us not to be incessantly thinking upon what we shall eat or what we shall drink. As taste is not the object of our existence, but the means of attaining more important ends; as we are not placed here like the beasts that perish, to eat and to drink for the mere purpose of nourishing our bodies alone; we pray Thee to impart unto us just ideas of the bodily act, as a representation of the more important duty of doing Thy will O God! O may we taste and see that Thou art good: blessed are all those that put their trust in Thee. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY EVENING.

O MERCIFUL Saviour and redeeming Lord, there is no day that passes but introduces to our notice some new cause for gratitude and thankfulness: but though Thy blessings are so uninterruptedly continued, such is the apathy with which we receive them, that their very constancy renders us too frequently unmindful of their value.

This day has been brought to a conclusion, and varied as has been the atmosphere with brightness and with shade, and changeable even in its temperature with heat and cold, with storm and calm, yet has it been eminently beneficial unto us. It has spoken in the voice of Thy providence, and by its very vicissitude has reminded us of the blessings which each change brings with it, and of the varieties of state through which we must be individually passing, before the work of the regeneration can be perfected; and as the times and seasons follow each other in quick succession, so do the changes of state which are all necessary to perfect us.

O Lord Jesus Christ, all times and seasons are ordered and arranged by Thee; our times are in Thy hand! Order all our trials for our good, for Thou only knowest what is best for us. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY MORNING.

O GOD of our life, who knowest what is best for us, we thank Thee for the renewal of our existence, and for the happiness we experience in all the comforts pertaining to our natural life. Grant us Thy grace, that we may see and feel this our existence ought to be cherished and preserved; because Thou hast placed us here to be useful, to minister to each other's good, as well as to prepare for our eternal home; and help us also to perceive that any violation of Thy laws, even though in the letter, that has a tendency to abridge our usefulness and shorten our

existence, is a grievous evil, for which Thou wilt assuredly hold us accountable; for though Thy providence extends to all and singular things, yet are we assured from Thy Word it is evil alone which inflicts punishment upon us.

Thou hast established all the laws of creation by wisdom as perfect as it is immutable; these cannot change, for they are as unchangeable as Thyself, who art "the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever."

O heavenly Father, we pray Thee instruct us rightly to comprehend the laws which Thou hast ordained. If we destroy our lives by intemperance, if gluttony brings with it repletion and disease, if we say we will trust in providence to deliver us, and trust heedlessly that the leaking vessel or the raging fire will cease their properties, we deceive ourselves. God is not mocked; whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap. Help us, O Lord, to be obedient to all Thy laws. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY EVENING.

MOST blessed and glorious Lord God Almighty, Thou hast been our defender in all our trials; though unseen by us, Thy providential watchfulness has averted evil, so that neither the pestilence walking in darkness, nor the destruction wasting at noon-day, can overwhelm or even approach us; and be the trials and sufferings which overtake us, or which afflict the world, ever so severe, there is still so certain an assurance given us of the over-ruling wisdom of Thy providence, that the humble and confiding Christian can at all times possess his soul in patience.

In Thee we live and move and have our being; therefore will we make Thee our place of defence, our rock, our fortress, and the horn of our salvation. This day has increased the sum of our mercies; Thy sustaining power has been continued, Thy blessings have been multiplied, and have descended upon us as the rain, and as the dew, refreshing and vivifying us, and giving to us new power. O Lord our God, how excellent is Thy loving-kindness! Lead us by Thy truth, and conduct us, that our path may be as the path of the just, guided by that pure light of wisdom which shineth more and more unto the perfect day. O assist us to keep in our view Thee, the glorious Sun of righteousness; and assist us that we may continually progress towards Thy heavenly kingdom. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY MORNING.

O LORD our God, how excellent is Thy name in all the earth, Thy glory is above the heavens; gracious art Thou, O Lord, and merciful; therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Thy wings. With the assurance that Thy goodness and mercy have followed us all the days of our life, we feel confidence in coming into Thy presence, and offering our thanksgivings for the blessings of the past week.

Help us, O Lord, to review our lives, that we may see whether we have improved the talents entrusted to us. Thou hast endowed us variously; every man receives his ability from Thee, and all are commanded to

occupy. In faithfully performing the duties of our respective employments, we see the nature of that charity which, bearing all things, hoping all things, enduring all things, never fails. We acknowledge the wisdom with which Thou hast allotted our condition in this life; and the trees of the field, to which Thou hast compared us, serve to image our qualities, and the varieties of use we are appointed to perform. Thus hast Thou spread before us an open book, from which we may daily receive instruction, as well as from Thy holy Word; and the face of nature is as a mirror which truly depicts our own character. As we behold no tree but that is of some use, so is there no human being but that has some duty to perform, some good example to set, some act of charity which he alone is best able to perform. Lord, instruct us, from the trees of the forest, faithfully to perform our proper duties. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY EVENING.

O LORD, help us so to read Thy Word that all the trees of the forest may be our instructors! As the oak bears against every storm, so may we by integrity and devotedness stand firm in the fortitude of uprightness. As the weeping-willow bows at every breath, so may tenderness dwell in our souls, and teach us to weep with those who weep, as well as to rejoice with those who rejoice. As the fig offers its luscious fruit to our taste, so may natural goodness display itself in all we do, and make us pitiful and courteous, doing good to all, and especially to the household of faith. As the vine offers its rich clusters for the cup, and the heart of man is rendered cheerful and happy by the draught, so may the pure and spiritual truth of Thy Word enter into our souls, cheer us by its pure wisdom, and give us that taste for divine truth by which we may become wise unto salvation. In beholding the trees of the field, which read so many lessons of wisdom unto us; we see them nourished by the same earth, refreshed by the same dews and rains, and cheered and animated by the same heat and light. And we are all the creatures of Thy bounty, tread the same earth, are encircled with the same heavens, cheered and animated by the same glorious luminary, and endowed with the same faculties; and yet one man becomes as a cedar of Lebanon, and another as the humble shrub upon the wall; but as every tree has its use, so also has every man. O Lord, Thou alone art great and glorious! Thou alone art ineffable; and yet Thou lovest the poor in spirit, Thou delightest in the lowly and contrite, Thou receivest the humblest, and exaltest him among the princes of Thy people. Lord, give us contented minds. Give us energy to perform our duties, whatsoever they may be; and unto Thee will we ascribe all the honour and all the power. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THIRTY-SEVENTH WEEK.—SABBATH MORNING.

LORD God and Saviour, we humbly pray Thee help us to flee from every evil, and so visit us by the dispensations of Thy providence, that whatever may be permitted to afflict the body, may serve but to draw the

soul nearer to Thee. O fill our hearts with thy perfect love; as Thou didst, when glorifying Thy humanity, spend Thyself in love for our sinful race, grant that we may learn of Thee. As Thou didst go about visiting the afflicted, and ministering to the necessities of all, so may we learn of Thee, and in every state and condition blend the love we owe to Thee with that charity we ought always to show our brethren. With Thy example may we spend our time in doing good. May we experience the inward satisfaction expressed by Thy servant of old. When we assist the poor that cry, the fatherless, and him that hath none to help him; when we become as eyes to the blind, feet to the lame, and cause the widow's heart to sing for joy, then may we feel the blessing of those that are ready to perish; and with this feeling may our gratitude rise up as incense unto Thee, by whose power alone we are enabled to do any good. May this day's duties be accompanied with these happy feelings of the soul, and unto Thee will we ascribe all the glory. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SABBATH EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, we are assured in Thy Word that the hand of the diligent maketh rich. May usefulness and benevolence, not ostentation and vanity, direct all who are endowed with wealth, being obedient to Thy divine caution, and never suffer the left hand to know what the right hand doeth.

May our alms, together with our prayers, come up in memorial before Thee our God, and may the prosperity with which Thou hast blessed our efforts be as the shining light of truth which shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

O merciful Saviour, bless the instruction we have this day received to our eternal interests. Help us to profit by the solemn warnings which have flowed from the lips of Thy servant our minister. May we keep our tongue from evil and our lips from speaking guile. May we depart from that which is evil and do that which is good, May we strive against the corruptions of our nature, until peace be established within the borders of our hearts; then shall we flourish like trees planted by the rivers of water; our leaf also shall not fade, and whatsoever we do shall prosper.

Holy Father, we commit ourselves to Thy gracious keeping this night; guard us under the shadow of Thy wings, and permit us to lie down and sleep in peace and safety. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, Thou knowest what is best for us. We are sometimes tempted to suppose that had we been made acquainted with the events which were to transpire in our existence, we might have ordered our affairs with greater prudence, and conducted them to a more prosperous issue; but when we have seen the issue of Thy dispensations, so far as they have been permitted to develop themselves in this world, before our natural eyes, we have been led to acknowledge that Thou alone canst order wisely the affairs of men, and our duty is to follow

Thee as obediently in the order of thy providence, as in all the commandments Thou hast ordained.

Thou hast appointed unto all men once to die, and after death the judgment; but Thou hast concealed from us the moment of our death, and the manner of our death, and hast enjoined upon us constant watchfulness.

Lord, we desire in this also to recognise Thy goodness. Did we know the moment of our death, the thought would depress us so constantly that none of our duties would be efficiently performed; we should live only for ourselves, and die only for ourselves, and engage in nothing that would withdraw our minds from our inevitable end. But being kept in a state of watchfulness, and feeling Thee ever present to help us, and knowing that Thou wilt guide us with perfect wisdom, we are enabled to walk humbly with Thee, to commit our way to Thee, to say, Whatever may happen, all things will work together for good to those who fear God and keep His commandments. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, who hast counselled us to learn of Thee, and that by obedience unto Thee we should find rest to our souls, may we in all things strive to imitate Thee.

As Thou, when reviled, didst not revile again, so give unto us that gentleness which bears the offensive manners of others, and corrects and overcomes evil by good, studying to alleviate the burden of common suffering and misery, by those neighbourly offices of affection and tenderness which subdue evil. May we strive at all times to acquire that temper and spirit which the gospel inculcates.

Assist us to bear each other's burdens: to rejoice with those who rejoice; to weep with those who weep; to please every one his neighbour for his good; to be kind and tender hearted; to be pitiful and courteous; to support the weak and to be patient towards all men. O that we could be so impressed by Thy divine example, as in spirit to have Thee ever before us, that Thy tabernacle might be in our hearts, from the inmost of which there might be a constant going forth of Thy heat and light,—that love and truth, accompanied by that pure beneficence, which is designed for the healing of the nations. Then should we indeed find that Thou, Lord, dwellest with the humble and contrite; Thou healest the broken in heart, Thou bindest up their wounds; Thou hidest not Thy face from the afflicted when they cry. Fill us with Thy spirit, O merciful God, and help us to become meek and lowly, that we may find rest to our souls. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY MORNING.

IN every time of need, we hear Thy gracious voice calling unto us, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." O Lord Jesus Christ, Thou hast declared that "men ought always to pray and not to faint." Thus hast Thou given us a stimulus

to exertion, and hast not left us in despondency when trial comes upon us. O how great is Thy goodness, how unbounded Thy love! How perfect must be the wisdom which ordereth and guideth and arrangeth the affairs of all men! Thou knowest what is good for man, not merely one day of his existence, but day by day; and Thou so orderest them, that he may enjoy the greatest amount of happiness here consistent with perfect happiness hereafter. How wonderful is the chain of events held in Thy almighty hand, every link of which is connected with some individual's duty, which Thou alone knowest how to direct! Such knowledge is too wonderful for us; it is high, we cannot attain to it.

Merciful Lord and Saviour, infinite in wisdom, goodness, and power, while we labour with our hands, and plan with our heads, may we still remember that it is only by looking unto Thee that we can be successful in our efforts. Unto Thee, therefore, may we constantly look, and may our hearts as well as our hands be lifted up unto Thee, our Father in the heavens. So wilt Thou safely conduct us through the deceiving appearances of the world, and as we commit our way unto Thee, and trust in Thee, and do good, Thou wilt secure to us the one thing needful. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, from Thy Word we learn wisdom. To Thy Word, therefore, may we ever resort. May the prayer of the wise man be ours: "Give us neither poverty nor riches; feed us with food convenient for us: lest we be full and deny Thee, and say, Who is the Lord? or lest we be poor, and steal, and take the name of the Lord in vain."

This world is indeed one of shadows; help us therefore so to submit to Thy providential arrangements that we may be prepared for the world of substance. So alienated are our hearts from that which is good, and so frequently do we pursue the path of evil, that, did Thy divine dispensations intermit, we should certainly perish eternally. May we therefore with devout gratitude surrender ourselves to Thy guidance; help us to set our affections on things above, in expectation of enjoying the pleasures of that world where change can never come; help us to behold with tranquillity the daily vicissitudes to which all terrestrial things are subject; knowing that these bring us nearer to the world of reality, and that, once there, all our cares and anxieties will terminate.

To Thee, most blessed and glorified Redeemer, the Father of all mercies, the God of all consolation, we now resign ourselves. Whatever Thou seest good for us, we humbly bow to. In all things may Thy will be done. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, "without whom nothing was made that is made," "how manifold are Thy works; in wisdom Thou hast made them all. The earth is full of Thy riches; so is this great and wide sea, in which are things creeping innumerable, both small and great beasts.

There is that leviathan, whom Thou hast made to play therein ; these wait upon Thee, and Thou givest them their meat in due season. O Lord, how excellent is Thy name in all the earth ! ”

We thank Thee, O Lord, that Thou hast endowed us with rationality to contemplate this wonder-working power of Thy divine omnipotence. And O how much more wonderful to know that in ourselves are repositied all the qualities which the multitudinous objects of creation present ; that were we living in a state of order, nothing could tend to injury or desolation ; but that it is our departure from Thee, and from the laws of Thy divine order, that has introduced sin and misery and desolation into the world.

O help us to recover the image and likeness we have so marred. Help us to bring our affections and thoughts under the control of Thy wisdom. Help us to acquire a disposition at once childlike and obedient ; so shall the prophecy of Thy word be fulfilled, when nothing shall hurt or destroy in all Thy holy mountain, but the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

O LORD, so teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. The close of the day forces upon our recollection the close of our natural lives ; and when we lay us down to sleep we feel that it may be our last sleep on earth, and that pleasure should be so enjoyed, and business so pursued, that if it should please Thee this night to call us to an eternal home, our house may be found set in order, and we be prepared to meet the summons. We cannot say that we are prepared to meet so awful a summons, that we have been temperate in our pleasures, or that the world has engaged only so much of our attention as was due to the fulfilment of our several duties, living in it as strangers and pilgrims. We have in truth been too earnest in the pursuit of its wealth, we have immersed ourselves too deeply in its pleasures and competitions, and we have not set Thee, O Lord, before our eyes. Pardon us, we beseech Thee, O heavenly Father. Lighten our eyes, lest we sleep the sleep of death ; awaken our slumbering powers to a sense of the awful condition in which we stand ; “ for what would it profit us, were we to gain the whole world and lose our own soul ? ” We have seen our friends pass suddenly from this natural world, and that too when high health and apparent long life was before them. May their sudden removal impress us with the certainty of our own, and render us watchful, and prepare to meet Thee our God. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY MORNING.

AS the command by Thee, O Lord, was given to the ancient leader, “ Go forward ! ” so may we urge on our way to Thy heavenly kingdom. O suffer us not to delude ourselves in our spiritual course. There is no one point at which we can stop and say, We are now free from sin, we

are now increased in knowledge, we are now sufficiently matured in goodness, we will here rest from our labour.

O suffer not such delusive ideas to enter into our minds ; but may we set Thee before our eyes, and keep our understanding open, that the influences of Thy good Spirit may enter in, urging us onward in the path of the regeneration. Assist us to go forward, that from knowledge to knowledge, from wisdom to wisdom, from goodness to goodness, we may continually progress until we arrive at the mountain of Thy holiness. While in the world, and in the performance of our various duties, may love to Thee be our impelling motive ; may Thy goodness be the animating power that prompts us to exertion, so that we may seek first Thy kingdom and Thy righteousness, doing our duty with a single eye, and then leaving all our affairs to be ultimated by the wisdom of Thy providence. As our years increase, and the days of our pilgrimage draw to a conclusion, may we have become so purified by trial as to be ready, when Thou shalt summon us, to enter into the reward of our labour. And now, O Lord, help us to go forth to our duties and to prosecute them under the influence of Thy love and fear. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, we humbly kneel at Thy footstool. We worship Thee, and pray for the consolations of Thy Spirit at the conclusion of this our day of toil. As we return to rest, if sleep visit us not, " may we commune with our own hearts upon our bed and be still." May Thy Word, which we have read, place before us the seductions of worldly pleasure, opening our eyes to behold it as the great ensnarer from which nothing can set us free but a continual looking to Thy providence for aid. May the light of Thy truth disclose to us all its enticing allurements, and convince us that only by engaging in its pursuits with a single eye to Thy glory, and with a desire to do our duty to it from pure love to Thee and charity to our neighbour, can we hope for Thy blessing, and for peace and quietude of mind.

But while we implore Thy divine guidance to enable us to mingle with the world without being contaminated by its corruptions, suffer us not to deceive ourselves by any assumed righteousness ; for after we have fulfilled our duties we are still unprofitable servants, and have done no more than we ought to have done. Keep us, O Lord, from pride, vain-glory, and self-conceit, and grant that with true humility we may dedicate all our powers, talents, and faculties unto Thy service. With this prayer we surrender our souls into Thy gracious keeping ; do with us whatsoever Thou seest fit. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY MORNING.

O LORD of all power and might, inspire us with a spirit of pure and fervent devotion. In Thee alone can Thy creatures enjoy unalloyed happiness ; communion with Thee by daily prayer, we confess can alone bring us into obedience and humble resignation to whatsoever Thy

providence shall see fit to arrange, or order, or permit. Conduct us, O Lord, in whatsoever path seemeth good to Thee. Let Thy will be our will, so that in nothing which happens unto us may there be murmuring or repining. Dost Thou require us to relinquish what appears to us advantage and emolument in the world, help us to surrender them without murmuring. Dost Thou remove from us those we love; or give us the command, "Get thee from thy kindred and from thy father's house"? may we feel that Thou canst not act from caprice, nor command the surrender but for a wise purpose: to Thy command, therefore, may we willingly submit. Dost Thou call upon us to give up all, to set our house in order, we humbly pray Thee assist us to obey. Thou hast created us; Thou hast redeemed us; we are Thine. We surrender everything at Thy command. O let us behold Thy face in righteousness; when we awake in the eternal world, let us be satisfied with Thy likeness. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, help us, we pray Thee, that our affections and thoughts may rest entirely in Thee, as King and Lord of all. May the light of Thy truth teach us to deny ungodliness, and to live soberly and righteously in this present evil world. May our eyes be lifted up unto Thee as the first and the last,—the bright and morning Star. May we behold in Thee every perfection, every attribute of the Divine nature, and may the fruits of Thy Spirit, even long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance abound in us.

As Thou hast spared us through another day, and hast preserved us amidst the snares and dangers that beset us, may a spirit of devout gratitude and thankfulness lead us for the future to a perfect obedience to Thy divine will. Whenever opportunities of doing good present themselves, may we avail ourselves of them; and may everything we do be done under a conviction that Thou Lord seest us. May we keep in remembrance the period of our great change, and work while it is day; for the night cometh, in which no man can work. Finally, O Lord, while we are in this world, may we so live as to be prepared, when Thou shalt call us, to resign our present existence, and, with humble but joyful hope, enter into the eternal habitations, there to enjoy that fulness of bliss, life for evermore. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, we come before Thee this morning, and pray that Thou wilt so guide us, and so protect us, that every trial we may be subjected to, shall only have the tendency to purify us, and draw us nearer unto Thee. So thoroughly are our hearts bent upon indulgence in our own evil gratifications, that we are unworthy and unfit to be left a single moment to our own guidance. Help us, then, as Thou knowest that our hearts are set within us to do evil, and that continually, help us to set Thee continually before our eyes. May Thy love-smooth what is rough, and soften what is fierce in our nature. May Thy goodness be

our constant monitor, to love one another, even as Thou hast loved us. May Thy love enlarge our hearts, and fill them with desires to serve Thee with interior affection, and with fervency of spirit. May we ever evince a desire to do good to all with whom we are called to associate. Fortified by Thy truth, and filled with an ardent desire to disseminate it, may we be diligent in labouring to convert the erring, and, by offices of tenderness and Christian love, lead those who associate with us to adore and worship Thee, as God over all, blessed for evermore. Finally, O Lord, enable us this day to live in Thy love and fear. Assist us to become examples to our fellow-men, and grant that we may be so endowed by Thee, as to let our light shine before men, that they may see our good works, and glorify our Father who is in heaven. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY EVENING.

O GRACIOUS Saviour, we pray that we may be deeply impressed with the uncertainty of natural existence, that we "may be as servants who wait for their master." But yet, O Lord, we pray that there may be within us an humble cheerfulness, which shall at all times enjoy with gratitude the blessings bestowed upon us in this world, while we feel a perfect willingness to depart when Thou shalt call us. May our eyes be constantly set heavenward. May there be a constant endeavour on our parts to be fitted for the enjoyments of that better land, where those who have been brought out of great tribulation now are, beholding Thee in the plenitude of Thy love, and participating in the fulness of heaven's blessedness.

In this closing act of the week, we desire, in reviewing our mercies, to express our heart-felt gratitude. How great are the blessings we have enjoyed! To our food and raiment, our health and strength, our comfortable habitation, with the blessings and enjoyments of natural existence, there must be added those most inestimable blessings—the gift of Thy holy Word, the knowledge of its spiritual contents, the certainty of a future state of happiness and glory; and joys await us in the eternal world, which have not entered into the heart of man to conceive. For these, O Lord, assist us to prepare ourselves; for without Thee we can do nothing. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THIRTY-EIGHTH WEEK.—SABBATH MORNING.

O LORD our heavenly Father, as Thou hast granted us a glimpse of the wonders of Thy Word and kingdom, displayed through the medium of its spiritual sense, may we feel fervently grateful that we are permitted to participate in so great salvation.

By the duties required to be performed in the representative Church, Thou hast instructed us what our duties are in Thy spiritual Church. We are taught that the law given by Moses was designed to be our school-master, to bring us unto Christ.

Morning and evening was incense commanded to be offered unto Thee; so is our duty defined. Morning and evening ought we to

assemble in Thy presence, morning and evening make supplication unto Thee for the supply of our wants, and for pardon of our iniquities; morning and evening should we give thanks unto Thee, for Thou alone art holy.

As the outer temple was but a figure of the whole Church on earth, while the Holy of holies represented heaven; so, while we kneel before Thee, our worship is only in the external, or outer court, and is profitless, unless we enshrine Thee in our hearts, that herein may be Thy high and holy place, from the inmost of which may go forth all blessing, sanctification, and holiness.

May this Sabbath be unto us as the commencement of a new state of our existence. May we dedicate our souls to Thee with singleness of purpose; and in all the vicissitudes and alternations of state through which we pass, still may we find Thee ever present; and from the inmost of our souls, sending forth the influences of Thy Spirit to guide us in the way of holiness. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SABBATH EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, as angels are Thy ministering spirits; from them, as Thy servants, flow forth those good affections, those pure thoughts, which fill the soul with peace and happiness. As we now kneel before Thee, feeling happy in Thy presence, and in our devotions, grateful for the foretaste of spiritual happiness, which this day's duties have imparted unto us, we feel certain that our good attendants have, by their pure influence, contributed to our happiness. As when Thine ancient servant Zacharias offered incense in Thy temple, an angel appeared unto him, so we, if our aspirations rise to God from a pure heart, may experience their presence, and may feel ourselves drawn nearer to the divine Father of our souls, by the state of poverty of spirit which their presence imparts; and these blessed spirits rejoice with us, while we are with Thee our God.

Lord, we beseech Thee, guard us from the snares and devices of wicked spirits, for these also surround our path. As good angels strive to impart confidence in Thee, O Lord, so evil spirits aim to impart fear and despondency. As the good would always impress us with the certainty that the Lord of hosts is with us, so the wicked would infuse terror, and strive to induce despair. Lord, help us to overcome these infestations; impart unto us a holy trust and confidence in Thy mercy; and may the truth of Thy Word be our constant support, "Whoso trusteth in the Lord, mercy shall compass him about." Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, who hast counselled us to follow Thee and learn of Thee, help us to put on humility. May this be our distinguishing quality; may our language be that of grateful adoration, and submission to Thy will; and whatsoever duty Thou seest fit to impose upon us, may we, with willing minds, exclaim, *Behold the servants of the Lord: be it unto us according to Thy Word.*

With this prayer of willing duty, O Lord, we now go forth to the labour which devolves upon us in the world. We pray to be preserved from sin; may we set Thee continually before our eyes. In all our pursuits, while we remember that Thou God seest us, may we not only pursue our path with integrity, because Thine eye resteth upon us, but may we do our duty from love to Thee, from a love of purity and holiness, from a love of our neighbour and of usefulness. May Thy blessing rest upon our labour. When we go forth, Lord, be with us. When we return, let us feel Thy presence. In our labour, let strength from Thee animate us; in difficulty, let our reason and intelligence be quickened by Thy wisdom; in danger, preserve us by Thy omnipotent power, and may we at all times find Thee a very present help. We know not how soon we may be called into Thine immediate presence; may we therefore, be so guided by Thy good Spirit, that when the time shall come that we are called upon to leave the body, we may, with humble confidence, resign our spirits into Thy hands. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, Thou art the bread of life. Lord, we beseech Thee feed us with this bread! "He that believeth on Thee, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water." Lord! give us to drink of the streams of Thy truth. As the hart panteth for the water-brooks, so may our souls thirst after Thee, O God, and for whatever has a tendency to show forth Thy goodness to Thy creatures, the work of Thy hands; and may we, and all the creatures Thou hast made, be led to perceive Thy loving-kindness—yea, let the people praise Thee, O God, let all the people praise Thee, for Thy name alone is excellent. O hasten the period when men shall see Thee as Thou art, the only wise God our Saviour; when men shall adore and magnify Thee as "God with us;" when all the benefits and blessings of the redemption shall take firm hold of the affections, and lead to a devout and holy gratitude for the great work which Thou hast accomplished; when men shall come from the east and from the west, prepared to acknowledge Thy divine sovereignty, till from the rising of the sun to the going down of the same, Thy name alone shall be magnified and adored, as the true God and everlasting life. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, we confess our sins are ever before us. Blot out, as a thick cloud, our evils of heart and life. Help us to arise from the debasing state in which we have placed ourselves; help us to be obedient to Thy gracious call, and with repenting hearts turn us unto Thee. May we while there is time avail ourselves of Thy condescending goodness.

From Thee may we learn how much better it is to give than to receive! Thou, O Lord Jesus Christ, didst appear meek and lowly before men; instruct us in that true poverty of spirit which seeks rather the

good of others than of self. Thou didst call upon us to learn of Thee, to be meek and lowly, that our hearts might become the abode of those graces and virtues which evidence Thy residence within the soul.

O Lord, bow our stubborn spirits by Thy all-gracious dispensations, and bring us from henceforth unto Thee, and take up Thine abode within our hearts. Help us to see that no earthly enjoyment is too dear to be relinquished for Thy sake. May we imitate the wise men of old, and seek Thee in spiritual Bethlehem. May this city be to us the "house of bread," and Thyself "the true bread" offered for the sustenance of our souls, and of which, if we eat, we shall never hunger more. May this Bethlehem be the heart consecrated to Thy abiding place. Dwell Thou, O merciful Saviour, in its inner chambers. From the inmost of our soul send forth Thy divine commands: subject every thought, affection, and desire to Thy divine sovereignty, and grant unto us a willing and grateful obedience to all which Thou seest fit to ordain. May we, under every state, be enabled to say, Father! let Thy will be done. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY EVENING.

O LORD of heaven, assist us to bow, with devout obedience, to Thy divine authority, and may Thy Word be to us a lamp to our feet and a light to our path, which shall guide us on our way to heaven: may its precepts be deeply engraven in our hearts; may we teach its truths to our children, and may it dwell in us, and furnish us with spiritual wisdom.

Most merciful Saviour, we implore Thy blessing on the younger branches of this family, and not only of this, but of every family. O let the influence of Thy good Spirit descend and guard them against the snares and devices of the wicked.

In the days of their youth may they set Thee continually before their eyes. May they seek for happiness, where alone it is to be found, within the pages of inspiration. May their minds be impressed with the deepest reverence for all that is sacred. May they, in the season of youthful enjoyment, never lose sight of that innocence, which alone can give zest to their pleasures. May gentleness and affability mark all their conduct; may they listen with respect to the counsels of the aged, and from their experience learn wisdom. May they be preserved from the contamination of sceptics and scoffers; and may their greatest desire be to know Thee, the true God, and to serve Thee with a perfect heart and with a willing mind, remembering that if they seek Thee, Thou wilt be found of them, but if they forsake Thee, they will be cast off for ever. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

O LORD God our Saviour, while Thou commandest us to be fervent in spirit, we are also enjoined not to be slothful in business. We pray Thee, O merciful Father, to give us grace to perform all our duties with so willing and spiritual a mind, that the love we profess to bear towards Thee may be seen in all things to which we put our hands; for

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our spiritual duties can only carry Thy blessing with them, as our temporal duties become sanctified by Thy love, and filled with Thy goodness. There is no place in which Thou art not to be found ; there are no duties in which we engage, but thoughts of Thee may enable us to perform with greater efficiency. Help us then to set Thee continually before our eyes. Wherever we are called upon to labour, still may we behold Thee. In the arduous duties of bodily toil, may the power of Thy Spirit become the arm of our strength. In the season of refreshment may there be always a portion of the true bread set before us. In the hour of amusement, may we rejoice with trembling ; in the trials we are called upon to endure, may we submit to the refining fire which purifies. And whether health or sickness, prosperity or adversity, life or death be our portion this day, still may we remember that infinite Wisdom directs our journey, and will be our guide even unto death. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, help us, we beseech Thee, to be obedient to all which Thou hast commanded. Thou, O Lord, didst not only instruct us by precept, but by example also, and hast left us Thy command to be in all things like unto Thyself. Thou art the true light, that lighteth every one that cometh into the world. Thou art the Sun of righteousness, and all that has a tendency to render man wise and intelligent has its origin in Thee. Ever may our minds be kept open to receive Thy truth, and grant us Thy grace, that when it is received we may so let our light shine, that our good works may be seen, and our heavenly Father glorified.

Lord, we are now again about to seek our pillows ; we know not whether our labour on earth is ended, or whether there is still work for us to do in this world ; but our times are in Thy hand, and Thou knowest best the period when we are most fitted to be removed. May we, therefore, so live that, when called, we may with humility surrender our spirits into Thy hand. May we consider our latter end, and die daily unto sin, that we may live unto Thee our Lord and Saviour ; and, whenever the summons shall come which calls us into Thy presence, may we be found with our loins girded and our lamps burning, ready to enter into the marriage supper of the Lamb. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY MORNING.

O LORD our heavenly Father, we acknowledge with gratitude that, as we sincerely look unto Thee, so do we find the accomplishment of Thy gracious words : " The Lord is nigh unto all that call upon Him, to all that call upon Him in truth : He turneth to the prayer of the destitute, and despiseth not their prayer. He bindeth up the broken-hearted, and comforteth those that mourn. He dwelleth with those who are of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones." O Lord, how numerous are the consolations of Thy Word, offered unto us in the hour of our extremity.

Our hearts sink within us as we view the depths to which we have descended in evil; trouble rises up in our souls, and pangs take hold of us; our enemies strive to infuse despondency and despair. Can such as we are hope for mercy? We become indeed melted because of trouble. Then we cry unto Thee in our distress and still find that Thou art near! Even the depths of sorrow cannot separate us from Thy love. Surely it is Thy love revealed in Thy Word which enables us to hope, and say, "Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy, when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the Lord shall be a light unto me." O Lord, in Thee do we trust. Thou canst bring light out of darkness, joy out of sorrow, life out of death. In Thy strength will we renew the fight for regeneration. Help us, O Lord, we beseech Thee. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, we implore Thy divine blessing on the labour of our hands this day; and we pray that Thou wilt prosper all who have been engaged in labour for the good of their fellow-creatures. Bless the artisan in his sphere of mechanical ingenuity; may he acknowledge the ability he possesses to be derived from Thee, and render unto Thee all the praise.

Bless the agricultural labourer; and as the wide extended plains rise up in fertility before him, may he prepare his own mind and render it as a field which the Lord has blessed—a garden in which the plants of virtue may take root, spring upward, and bring forth fruit to perfection.

Bless the hewers of stone and wood, the builders of our temporal habitations, and assist them to render their own souls goodly edifices—temples garnished with all manner of precious stones and pearls—of spiritual and natural truths, cemented by the adhesive power of love, so that God may enter in and the soul become a *living temple*.

Bless all who labour in Thy word and doctrine; may they become living ministers of Thy truth, so that the souls of their hearers may, from the ugliness and deformity of sin, be re-impressed with Thy divine image and likeness.

Bless all parents; all teachers and trainers of youth; all merchants and such as go down to the sea in ships and do business in great waters. Bless all kings and princes, and all who are entrusted in governments among men. Bless all mankind; and may all unite in the song of blessing: "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless His holy Name." Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY MORNING.

WE thank Thee, O Lord Jesus Christ, for all the noble works of Thy hands. For the beautiful world on which we dwell, and which Thou watchest over perpetually. Thy providence visiteth all the works of Thy hands. We praise Thee for Thy creative power. "Thou preparest corn when Thou hast so provided it. Thou waterest the ridges thereof abundantly; Thou settlest the furrows thereof, Thou makest it

soft with showers ; Thou blestest the springing thereof. Thou crownest the year with Thy goodness, and Thy paths drop fatness. The pastures are clothed with flocks, and the vallies also are covered over with corn." With all these tokens of Thy love and providence before us ; with the assurance that the righteous shall never be forsaken, nor his seed beg bread, Lord, give unto us a spirit of contentment. As Thou art our Father, O help us to confide entirely in Thee as Thy children.

O give us hearts to enjoy Thy goodness in Thy blessings, and keep from us the gloom and apprehension of future want. As the lilies of the field grow by turning their heads to the sun, and receive their life and beauty by the heat and light and moisture of which it is the secondary cause : so may we pursue our daily labour, and turn our heads spiritually unto Thee, the Sun of righteousness, the great *First Cause* ; and, as confiding children, feel happy that we are in the possession of blessings that will never be withdrawn ; but that of Thy fulness shall we all receive. Keep our minds, O Lord, we beseech Thee, unruffled by the cares of the world ; and grant us submission to all Thy wise dispensations. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY EVENING.

MOST merciful Father, the God of all goodness ; fill our affections, we beseech Thee, by Thy love ; enlighten our thoughts by Thy truth ; bring every desire of our souls under the perfect government of Thy love and wisdom ; so that our inner man may be in a state of willing obedience to Thy divine majesty. O Lord, so let Thy reign be established over us that we may engage in Thy service with willing and zealous minds ; and whatsoever we engage in, grant that its result may terminate in Thy glory and to the good of our fellow-creatures.

In all the changes and vicissitudes of state through which we pass, let strength as our day be given us ; and feed us with the true bread of life, and give us to drink of the river of Thy pleasures.

Nor would we supplicate blessings for ourselves alone, but we would pray for the whole human race. Prepare the minds of all men to submit to Thy divine government. By thy righteous dispensations may irreligion, impiety, and profanity be arrested ; and grant that truth, righteousness, brotherly love, and charity may universally prevail. O grant these our supplications, for Thy Name's sake. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY MORNING.

INFINITE, eternal, and omnipotent Jehovah, Thou art the Father of mercies, the God of all consolation ! Who can worthily speak Thy praise or tell of all Thy wondrous works ? Thou art infinite in goodness, wisdom, and power !

We praise Thee for the blessings of the past night, and for the light of another day. O let Thy presence be now felt by us, and assist us in affection and thought to worship Thee, and to lift up our hearts with our hands unto Thee in the heavens. When we call to mind the innumerable

benefits we have received at Thy hands, as our Creator, Redeemer, and Regenerator, we are constrained to wonder at the immensity of Thy goodness, while we adore Thee for the continuance of all Thy bounties.

We praise Thee for the powers of liberty and rationality with which Thou hast endowed us, and for the wonderful arrangement of our minds into the three degrees of celestial, spiritual, and natural, whereby there is power given us of loving Thee above all things, of obeying Thy divine commandments, of loving our neighbour as ourself, and of being the constant recipients of the heavenly influences of Thy love and truth; and from these are we enabled to keep in subjection the loves of self and the world. May Thy holy Name be magnified. May we say continually, The Lord Jesus Christ, our God, be praised. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY EVENING.

O HEAVENLY Lord our Saviour, our tender and beneficent Parent, again has time revolved and brought us to the conclusion of another week; and with the cessation of bodily toil we now draw near to Thy footstool, and around our family altar we kneel in humble gratitude, that we may express our thankfulness for the mercies of the past week, and prepare ourselves for the enjoyments and privileges of the coming Sabbath. O how wonderfully hast Thou adapted all created objects to our necessities, so that there is nothing we behold but that either contributes to support our bodily frames or to delight and recreate us by their various qualities. For us the world and all it contains has been created, and the dominion thereof is delivered into our hands. The glorious orb of day, as it now sinks in the west, having run its course of use, brings into being the various products which afford seed for the sower and bread for the eater; and all the multiplied forms of beauty which Thou hast created, reflect but the glories of that luminary which Thou hast made to rule the day, while his own sublime appearance is but a faint image of Thee, the glorious Sun of righteousness. O God, we render thanks to Thee, the Fountain of eternal love. Make us grateful, we beseech Thee, for every act of Thy divine love and mercy. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THIRTY-NINTH WEEK—SABBATH MORNING.

MERCIFUL Father, bestow upon us, we beseech Thee, willing and obedient spirits, that we may strive against our corruptions, and walk with that uprightness which shall enable us to acquire a good conscience. Help us to do justly; help us constantly to look to Thee for aid, and as constantly watch the seducing tendency of our own corruptions, under a full conviction that our greatest enemies are those of our own household. Assist us to contend against our enemies within; be Thou unto us as our spiritual Gideon. Constantly may we hear Thee speaking to our souls, "The Lord is with thee."

As temptations to evil increase, and our besetting sins plead earnestly for gratification, still may we turn to Thee; still find Thee present; still hear Thine encouraging words, "The Lord is with Thee." Even under

our severest afflictions, when Thy face appears hidden from us, and our faith grows feeble, and we bend under our burden, O refresh our spirits as Thou didst the early disciples; let us hear Thy consoling voice, "I am with thee, I will be with thee even to the end of the world. When thou passest through the waters, I will not fail thee; when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned." Blessed promises! may we depend upon them. Though Thou hast bidden us to ask, and hast promised us we shall receive; it is not that Thou needest to be entreated, but that we may be the better prepared to receive Thy blessings by fervently desiring and humbly seeking after them. Blessed Lord, fill us with humility and poverty of spirit; for this only can fill us with the true delights of wisdom. Boasting can never bring us unto Thee; pride is one of the altars in the heart that must be thrown down; and the love of self and the world are the Midianites that must be overcome. Help us, O Lord, to enter upon the warfare against our corruptions; and may the sword of the Lord and of Gideon be with us in the spiritual warfare, until the good fight is completed. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SABBATH EVENING.

O LORD God and Saviour, as our contests with evil increase, may we receive from Thee increased power to meet them. If we are called upon to renounce station, or honour, or emolument, or land, or riches of any kind, may we with a ready and willing mind submit; and counting everything as dross, for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus our Lord, may we able to exclaim, "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath permitted to be taken away, blessed be the Name of the Lord." We feel that Christianity requires that we be strong in Thee, O Lord; and however weak we may be in ourselves, a faithful reliance upon Thy divine omnipotence gives us the assurance that, "as our day is, so shall our strength be." We pray, therefore, O Lord, that though we may be stripped of our earthly confidence, we may still have cause to trust in Thee. May we yield a willing and a ready obedience unto Thee.

Lord, we humbly raise our voices in supplication for all classes and conditions of men. May those who suffer upon the bed of languishing be visited by Thy consolation. O extend Thy healing hand unto them; assuage their pain, smooth the pillow of their affliction, and make all their bed in sickness. Visit those who sit in the darkness of idolatry, and let some rays of Thy truth fall upon them, as they are able to bear it. Bless Thy servant who ministers to us in spiritual things, and all our brethren who worship with us. May this family seek Thy face continually, and find Thee a very present help in every time of need. And may every family strive with increased determination to walk before Thee in newness of spirit, in singleness of eye, and purity of heart. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, Thou hast glorified Thy humanity, so that every one, whether in the practice of simple goodness or of that which is

spiritual, may enter into conjunction with Thee, and be one with Thee, as Thou art One with the Father.

O blessed Lord and Saviour, how great is the privilege we enjoy in being permitted to know Thee as Thou art; to behold Thee as a God of love and truth, "keeping mercy for thousands, and forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin;" and, O still greater privilege, to bear Thine own divine image, and to be capable of becoming a likeness of Thee! to know that because Thou livest we shall live also; and to feel that we shall become Thy friends if we do whatsoever Thou commandest us.

We adore Thee, O Lord, for the gift of Thy holy Word. In it Thou hast revealed Thy own perfections, and hast made known to us our own condition. By Thy Word shall we be condemned, and by the Word shall we be acquitted. "The Word which Thou hast spoken unto us, the same shall judge us at the last day." Teach us, we beseech Thee, a due reverence for Thy divine truth. May we never sully it by using it lightly or irreverently. May we never profane it by introducing it into vain and frivolous discourse.

Impart unto us meek, lowly, and contrite hearts; and aid us so to walk by Thy truth, that men may see our good works, and glorify Thee our Father in the heavens. Enable us to be watchful, to keep our hearts with all diligence, and to gird about us the living principles of holiness, that we may be endowed with power to resist the attacks of our spiritual enemies. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, we worship Thee as the Eternal Truth. It is by Thy truth that we are admonished against the pollutions of evil. Thy truth addresses us in the words, "Arise ye, and depart; for this is not your rest." Behold, the earth is filled with violence; it is polluted; tarry not in all the plain of evil; but escape to the mountain of the Lord's holiness; so iniquity shall not be your ruin.

O God, we desire to humble ourselves before Thee, and to acknowledge our transgression; while we at the same time offer our devout gratitude that Thou hast addressed us in so many and in such varied precepts of Thy Word, warning us not to tarry in the valley of our own unhallowed loves—that shadow of death, in which, if we continue, will but too surely introduce us into eternal misery. O aid us to shun evil in every alluring garb in which it presents itself; thereby shall we escape that pain and anguish which ever waits upon the commission of sin. We confess, O Lord, that it is not enough that we *know* Thy truth; WE CAN BE HAPPY ONLY IF WE DO IT; until it enters into our affections and influences our lives, it can have no abiding place. LORD, AS THOU ART THE TRUTH, we humbly pray Thee to assist us in possessing it. And as Thou art willing to abide in us, may we be willing to abide in Thee; and thus become of the number of Thy faithful disciples, and be enabled to bring forth much fruit. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, who art the Father of eternity; in the performance of the duties of this day, may we keep before us THE ETERNITY OF VIRTUE; and in no one natural action sully the vitality of the principle which ought to give it life. Hast Thou, O Lord, raised us to honour? O let VIRTUE render it lovely and benignant. Hast Thou given us riches? may VIRTUE render them abundantly useful. Hast Thou given to us intelligence and knowledge? may VIRTUE act as the soul, and give life to every truth that we utter; so that in each thing that we do or put our hands to, we may not only glorify Thee in our spirits, which are Thine, but in our bodies also.

Thou has created us, O Lord, to be eternally happy; but Thou hast given us a capacity for happiness, even in this world; and as we engage in our duties from a principle of love to Thee, and of charity to our neighbour, so will peace and tranquility and happiness attend us. And if prosperity, in a natural sense, do not accompany or reward our labour, we shall know that Thou, O Lord, who orderest all things well, hast so arranged that our eternal happiness may be the better secured.

We adore Thee, O gracious Father, for the mercies of the past night. Thou hast not only protected and defended us, but, by giving rest to our bodies, hast rendered us strong to labour; and in this strength, and under the eye of Thy providence, we go forth to our work and to our labour till the evening. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, we humbly pray that we may be brought entirely under submission to Thy divine providence. We confess, O Lord, that we have frequently rebelled when Thy dispensations have visited us. We have murmured that we cannot attain to the joys of Thy kingdom in the way that would be most pleasant to ourselves. We would enjoy the beatitudes of heaven, but would not be put to the labour necessary to become purified. We would indulge in the dissipations of the world, and yet profess ourselves to be Thy disciples. If Thy hand visit us and affliction is permitted to assail us, how impatient we are! How difficult do we find it to bless them that curse us, to do good to them that hate us, and to pray for them who despitefully use us and persecute us. When those whom we have esteemed our friends turn from us in the season of our adversity; when all our supports are taken from beneath our feet, and our hearts are steeped in bitterness, how hard do we find it to say, "Thy will be done."

O Lord, increase our faith; give us to feel a devout resignation to Thy will. Open our eyes to behold the love which permits our afflictions; teach us that the stroke is lightened when we draw near to the Hand that wields the rod. Preserve us, Lord, from ourselves, and aid us this night and every night to repose in humble confidence on Thy love, truth, and mercy. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, help us, we beseech Thee, that we may abstract our minds from the consideration of worldly affairs and hold communion with our inmost souls. And as we engage in self-examination, may we patiently wait to hear what the Lord shall say unto us from the inmost teachings of His Word.

Lord, assist us to live wholly unto Thee and for the good of our neighbour. They who truly love Thee above all things, will at all times evidence the sincerity of their love by striving to do good to all, by loving their neighbour as themselves. And teach us, O Lord, to love our neighbour; not because he is in high esteem by the world, or because he is in possession of abundance of this world's good, but rather for the good that is in him, and for the unwearied exertions which he makes in the cause of good.

O Lord, we beseech Thee, protect us through this day; that as the night has refreshed our wearied frames by sleep, and rendered us fit for our temporal avocations, the day may find us not slothful in business, nor sluggish in spirit, but active and fervent in the performance of our various duties. In travelling through this world, we pray that we may not be ensnared by its delights. May we with a grateful cheerfulness enjoy what Thou givest, and with willing resignation submit to what Thou deniest; until, perfected by suffering, we find a reward for our patience in the land flowing with milk and honey. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

O LORD God, our Saviour, we adore the infinity of that love which, in these last days, hast revealed the wisdom of the spiritual sense. We can never be sufficiently grateful for the rendering visible to our spiritual perception that world of divine beauty, for the encouragement of souls hungry and thirsty after righteousness. When Thy Word, in its spiritual sense, unfolds to our enraptured view the glorious realities of heaven; when orb upon orb pours forth its myriads to swell the glorious population of eternity; when fields of ethereal beauty unfold their divine splendour, according to the state of the angelic beings who people them, and Thy Word, in its inmost sense, still continues to unfold its wisdom, as the glorious beings whom Thou hast made continue to love and study it, and find that with them it is "for ever settled in heaven;" when Thy nature is more clearly seen and Thy divine love is more internally felt,—O who can fail to adore Thee, that Thou hast made us to perceive these glorious realities, and to feel that they are all stored up for those who love Thee! Help us, Lord, to love and serve Thee better, that we may the sooner be translated from this corruptible, and put on incorruption in Thy heavenly kingdom. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, the morning again calls us into Thy presence. In all that we attempt, first lead us to look to Thee for help; for

unless Thou, Lord, shalt assist us to build our spiritual house, we labour in vain to build it. Help us to follow Thee in the order of Thy providence. What Thou appointest as our portion, O assist us to take without a murmur.

As Thy Word discloses our evils, O let the power of its truth be imparted unto us, that we may dislodge them. As each victory over self weakens its power, and arms us with keener weapons to effect its entire subjugation, so may we engage in the spiritual conflict with that devotedness, that we may at length completely triumph over self, and lose our own life to find life eternal. Help us, O Lord, faithfully to perform the duties of this day. Help us to keep Thee continually before our eyes, that we sin not. In all that we put our hands to may we regard eternal ends. In the sphere of use in which we move, may Thy blessing be felt. May charity, in its true and pure sense, accompany us whatsoever we do; may a desire to promote the great work of spiritual purification animate us; and as no good can accompany our labours, unless Thou, O Lord, art constantly invoked, so may we ever set Thee before us; and so may we hope to have our "house set in order," to meet Thee at Thy coming. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, we humbly pray Thee to give unto us just ideas of the value of true religion, and help us faithfully to attend to all its requirements. When Thou, O Lord, didst tabernacle among us, in nothing was Thy example more striking than the universality of Thy love and mercy; and Thou hast left us this precept: "LEARN OF ME!" O help us to be obedient to this precept. May we show our obedience, not in saying *Lord, Lord*, but in doing whatsoever Thou hast commanded us,—not in exclusive adherence to one sect or one party, but in a life of love and goodness manifested unto all,—not in vain ostentation and mere external performance of religious duties, but in an inward feeling of love and gratitude to Thee, O Lord, and from that feeling a desire to engage in every virtuous and upright action,—not in obedience to those doctrines which the policy of men has devised, thus rendering Thy word subject to their traditions, but in a sincere love of Thy truth, in a hearty co-operation to extend it, and to diffuse its doctrines in their purity among men. O help us, heavenly Father, to avoid harshly censuring others, and keep us in a quiet and peaceable submission to Thy laws, in practising the substantial parts of pure and undefiled religion, in amending our own ways and doings, and in living a life conformable to Thy will.

And now, Lord, we pray Thee, be with us through the night, watch over us and protect us from the assaults of our spiritual enemies. O Thou that hearest and answerest prayer, we will lay us down and sleep, in humble confidence that Thy providence will overrule all things for our eternal happiness. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY MORNING.

THOU, O Lord and Saviour, hast enjoined us to love one another, for this is Thy commandment. It is by doing our duty to Thee as our God by a life of usefulness and charity to our neighbour, that can alone render us acceptable unto Thee. May we have salt in ourselves, and love towards one another. O give unto us Thy grace, we beseech Thee, that with active and persevering spirits, we may labour with untiring zeal to advance the true spiritual interests of all our brethren, and be Thou our helper in the field of use. Give us strength to overcome every difficulty, and uphold our souls when spiritual infestations come upon us. May we be enabled to feel the blessed assurance that Thou wilt deliver us out of all trouble and we shall see our desire upon our enemies; for our greatest enemies are those of our own household. Our weakness is great, our corruptions are strong, our enemies are mighty; but in Thy strength we shall stand.

To Thy merciful protection we commend ourselves this day. Sustain us, we beseech Thee, in the practice of virtue: assist us to render a devout obedience to Thy wise and just commands, and to preserve our conscience void of offence. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, we implore Thee, bless Thou the members of this family; and grant that those to whom Thou hast entrusted its government may constantly look to Thee for aid, that they may guide such as are subordinate to them in the paths of virtue and truth. And grant also that such as require to receive instruction, admonition, or reproof, may listen with teachable spirits, and yield to the experience of their parents or masters, remembering the admonition of Thine apostle, "Servants, be obedient to your masters, not answering again, not purloining, but showing all good fidelity, and adorning the doctrines of Thee, our God and Saviour, in all things."

We humbly beseech Thee, O Lord Jesus Christ, to pour out upon all those who are called to minister in heavenly things the especial graces of Thy Holy Spirit. May they be fervent in spirit, earnest in the study of Thy Word, zealous in the propagation of its doctrines, and watchful as good shepherds over the flocks committed to their charge. Through their labours may sinners be converted unto Thee. May the weak hands be strengthened, and the feeble knees confirmed. And when they are called to give an account of their stewardship, may they be so prepared as to receive the gift of eternal life. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY MORNING.

O LORD, as Thou hast supplied all our wants with a liberal and bountiful hand, may we be ever ready to minister to others of our substance. May compassion distinguish us in our intercourse with the frail and erring; render us willing to minister to the body as

well as to the mind diseased; and may we freely deal out our bread to the hungry, and cover the naked with a garment, wheresoever we possess the opportunity and the means.

Help us, O Lord, we beseech Thee, to give due diligence to the conduct of our affairs, and in whatsoever state Thy providence has placed us may we learn therewith to be content. And now, O Lord, we desire to commit ourselves to Thy divine guidance, as we go forth to the various duties devolving upon us in our respective spheres of life. While the concerns of this world occupy our attention, suffer not our thoughts to be so exclusively fixed upon them as to withdraw us entirely from the consideration of heavenly things. But may the prospect of eternity and its joys only make us more faithful and just in the performance of the duties of time, so that, as the world and its concerns recedes from our view, there may be opened before us a prospect of those glorious realities which await the just made perfect, when their probation here is ended. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY EVENING.

GRACIOUS Lord and merciful Saviour, another week has run its course, and brought us nearer to the confines of eternity; but how has it prepared us for the important change which must speedily come upon us?

We come into Thy presence this evening deeply impressed with Thy goodness, and by a sense of our own unworthiness, and of the impending judgment hanging over our heads if we repent not. *Repentance!* Time to repent! O how important the work, how short the time to perform it! O "teach us so to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."

Looking back upon the past week, and noting the actions by which it has been distinguished, how frivolous have been many of the pursuits in which we have indulged. As though we were to dwell in this world for ever, with what avidity have we engaged in its pursuit, and with what diligence have we laboured after the bread which perisheth; and we are constrained to acknowledge, but for the intervention of the Sabbath we should rise early, sit up late, and eat the bread of carefulness, as though eternity was never to have a beginning. O Lord, what is man that Thou art mindful of him? Thou hast made him a little lower than the angels; Thou hast crowned his life with goodness. Help us, O Lord our Saviour, to repent, and prepare to meet Thee, our God. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FORTIETH WEEK.—SABBATH MORNING.

O LORD God Almighty, from whom cometh our help, Thou who hast exhorted us to seek Thy face, and graciously assured all who seek that they shall find, we come before Thee this morning. O may we find Thee present in our devotions in this Thy temple, and experience that happiness which Thy presence alone can bestow; for in Thy presence is fulness of joy, at Thy right hand are pleasures for evermore. But to

enjoy the full blessedness of Thy presence, Thy Word declares we must cease to do evil; for the wicked cannot dwell in Thy presence, and there is no act of Thy divine power on record which teaches that man's heart can be suddenly and instantaneously converted to God. Help us, then, O Lord, we beseech Thee, to remove evil from our wills. Give us to see the force and truth of the words, "*Your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you.*"

O Lord, Thou art perfect and just in all Thy ways; Thou canst not act contrary to the perfect laws of Thy divine love and wisdom; "Thou art not a man that Thou shouldest lie, nor the son of man that Thou shouldest repent." All Thy acts of providence are consistent with Thy laws of order, and an immutable law has gone forth from Thee, "*Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.*" Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SABBATH EVENING.

O BENEFICENT Father, tender and considerate Parent of all the families of mankind, who for love can be compared unto Thee? What knowledge in man can be compared with the wisdom which cometh from above? and who among the sons of men has strength sufficient to contend against his spiritual enemies, if Thou, O Lord, shouldest separate Thyself from him. Thou only art universal goodness; Thou only art the essential truth. In Thee alone are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge, and Thou alone art possessed of omnipotent power. We come, therefore, to Thee for help. We feel the certainty of that help being vouchsafed unto us, if we do but humbly seek it. Thy words are our assurance: "Behold I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy." It is Thou, O Lord, that endowest us with strength; Thou it is that givest power unto us, but vain is the gift unless we use it. O help us to see and to feel the importance of the truth, that *Thou dost not work for us, BUT BY US AND IN US*. When accomplishing our redemption, and glorifying Thy humanity, Thou didst impress this truth upon our minds, in the important words, "My Father worketh hitherto, and I work." May this truth be ever before us; whosoever trusteth in Thee, mercy shall compass him about. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY MORNING.

GREAT and merciful Redeemer, by whom we are permitted to live, and whose mercy has protected us during the past night, and brought us to another period of natural existence, that we may spend it usefully and profitably, we desire humbly to adore Thee. We thank Thee for the blessings of the past Sabbath, and for the refreshment by sleep of the past night; and we now invoke Thine aid, that we may be upheld during the present week, and be preserved from falling into temptation.

The promise that no good thing wilt Thou withhold from them that fear Thee and walk uprightly, emboldens us to draw near to the throne of Thy grace. Multitudes of our fellow-creatures, who, by Thine

assistance, have fought the good fight, have been brought through great tribulation, and now enjoying the great inheritance, stand in Thy kingdom, possessed of every happiness which Divine beneficence can bestow and the prepared spirit enjoy. They serve Thee day and night in Thy temple; neither hunger nor thirst, sickness nor disease assails them; but in the plenitude of bliss and in spiritual usefulness their joys become multiplied, and will continue to multiply eternally. They have been brought out of great tribulation, and perfected by suffering; and by suffering alone can we be perfected also. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY EVENING.

ALMIGHTY Lord God of our salvation, who hast taught that "men ought always to pray and not to faint," and hast in the most solemn manner exhorted us to "watch and pray, that we enter not into temptation," help us to be obedient to this Thy divine counsel, and to strive against the corruptions of our evil nature. We feel more and more the assaults of the powers of darkness; they excite our evil passions, and prompt to the delights of sensual pleasure; and while we acknowledge this, we are led to see that all temptations are by God's permission, who can strengthen us at any time, and keep us from falling. Thus are we instructed that a blessing attends upon us, as we look unto Thee; or a curse as we separate ourselves from Thee. Thou hast indeed placed life and death, blessing and cursing, before us. Thou hast endowed us with freedom of choice, but Thou hast, as a tender Parent, exhorted us to "choose life, that we and our seed may live." If we allow ourselves to be drawn aside of our own lusts and enticed, the end must be *death*, but if through the Spirit we mortify the deeds of the body, we shall live. O Lord, help us in every time of temptation to learn the humbling lessons mercifully taught us; while we acknowledge, may we at the same time abhor, the corruptions exposed to our view. Assist us to draw nearer to Thee in every trial, and deliver us out of all our distresses. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY MORNING.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful redeeming Lord and Saviour, we come before Thee this morning deeply conscious that, without Thy divine aid, all our efforts to accomplish the great work of regeneration are futile.

So multiplied are the conflicts in which we have to engage; so difficult and apparently hopeless of overcoming in the dark valley through which we have to pass, that we are often ready to faint by the way, and to imagine that we cannot advance farther, and that our most strenuous efforts are unavailing. We look within, and are troubled; for so many are the evils which require patient labour to eradicate, that we are tempted in despondency to inquire, Who is sufficient for these things? until at last, doing what we ought never to have neglected, sinking down in self-abasement, and entirely surrendering ourselves to Thy mercy, our very weakness becomes our strength.

O Father of eternity, careworn and helpless as we are, Thine Omniscient eye still sees us; we are never destitute of Thy care. In the gloom and danger of spiritual conflict, truly we have no hope but in Thee. It is only when we are self-confident, when we imagine our own prowess sufficient to contend against our spiritual enemies, that our state becomes dangerous. O help us, Lord, we beseech Thee; for without Thee we can do nothing. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY EVENING.

INFINITE, eternal, and ever-glorious God, with thankful hearts we draw nigh unto Thee. This day has increased the sum of our blessings, and calls for our devout thankfulness to Thee as the source of all that is good, unto whom we owe all that we enjoy. We pray Thee, O Lord, assist us to acquire that perfect submission and obedience to Thy will, which in all things and under all states may fulfil whatsoever Thou commandest. As the first king of Israel was commanded to destroy the sinners the Amalekites, and was disobedient to the Divine command, and was therefore rejected from being king, may we profit from his sad example; may the principles within our souls,—those faults of which the Amalakites were representatives, and which hitherto we have unhappily cherished,—be contended against and cast out. May nothing that is in opposition to the glorious truths of Thy Word be by us fostered or encouraged; but may the words, "Behold to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams," teach us how dangerous it is to transgress the commandment of God that we may cherish our own delights, and give us to see the reason why the Lord will have war with Amalek from generation to generation.

Lord, we would humbly become as children in Thy hand, and learn to submit ourselves to Thee, by a willing obedience to all Thou shalt enjoin. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

O LORD God our Saviour, Thou hast renewed our existence: with the return of the day return Thy tender mercies; yea, they have never been intermitted; day unto day, and night unto night has but increased the sum of them.

We adore Thee, O Lord, for all the blessings we continue to enjoy. The blessings of the natural world, the comforts of natural existence, the food that we receive, the rest that we enjoy, all remind us of Thy superintending providence, whose watchfulness preserves us in safety, and ministers to our every necessity. Glory be to Thy holy name, O Lord!

Lord, while we acknowledge Thy bounties, we pray to be preserved in Thy fear, so that reverence for Thy name and Thine august perfections may humble us before Thee, and to love and gratitude be added a willing and cheerful sense of duty. In fearing Thy holy name,

and bringing ourselves under Thy divine government, there is safety in every time of trouble, for—

“Thou canst curb the fury of the wave;
From plots of wickedness know'st how to save:
Submissive bowing to Thy holy will,
To fear our Father is to fear no ill.”*

To trust in Thy name is to be encompassed with Thy protection; for they that fear the Lord shall be as Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abideth for ever.

Lord, we desire to thank Thee for the revelation of Thy holy Word, in which Thou hast manifested Thyself in power and great glory. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

INFINITE and omnipresent Lord, we desire humbly to approach Thy mercy-seat this evening: we glorify Thy name, for Thou alone art holy; O assist us to worship Thee with becoming reverence, and to express our gratitude for all Thy benefits, in terms befitting the infinity of Thy goodness.

We acknowledge our many transgressions: we confess with deep contrition that while light has been vouchsafed us, we have preferred to walk in darkness; while Thy goodness has unceasingly bestowed benefits upon us, we have made those benefits subservient to our own evils, we have put darkness for light, and evil for good; and yet Thou, O Lord, bearest with us, Thou art still the same all-merciful, all-good, and all-gracious God. Help us, O Lord, to acquire a due sense of Thy mercy, and O help us to show our gratitude for Thy forbearance and love by newness of spirit. Give unto us the faith which worketh by love.

O Thou who art infinite in love in wisdom and in power, by whom the universe was created and continues to be sustained and preserved, what can we do to set forth Thy goodness? How shall we demean ourselves so as to secure the promise given to those who overcome, of “life for evermore”? The words of an Apostle instruct us, that “this is life eternal, to know Thee, the only true God, even Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent.” O Lord, we beseech Thee, confirm us in this truth. We acknowledge Thee as God over all, blessed for evermore. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY MORNING.

OLORD God Almighty, through Thy mercy we have enjoyed refreshing sleep; and the light of a new day awakens us to new duties, and calls for our gratitude unto Thee for the continuance of Thy love towards us. We would begin this day by supplicating Thee for such knowledge as shall guide us safely through its duties. In Thee are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and of knowledge: to whom else, then, can we apply? Thy wisdom distributes the stream through multitudinous channels; every man is appointed a medium of commu-

* Slightly altered from Racine.

niciation; for Thou hast given to every man according to his ability, and commanded every man to "occupy." O heavenly Father, may our first knowledge be to know that Thou art the giver of every good and perfect gift; may we next see in the various talents of our fellow-creatures Thy good gifts in open manifestation, exercising them for the good of all; and then may we individually bring our own share of the general good, to increase the sum of human happiness, and discharge the obligation we owe for the good we receive.

O help us to be diligent in our respective callings; to make the most of our time, to be emulous of industry, to use every means of increasing the sum of our knowledge, that we may increase our usefulness, and with the diligent servant, be enabled to deliver up to Thee that which Thou hast bestowed, with the humble acknowledgment, "Lord, Thou deliveredst unto me two talents; behold I have gained two others beside them." Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY EVENING.

LORD, we thank Thee for the blessings of this day; we thank Thee for the ability given us to labour: and we pray Thee to bless our labour, that it may prove a labour of love, both to ourselves and to our fellow-creatures. Thou art our Father, and not our Father only, but the Father of all the families of the earth. Thou regardest all Thy children with an equal eye. With Thee there is no respect of persons: every one that feareth Thee, and worketh righteousness, is accepted of Thee. How does it therefore become us to love one another: since Thou hast made of one blood all the families of the earth! Thou art the common Father, and all we are brethren: how does it become us to exercise a catholic spirit, and to remove all narrowness and sectarianism from our souls. Who can tell the spirit of a man, save Thou, O Lord? Thou who searchest the heart, and triest the reins, who knowest best what is in man, can alone so order the arrangements of Thy providence, that Thy love may best reach the creature it is best suited for. What, then, are we that we should presume to censure, when we are so ignorant, know so little, and what we know is but in part? We confess that we can never know the motives which prompt to the actions of those whom we judge. Merciful God! we pray that we may be deeply impressed by the solemn truth of Thy Word—"Judge not, that ye be not judged. With what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again." O Lord, we beseech Thee, give us of Thy temper and spirit, and help us to love all that preach the truth in Thy name. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY MORNING.

O. LORD of life and light, the blessed and only Potentate, King of kings and Lord of lords, who shall not fear Thy holy name? Thou only art worthy to receive honour and power; and unto Thee every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Thou art Christ the Lord.

With the returning day we approach Thee, for there is no blessing

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but that which originates with Thee, and neglecting Thee, all undertakings fail of their desired object.

Lord, teach us from Thy Word of truth the duties which devolve upon us. Let our prayer ascend up before Thee, our King and our God. Thou art, indeed, the high and lofty One, inhabiting eternity. But there is no station so obscure as to be beneath Thy notice; none of Thy creatures so mean or so abject as to be unworthy of Thy care. All who draw near to Thee with a single eye and a pure heart, all who worship Thee from a sense of their weakness and imperfection, are alike the objects of Thy paternal care, and Thou listenest unto them from Thy high and holy place. Lord, help us this day to perform our several duties with acceptance unto Thee, and with satisfaction to our own minds. And to Thee will we render all the glory, and all the praise, for ever and ever. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY EVENING.

FATHER of eternity, merciful and gracious redeeming Lord, of Thy love we have all partaken, of Thy tenderness there is no limit; and each day does but renew Thy bounty, each night does but add to the benefits which the day bestows.

We pray for the spirit and power of true religion, for that inward holiness without which no man can see the Lord. While words flow from our lips, we would in spirit behold Thee, that everything worldly may be banished from our sight, and Thou alone exalted in our inmost affections. Be present before us. We feel the difficulty of withdrawing our minds from the world, and fixing them, even for the short time we are on our knees, upon Thee. In the Word of Thy truth we are exhorted to set our affections on things above, but O how weak is the affection we feel for the divine beatitudes of Thy kingdom! Its comparative remoteness induces procrastination in the great and important duty of repentance; and though we are taught that the kingdom of heaven cometh not by observation, yet are we continually looking for it at a distance, and we seem so constituted as though eternity was never to have a beginning. Our consciences appear too weak and powerless to keep us to our duty, and again and again has the silent admonition, "Thou art weighed in the balance and found wanting," reminded us that unless our duties are more spiritually performed, vain are our hopes of happiness. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY MORNING.

MERCIFUL God and Saviour, we have of Thy divine goodness rested safely through the night, and our rest has tended to the invigoration of our bodies, and prepared us for entering upon the duties of another day. We kneel in Thy presence to invoke Thy blessing, and to strengthen and fortify us that those duties may be efficiently performed.

We are sensible, O Lord, that Thy wisdom is perfect, that it guides all

things for our especial good, and that nothing can happen unto us but must in the end tend to our happiness; but the weakness and frailty of our nature prevents us from at all times seeing the end of Thy dispensations, and, alas! we too frequently murmur against Thee, and in the hour of trial think ourselves hardly dealt with. Our minds become full of care and anxiety; so many are the vicissitudes through which we pass; even while to ourselves we appear to be most virtuous, so lightly does misfortune seem to touch those who live most carelessly; that we more frequently vent the language of complaint, and say, "Verily, we have in vain washed our hands in innocency, and called upon the name of the Lord;" and there is little of that submission which should say, "It is good for a man that he is afflicted; for whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth." Lord, help us to acquire a spirit of submission and resignation to Thy will. Help us to sink our murmurings and repinings, and to pray that Thy will, not ours, be done. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, another week has come to its close, and brought us nearer to the everlasting habitations. Soon may we be summoned into Thy presence: how are we prepared to obey? How has been spent the past week of our existence? What evils have we subdued, what good have we done, how does our conscience approve or condemn? Thou hast exhorted us to commune with our own hearts: How are we able to answer the questions which press themselves so forcibly upon us. What, if this night the awful summons should be addressed unto us? "Set thine house in order, for thou shalt die and not live." Are we prepared to surrender ourselves in humble confidence upon our Maker? Alas! Lord, we are constrained to acknowledge we are unfit to die. We have neglected our duties, we have not improved our mercies, we have been ungrateful to Thy goodness, and there is no good in us. Have mercy upon us, O Lord, we beseech Thee. O spare us that we may recover our strength; turn us unto Thee, O Lord God of hosts; cause Thy face to shine, and we shall be saved.

Lord, we pray Thee fill us with a deep sense of Thy goodness. Let gratitude take possession of our souls, that a sense of unworthiness compared with the immensity of Thy blessings may teach us for the future to serve Thee with newness of spirit. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FORTY-FIRST WEEK.—SABBATH MORNING.

ETERNAL Lord God, on the return of the Sabbath we desire with heartfelt gratitude to approach Thee, and to adore that infinite goodness which still continues to follow us, blessing us with Thy choicest gifts, and causing all things to work together for our eternal good.

We adore Thee for the wonder-working power of Thy divine providence. Whatever else may vary, Thy providence is still the same; Thy love to Thy creatures remains unchanged. If Thy divine wis-

dom see fit to remove one source of joy, or to withdraw one comfort, its place is supplied by another better suited to promote our regeneration. Whether, therefore, Thou bestowest, or whether Thou withholdest, we cannot but acknowledge that Thou makest all things work together for good to them that fear Thee; for though the world may forsake, Thou art still our friend, and Thy mercy endureth for ever.

Our humble and earnest prayer to Thee is, that we may enjoy the blessing of spiritual health; and that whatever may be our earthly state, Thou wilt be pleased to bestow upon us prosperity of soul; for we feel that the prosperity of the earth is as the reed that groweth up in the mire; it appears to flourish for a time, but its feeble stalk soon bends before the blast, and its head is laid low in the dust. Such is the prosperity of them that forget Thee, O Lord, and with spiritual disease in the soul thus their hopes perish. But they who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, that abideth for ever. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SABBATH EVENING.

ALmighty and most merciful Lord, we approach Thee this evening with reverence and thankfulness. The blessings of another Sabbath have been bestowed upon us, and the spiritual privileges in which we have participated press upon us the duty of doing all in our power to promote the interests of our Redeemer's kingdom, by engaging in every act of use that comes within the compass of our ability. And there is not one of us, how poor soever he may be, but has the power to assist in the work of purification, and of being blessed by the divine commendation of doing what he can.

O may we, with Thine apostle, in whatever state we are, learn therewith to be content. Are we poor? may we feel it a privilege as well as a duty to be constantly engaged in the effort of enlarging the borders of the Holy Jerusalem according to our ability. While thus engaged in our several duties, beholding the contingencies which in our progress beset us; while in our most exalted states of fancied security we are liable to be broken down by the casualties that stop us in our natural progress, O suffer us not to forget that purity of soul can support us and alone enable us to meet our troubles with calmness; and O may a humble assurance of Thy overruling providence teach us to be resigned and content under every trial and privation! For this temper and this spirit, we pray, O Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY MORNING.

OMERCIFUL God and Saviour, we approach Thee this morning impressed with a sense of Thy continued goodness. The repose of the night has invigorated our bodies, and our minds and all our faculties seem quickened by new intelligence. We are rendered strong to labour, and we approach Thee this morning to implore Thy blessing upon our

labour, and to pray for Thy upholding and supporting hand through this day.

Render us sensible, O Lord, we beseech Thee, of our entire dependence on Thy supporting and beneficent providence, and give us grace to devote ourselves to Thy service with willing and confiding spirits. Suffer us not to be anxious about the future, but in all things help us to look to Thee for assistance, that we may perform well the duties of the present. May we feel a conviction of the truth that the present moment is the life of man in this world, and that beyond it he has no power and can exercise no control; may we and all who kneel in Thy presence continually look to Thee for aid to be enabled to perform with fidelity our present duties, and leave the future to the wonder-working power of Thy good providence. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY EVENING.

O LORD God of truth, Thy divine example is ever before us, and happy are they who strive to imitate Thee, learning in all things to become Thy faithful disciples by following Thee in the regeneration. Give unto us, O Lord, we beseech Thee, a spirit which shall in all things make Thee our model. Thou wast universally good; Thou didst not confer Thy blessings on those alone who followed Thee, but all participated in them. Thou didst not confine Thy healing hand exclusively to Thy disciples, but wherever good was to be done, there Thou wast to do it; and to warn us against exercising an exclusive spirit, Thou didst leave for our admonition the divine truth, "If ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so? Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." O help us, merciful Redeemer, to acquire this perfection of spirit. May we rather suffer pain than inflict it upon others. When we see others suffering misery, may compassion prompt us to relieve their wants, and even if they have injured us, may Christian forbearance prevent us from retaliating. As we see so much mischief resulting from anger, O grant us meekness to restrain our passions, and suffer not the sun to go down upon our wrath. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY MORNING.

O THOU who art ever present to those who humbly seek Thee, we Thy unworthy creatures, encouraged by Thy past goodness, draw near to Thee. Day unto day does but convince us of our utter insufficiency; day unto day convinces us that we can do nothing of ourselves.

Lord, we invoke Thy blessing upon this day's duties, and we pray Thee let Thy fear be before us, that we sin not. Sad experience convinces us, that there is no peace to the wicked. They are like the troubled sea when it cannot rest. They travail in pain all their days. Trouble and anguish prevail against them. Terrors make them afraid on every side. A dreadful sound is in their ears; and they are in great fear, where

no fear is. So does Thy Word disclose to us the state of the wicked, and these solemn truths remind us that by continuing in evil we must continue in misery and suffering.

Help us, then, O Lord, we beseech Thee, to contend against our corruptions. May this day see us resolutely oppose whatsoever is evil, and urge us onward in the practice of that which is good. As Thou knowest what is best for man, all the days of his vain life which he spendeth as a shadow, so Thou only canst safely conduct him through all the trials to which he is exposed. That we may be earnest in the prosecution of our labours, Thou permittest us to know in part, and to see the future as through a glass darkly; but that we may at all times find assistance in every time of need, Thou hast promised Thou wilt be with us "even unto death." "Lord, we believe; help Thou our unbelief." Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY EVENING.

GRACIOUS and merciful Redeemer, infinite in wisdom as in goodness, again we acknowledge Thy superintending providence: Thy ways are not as our ways, nor Thy thoughts as our thoughts; for as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are Thy ways than our ways, and Thy thoughts than our thoughts.

In placing us in this world, it is that we might prepare for a higher and more glorious state, and all the dispensations of Thy providence tend to this important end. Here we are subjected to vicissitude, trial, and constant change, and this is permitted that we may be gradually purified, and prepared for that state of blessedness which "the just made perfect" shall ever enjoy in Thy kingdom. To secure this blessedness, there is laid upon us the constant duty of watchfulness, and of obedience to those righteous commands without which no man can see the Lord. In the morning we implore Thy blessing and guidance on our duties. In the evening we draw near to Thee and invoke Thy protection, that during the night watches we may rest in peace and safety. We at all times need Thy watchful eye to guard us from the assaults of our spiritual enemies; and as all our blessings flow from Thee, so unto Thee we commend the care of our souls. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

ETERNAL and omnipotent Creator, we desire to approach Thee this morning. Thou hast renewed our existence, thou hast invigorated our bodies, and with health and strength Thou hast endowed us, and again prepared us for our mutual duties. Glory be to Thy holy name, O Lord.

The renewal of Thy mercies calls for a renewal of our love and gratitude. When we look at the wonders of Thy creative hands, when we behold the immense worlds that revolve in space, and the countless suns which are the sources of heat and light to them, we are lost in wonder and admiration at the Omnipotent power displayed in

their creation and preservation. But Thy power, O Lord, is equally great in the diminutive worlds which everywhere meet our view; and Thy creative energy is not stayed in the worlds which our sight can penetrate,—it goes forth into the most minute particles, even aided by powerful instruments, which the feeble eye of man can never penetrate. Thou art life itself; in Thee we live and move and have our being; and the going forth of Thy life, accommodated to the different creatures Thou hast made, is equally marvellous as is the life that flows into the most perfect of Thy creatures, man, and equally deserving our admiration. What countless winged creatures throng the air; what forms of life inhabit but a drop of water; what myriads find subsistence on a leaf! O Lord, how wonderful are Thy works; in wisdom hast Thou made them all. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

O GOD, our help in trouble, our sure resource in affliction, our only hope in the hour of danger, we unite in thanksgiving this evening for the blessings of the day. We thank Thee that we are permitted at all times to make known our wants in Thy presence, and to hold communion with Thee. In Thy divine humanity we have constant access unto Thee. It is Thy humanity which is our medium of approach to Thy infinite love; and in Thy humanity do we with gratitude acknowledge; *æ*t there is one God and one Mediator [medium] between God and man, the man Christ Jesus. Teach us, O heavenly Father, to approach Thee with humility and godly fear. May we stand in awe and sin not. May our thoughts, while in Thy especial presence, be turned towards Thee exclusively; may everything of a selfish and worldly nature be removed, and may nothing occupy our attention but the momentous concerns of eternity. Every evening does but bring us nearer to eternity, and calls upon us in solemn and earnest language to prepare to meet our God.

Assist us, O heavenly Father, to explore our affections and thoughts, to bring our actions, more especially those of the past day, to the bar of our conscience, that we may take note of our conduct, and see how we have conducted the last period of our lives, and whether it has been in harmony with the Word of Thy truth. To Thee, O Lord, do we confide our spirits. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY MORNING.

INFINITE and adorable Lord, our Saviour, our Redeemer, and unchangeable Friend. Thou hast again poured light in our dwellings, and with bodies strengthened by repose, we gratefully kneel in Thy presence, that we may obtain grace to help us in the performance of the duties of a new day. As are the days of our existence, so is the progress we should make in the divine life; for Thou hast given us talents to improve, and in bestowing them upon us hast commanded us to occupy. In contemplating the works of Thy creative hands, we see nothing arrive at perfection instantaneously; there is a steady and progressive advance.

ment to the end designed, and then there is a gradual decline before a new state can be entered upon. In the grateful vicissitude of the seasons, there is nothing sudden. Winter does not suddenly succeed autumn, but autumn gradually and progressively merges into winter. As the seasons advance, and the earth becomes clothed with beauty, and emits the most grateful fragrance; one flower passes away and another flower comes, and a succession of life presents itself, confirmatory of the laws of divine order, and instructive to man, who beholds with attention the series of beneficent arrangement which marks the wisdom of Thy providence. O heavenly Father, help us to apply the knowledge which is thus imparted unto us from the field of creation for the improvement of our own souls.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY EVENING.

IT is a good thing to draw near unto Thee, O Lord. When the heart feels a desire for Thy presence, and the understanding perceives that nothing can be successfully pursued without Thy guidance, then is there the humility to receive instruction, and the meekness to profit by it, which bows the heavens, and causes the High and Holy One to come down and dwell with the contrite, to revive the spirit of the humble.

Conscious of our own frailty, we cannot say that we approach Thee in this spirit, but we earnestly implore Thine aid to assist us in acquiring it. O how glorious is Thy presence! who can enter it without solemn awe? who can presume to approach it but with a deep sense of the condescending goodness and loving-kindness which stoops to the low and fallen condition of man? To draw near in spirit to the Supreme Governor of the universe, to approach Him whom all the angels of heaven worship, to converse with Him in prayer, to ask His gracious aid, and to know that whatsoever we ask in His name we shall receive, is indeed to participate in the most exalted privileges which can be conferred upon us. How wonderful is the love which, by the light of the divine humanity, brings the glory of the Father forth to view. While in Thy gracious presence, we cannot but imbibe a portion of the influences of Thy Spirit; and going forth from it to our pillows we cannot but feel safety to what state soever we may be called; for the conviction remains that the Lord of hosts is with us, the God of Jacob is our refuge. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY MORNING.

O LORD most merciful and gracious, we magnify Thy name; Thy faithfulness reacheth unto the clouds. Thy righteousness is pure and upright; just and true are Thy ways, Thou King of saints.

With cheerful hearts, yet with solemn awe, we approach Thee this morning,—an awe inspired by Thy greatness, springing not from any feeling of fury that is in Thee,—for no passions can agitate Thee in whom all perfection centres,—but inspired by Thy goodness and holiness, in permitting us who have so repeatedly sinned against Thee to come into

Thy presence, and still to receive all the blessings which Thy presence can bestow. Help us deeply and devoutly to reverence Thy divine perfections, that not only when we are worshipping at Thy footstool, but when we mingle with the world and are engaged in our worldly duties, the temper and spirit which Thou hast set before us may in all things distinguish us. Whatever we behold of goodness, may we remember that the source of it is in Thee, and give Thee all the glory. Wherever the purity of truth displays its brightness may we still raise our eyes to Thee; and in the light, with which as a garment Thou clothest Thyself, may we behold all true wisdom, the purity and brightness of which is but dimly reflected in the most perfect intelligence that man can display. Thou art indeed the only true light, and by the rays of Thy wisdom man is alone led to the eternal source of goodness, of which Thou art the essence. Help us, O Lord, to do our duty this day; guide us even to the end. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY EVENING.

GREAT and omnipotent Redeemer, whose love and mercy has encircled us through this another day, whose power hath protected us, whose bounty hath supplied our wants, we humbly acknowledge Thy goodness, and pray for grateful hearts, that Thy mercies may be kept in constant remembrance.

Lord, we pray Thee give unto us discerning spirits, that we may be preserved from falling into extremes of any kind. The road to eternal blessedness is a strait and narrow way, and we feel the necessity of constant watchfulness to prevent our halting or fainting in our progress. Even zeal itself may be attended with mischief, if it be not regulated by discretion and moderation. O help us to guard against the influence of enthusiastic spirits, who strive to infuse into our souls a desire for those appearances of truth and holiness, which make clean the outside of the cup and platter, leaving the inside full of extortion and excess.

Alas! how frequently have we become the subjects of such spiritual delusions! how have we neglected the internal purification of the soul, to make way for the external garb of sanctity and holiness! how frequently, by the performance of external religious duties, have we trusted in our own righteousness and despised others! how lamentably have we failed in obedience to the divine precept which requires righteousness in the inward parts. Lord, we beseech Thee, preserve us from all spiritual delusions; in Thee alone do we trust. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY MORNING.

O GOD of love, of truth, infinite Creator, adorable Redeemer and Saviour, by Thy free mercy are we sustained. Thou hast protected us through the night season, and again does the light of day fall revivingly upon our eyes. Blessed be Thy name for this new mercy; make us sensible of it; and O make us grateful for this and every other benefit showered down upon us.

We desire humbly to confess our evils; we cannot say we are free from sin, for though we have been kept from grievous external evils, yet do we feel that many secret sins have been committed. Lord, we implore Thy mercy; for we know that Thy mercy is from everlasting to everlasting, and Thy truth endureth from generation to generation.

O Thou who art the author and the finisher of our faith, Thy words are ever before us, and the important doctrine of man's salvation is by Thee expressed in the truth, "Marvel not that I say unto you, ye must be born again." From this great truth we are led to perceive that our future happiness depends upon regeneration. We must have formed within us a new nature. Our hearts of stone must be taken away, and their places supplied by hearts of flesh. The call of Thee, our heavenly Father, to each of us is, "My son, give me thy heart." Lord, help us to be obedient to this call, to surrender ourselves entirely to Thy guidance. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY EVENING.

INEFFABLE, wise, and glorious Redeemer, our only God and Saviour, another week has nearly run its course, and Thou hast with unfailing mercy and with innumerable blessings permitted us to see its close. Our existence has been preserved though thousands have fallen on our right hand and on our left; and the time which is thus allotted unto us, how has it been spent? We dare not say, in earnest preparation to meet our God. Alas! what is our life that we so trifle with it? It is as a vapour, which may momentarily pass from its present earthly tabernacle, to enter upon the state which can never admit of change; and yet we trifle away its precious moments, and standing on the threshold of eternity, and seeing our friends dropping continually before our eyes, appear as though we were satisfied that the call would never reach us.

O Lord, "teach us so to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom." We perceive, as we view the operations of nature, that a preparation for change is constantly going on. Events rise gradually one after another, and as they proceed in their appointed course, they pass away and give place to others, and these tend to the same progress, and pursue and accomplish that for which they were designed; season succeeds season, death succeeds life, eternity time. Help us to lay these things to heart, and prepare to meet Thee, our only God and Saviour. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FORTY-SECOND WEEK.—SABBATH MORNING.

O HOLY, merciful, and glorious Lord God, with the morning which ushers in the day of rest, we desire to approach Thee, and to dedicate ourselves unto Thee: accept our humble offering, we beseech Thee; and may the words of our mouth and the meditation of our heart rise up as incense before Thee, and find acceptance in Thy sight.

In the present corrupt state of the Church it is still delightful to know that Thy providence is in full operation, preparing the way for the

establishment of a new and true Church, in which righteousness and peace shall dwell for ever; and we feel that truth combined with goodness can alone be the constituents of a true Church; for Thou lovest righteousness in the inward parts.

Lord, we thank Thee for permitting us to become the visible members of Thy true Church on earth. O make us sensible of the deep responsibility which is thus entailed upon us; give us to perceive that the more interior and elevated our perception of truth is, the more does it become us so to let our light shine, that our Father in the heavens may be glorified. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SABBATH EVENING.

BLESSING and honour and thanksgiving be unto Thee, O Lord: Thou hast graciously privileged us to enjoy this Sabbath, Thou hast opened the treasures of Thy truth before us, Thou hast abundantly satisfied us with the fatness of Thy house and caused us to drink of the rivers of Thy pleasures.

Thy servant our minister has instructed us in our duty, and has told us if we do our duty we shall become kings and priests unto Thee.

How glorious is the privilege to be permitted to pray within thy temple; to withdraw the mind from that which is external, and in the spirit and power of true religion to feel our souls drawn into consociation with angelic beings, and to worship Thee who art a Spirit in spirit and in truth. Glorious privilege to know that *ministering spirits wait around the dwellings of the just*; and still more glorious to have the power in spirit to behold that all affection and purity, all truth and holiness, are embodied in the spirits of the just made perfect, and that these glorious spirits act as mediums between us and the heavenly world, filling us with a devout confidence that, in proportion as our worship is sincere, and from an internal conviction of the goodness of our glorified Lord, so will our prayers rise up as memorials before His throne. He will bless us, and dwell with us. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY MORNING.

O LORD God, merciful and gracious, how excellent is Thy loving-kindness; therefore do the sons of men put their trust under the shadow of Thy wings. Thou hast protected us during the past night; we have slept in peace, for Thou Lord sustained us.

We now humbly acknowledge Thy protecting providence, and at the commencement of another week of labour desire to dedicate ourselves anew to Thy service. Help us, therefore, to deny ourselves, to take up our cross, and to follow Thee; we feel we cannot follow Thee as Thy faithful disciples, unless we first surrender all that we have; this is Thy special condition: "Unless ye forsake all that ye have, ye cannot be my disciples." Lord, help us to be obedient to this condition; and the powers, talents, and faculties with which Thou hast endowed us, help us to use in Thy service. While the world calls upon us for the due

performance of our natural duties, may we be brought to consider that these, to be effective, must yield to the duties we owe to Thee, and every natural affection and desire must be guided by Thy love and wisdom. Only can our hearts be renewed, as Thou, O merciful Redeemer, occupiest the chief place within them. Thou alone art omnipotent; all power is Thine in heaven and on earth. Reign Thou, O Lord, we beseech Thee, in our inward parts. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY EVENING.

O LORD, Thou art our God, we will exalt Thee; we will worship Thee; we will magnify Thy name for ever and ever. Thou hast safely brought us through the labours and duties of this day, and with our dear kindred we now assemble round our family altar in peace, grateful for Thy protection, and happy that no evil hath come near our dwelling.

O Lord, let those for whom we have laboured be the subjects of Thy blessing and care; and those who may receive the benefit of our labour, may they, with us, acknowledge that it is Thou alone who art the giver of every good and perfect gift; and we are but instruments in Thy hands for conveying Thy gifts each to the other, and that of Thy fulness we may all receive, and grace for grace.

Lord, help us to enlarge the field of our usefulness, that our charity may be known of all men. Help us to assist in forwarding the period when the prophecy shall have fulfilment, and the kingdoms of this world become the kingdoms of Thee, our Lord Jesus Christ. Help us to assist in the dissemination of Thy Word of truth, and prosper Thou the labour of our hands, that the Gentiles may see Thy light, and kings assemble at the brightness of Thy rising. Help us, above all things, to acquire that humility, that poverty of spirit, which shall bring about the period when each shall seek the good of his neighbour, striving to do good to all without exception. These things we ask in Thine own name, O Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY MORNING.

ALMIGHTY Saviour, whose unfailling love calls upon all to receive from Thy gracious hands the blessings and benefits of salvation, help us to be obedient to Thy gracious call. The first lesson that Thy example set before us was obedience; may we therefore render Thee a willing obedience, and gratefully respond to Thy call to come unto Thee that we may receive eternal life.

O holy, blessed, and glorified Saviour, Thou still standest at the door of our hearts; still Thy gracious call is, "Open unto me and I will enter in and sup with thee." What condescending love is contained in this appeal to our souls!

Thou art the source of all joy and rest and peace, and wherever Thou dwellest Thou bringest these divine graces; and Thou art soliciting to dwell with us, and yet we keep the door of our hearts closed against Thee! Carnal desires and worldly thoughts occupy the place that ought

to be sacred to Thine abode. Sensual delights, the pleasures of the world, occupy our thoughts and affections, and Thou art still without, still knocking for admission, still exclaiming, "My son, give me thy heart."

Thou knowest the sin which doth most easily beset us, the habit which we are most tempted to indulge. Save us, O Lord, we beseech Thee. Without Thee we can do nothing. All our sufficiency is of Thee. O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! For Thine own sake, O my God. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY EVENING.

OMNIPOTENT, omnipresent, and omniscient Lord, with humble adoration enable us to approach this evening, and to worship Thee, who art a Spirit, in spirit and in truth. With unfeigned gratitude we desire to acknowledge the mercies of another day. By Thy divine power have we been encircled; Thy ever-present aid has supplied all our necessities, and endowed us with many temporal comforts; Thine eye has watched over us, and preserved us amidst many unseen dangers; and Thou hast again enabled us to unite in family worship, safe under the roof of our comfortable habitation. O that our hearts may be filled with gratitude, and our tongues with praise and thanksgiving! may our cheerful songs respond to the truth, "*Hitherto the Lord has helped us.*"

Lord, we desire to adore Thee for the many glorious truths which we have been permitted to behold in these last days. The greatest of blessings lie treasured in Thy Word of truth; there Thou revealest Thy divine perfections in language adapted to the states of all Thy creatures; there are we led to behold the bright realities of the glorious spirit-world, and instructed in the duties which shall prepare us for inhabiting one of its happy mansions in Thy heavenly kingdom. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

ORD, most merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and of great goodness, we humbly approach Thee this morning, which ushers in a new day of our existence, and brings us again into the field of our various duties, the first and most important of which is to address ourselves to Thee, in whom alone we live and move and have our being. Accept, O Lord, our unfeigned thanks for the mercies of another night, for the refreshing sleep we have enjoyed, and for the renewed strength with which Thou hast endowed us. O continue unto us throughout the day Thy divine protection and blessing, for without Thee we can do nothing.

We desire to acknowledge Thy goodness in bestowing upon us the most inestimable gift of Thy holy Word. Every fresh perusal of it tends to convince us of its most exalted wisdom, and to place before us the truth that Thou art indeed present within the letter, and of its spirit and life Thou waitest to make all partakers who humbly seek it. Never may we approach it in a careless or lukewarm spirit, but may its sacred truths quicken within the soul that true zeal which shall make us fervent

in spirit, and diligent in the performance of every good word and work. We ask this for Thine own sake, O Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

O LORD, we approach Thy mercy-seat this evening; we desire to thank Thee for the blessings of the past day. Like as a father pitieth his children, so Thou, O Lord, dost pity us; for Thou knowest our frame, Thou rememberest that we are but dust; and when we look back upon all that Thou hast done for us, we are constrained to acknowledge that Thy goodness and mercy have followed us all the days of our life.

How rapidly our life passes! Day unto day succeeds, and brings us nearer to our eternal home, and yet how unconcernedly we live! how unfit we are to answer the summons of which we know not the moment when it shall be given. The warning given to the early disciples, "Watch and pray that ye enter not into temptation," is alike suitable to us who are now living.

Endue us, O Lord, we beseech Thee, with this spirit of watchfulness, and grant that the great work of our salvation may never be absent from our thoughts. In all that we do may a knowledge of our eternal state enter, so that integrity and uprightness may permeate every action, and direct our every thought, word, and work. May we ever keep in remembrance, that to be Thy disciples we must be equally faithful in small matters as in great, and do our duty conscientiously to the world and our neighbours, rendering unto Cæsar the things which are Cæsar's, and unto God the things which are God's. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY MORNING.

O LORD of heaven and earth, God of all consolation, we humbly desire to approach Thee this morning. We praise Thee that Thy mercies never fail. Thy protection has again been extended over us; yea, Thou never leavest us. Be pleased, Lord, to accept our humble and hearty thanks for all the blessings of the past night; and hear us when we pray that Thou wilt be pleased to extend Thy care unto us through another day, and go before us in all our duties.

"What time we are afraid, we will put our trust in Thee." "Whom have we in heaven but Thee? and there is none upon earth that we desire beside Thee." Thou Lord knowest our frame. Thou hast Thyself trodden the path of temptation; being tempted in all respects like unto ourselves, yet without sin: a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.

As Thou knowest our frame, O Lord, and art acquainted with our frailty, as if left to ourselves, we are wholly unable to cope with our spiritual enemies, O help us when we cry unto Thee, and acknowledge Thee as the only source of deliverance from danger and difficulty. "We have nothing of our own wherein to trust," and nothing but Thy providence upon which to depend. When we call upon Thy name, O Lord

our God, hear us. Give unto us such an assurance of Thy goodness and power as will enable us to overcome our evils; enable us to contend against our corruptions; and afford us consolation in the midst of all our trials. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY EVENING.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Lord God our Saviour, who art the hearer and the answerer of prayer, enable us to draw nigh to Thee this evening. With humility and gratitude we desire to acknowledge Thy divine protection in bringing us safely through this day. Truly have we cause to humble ourselves before Thee; for though Thou art ever mindful of us, we are too often forgetful of Thee; and though Thou art daily and hourly showering down Thy mercies upon us, yet still our hearts respond not to Thy love; and we frequently go backward and turn to our own evil gratifications. Have mercy upon us, O Lord; turn us again, O Lord God of hosts, cause Thy face to shine, and we shall be saved.

Assist us to keep Thee ever before us, and may no object of Thy wide creation pass before our notice without recalling to our remembrance Thy divine perfections, and confirming in us the belief that Thou art the life of all. May all that calls forth our admiration still lead to the devout ascription, "O God, Thou art our God; early will we seek Thee."

O God, it is by the strength with which Thou hast endowed us, that we have been enabled to pursue our various callings this day. Thou hast given us pleasure in their performance; and though, from natural infirmity and weakness of body, we soon become wearied with labour, yet this tends to draw us more closely unto Thee; and by waiting upon Thee, we renew our strength. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY MORNING.

MOST merciful Lord God our Saviour, who in Thy Word has given us such instructions as, if obeyed, will tend to render us contented here and happy hereafter, we approach Thy mercy-seat this morning, humbly acknowledging Thy divine goodness. Again hast Thou refreshed and invigorated our bodies by sleep; and during the night watches Thou hast, unseen to us, still been our guardian, and turned aside the shafts of our spiritual enemies that they have not injured us, and no evil hath come nigh our dwellings.

Thy mercy is great unto the heavens; Thy truth reaches unto the clouds. Thou hast graciously regarded our necessities, and having refreshed our wearied frames, Thou hast given us bread to eat, raiment to put on, and a comfortable habitation in which we may at all times find shelter. O that, with all Thy blessings, renewed as they are, day by day, yea, moment by moment, we possessed greater confidence in Thee, our Lord!

Help us, O Lord, we beseech Thee, to acquire a quiet and contented

mind. Help us to leave all care, anxiety, and solicitude, to Thy divine providence, and to remember Thy words, "Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." As Thou hast graciously permitted us to call Thee by the endearing name of Father, help us that we may confide in Thee as children. May Thy truth impress us, that if Thou Lord be for us, there are none who can have power against us. In Thee, O Lord, we trust; suffer us not to be ashamed. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY EVENING.

O LORD God our Saviour, we bless and praise Thy holy name for all the good affections Thou hast bestowed upon us, and for the delights which attend their use. We thank Thee for the noble powers of intellect which Thou hast endowed us with, and for the recreation and instruction afforded in their exercise. But above all do we desire to magnify Thee that Thou hast so created us as to become prepared to receive Thy holy influences in the inmost of our affections and thoughts and thus in the inmost of our souls filling us with pure desires, holy thoughts, and devout aspirations, and giving to us the assurance that as Thou livest we shall live also.

That our enjoyments may be multiplied, and that they may be more enduring, Thou hast so constituted us, that a succession of changes becomes necessary to existence, and to the enjoyment of all our powers; and with all these vicissitudes, and under all these changes, Thou so orderest all our affairs, that they are working out continually our present good, and conducing to our future happiness.

Whether we are in states of difficulty or prosperity, of doubt or of certainty, of obscurity or of clearness, of health or sickness; still would we ascribe unto Thee the thanksgivings which are Thy due. Still would our souls and all that is within us bless Thy holy name. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY MORNING.

ETERNAL, omnipotent, and omniscient Lord God our Saviour, Thou art the giver of every good and perfect gift, Thou art the author of eternal life, and Thou only canst enable us to become partakers of its blessedness.

We approach Thee this morning deeply impressed with Thy divine goodness towards us, and feeling assured that no good thing wilt Thou withhold from them that put their trust in Thee. We yield Thee most humble and hearty thanks that Thy providence hath protected us from many dangers that we know not of; and those that have been perceived by us have been averted by the most signal deliverance. Another day has dawned upon us, and the comfort and conveniences of bodily existence are continued unto us. O Lord, we desire to glorify Thee that Thy mercies fail not, that they are ever new, that they have followed us all the days of our lives.

May Thy divine presence be now felt among us, and grant that Thy love and fear may rule in our minds, so that we may be preserved from

evil. May we be temperate in the use of all Thy blessings. May unholy thoughts and unchaste ideas be checked as they successively arise: when provoked by others, O help us to overcome evil with meekness of wisdom; and grant us Thy continual aid, that we may be just and upright in all our employments; that neither deceit, injustice, nor fraud may exercise dominion over us. We ask this for Thy mercy sake. Amen.
Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY EVENING.

ALMIGHTY Lord, our heavenly Father, another week has past, and we humbly implore Thee to help us review the manner in which we have spent it.

When seasons of reflection, like the present, come upon us, and we are reminded that the fashion of this world passeth away and here we have no abiding city, the necessity of Thy providential superintendence is made manifest unto us, and all the afflicting visitations we suffer do but the more forcibly attest Thy divine love. Whom Thou lovest Thou chastenest, and scourgest every son whom Thou receivest. And who indeed is there among the sons of men that Thou lovest not? Thou art good to all! Thou lovest all! O God of love and mercy, purify and change our hearts, we beseech Thee.

O Lord our heavenly Father, we pray Thee so to influence our affections that we may be raised from the tomb of worldly and sensual desires and awake to newness of life. Help us, Lord, to be more fervent in love to Thee, and to love our neighbour also with greater fidelity. Enable us to be true and just in all our dealings, and while we are careful to provide things honest in the sight of all men, may we be watchful and strengthen the things which remain. May all uncharitableness, fraud, and guile be removed from us. In all our duties may the fear of Thee be before our eyes that we sin not. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FORTY-THIRD WEEK.—SABBATH MORNING.

ALMIGHTY Lord and Saviour, the Creator, Redeemer, and Regenerator of the world, the merciful Father, the unchangeable Friend of Thy people,—we humbly approach Thee under a deep sense of Thy goodness, and desire to commence this Sabbath under the devout acknowledgment of our dependence upon Thee. “We live and move and have our being in Thee,” and without Thee we can do nothing.

Who can set forth all the marvellous acts of Thy love, or who can fathom its extreme depths? Thy inmost love is indeed only equalled by Thy divine wisdom; and both, as to their intensity and purity, are past finding out. But we are not left in doubt as to the universality of Thy love, so far as is necessary for our present comfort and future well-being. For when, by transgressing Thy divine command, we fell from the innocence in which we were created, Thou didst not leave us to perish, but the wonder-working power of Thy divine love found out a way whereby thou mightest reconcile us unto Thyself; and

that love was evidenced when, as declared by Thine apostle, "God WAS IN CHRIST, reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them." O wondrous display of mercy and of goodness! what can we render unto Thee to show our gratitude? All the return Thou desirest of us is, "to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with Thee." Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SABBATH EVENING.

O LORD, our heavenly Father, to whom belongeth mercy and forgiveness,—though we have rebelled against Thee, neither have we walked in the way which Thou hast commanded; with deep contrition and self-abasement we kneel in Thy presence. Pardon whatsoever Thou hast seen amiss in us this day; our coldness in worship, our negligence in the performance of spiritual uses, and the cares and anxieties of the world, which have withdrawn us from devoted communion with Thee. O grant us Thy grace, that with newness of spirit we may serve Thee; and may this Sabbath be to us as the commencement of an energetic struggle against the world, its seducing pleasures, and everything that has a tendency to withdraw our souls from Thee.

The Sabbath concluded reminds us of the rapid flight of time, and of the shortness and uncertainty of our existence in this world. We have seen our friends pass to an eternal existence; and those with whom we used to walk to Thine house in company have passed from us, and their places are vacant. The present season, also, by the decay of nature, reminds us more and more of those who have preceded us: we shall go to them, but they will not return to us. O teach us so to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. May the admonitions of Thy minister induce us to pause and reflect. What if the words, "This night shall thy soul be required of thee," were whispered to our soul? we are not prepared to surrender it and appear in Thy presence. O spare us, that we may recover strength. Aid us, that we may subdue evil. We ask this for Thy own sake, O Lord our God. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY MORNING.

MOST merciful and glorious Lord God our Saviour, the morning calls us into Thy presence, to offer our united thanksgivings for the refreshment of our bodies by sleep, and for their protection against the assaults of both natural and spiritual enemies. We have laid us down in peace; we have risen again; for Thou, O Lord, hast sustained us. We adore Thee for Thy protecting providence: we magnify Thy high and holy name for all the wonders of Thy redeeming love; and we implore Thy divine blessing upon the labours and duties of another week.

Teach us, O Lord, not to be slothful in business, but by a faithful and diligent performance of our duties may we evince our desire to

fulfil the laws of charity; inasmuch as Thy Word assures us that true charity is always found in doing to others as we would they should do unto us. But amidst all the busy cares and anxieties of this life may we never neglect the one thing needful. May we seek after the truth, and apply it to the regulation of our hearts and lives. And Thou, O glorified Redeemer, art the Truth! Thou art the glorious Sun of righteousness, of which the heat symbolizes Thy perfect love, and the light Thy perfect wisdom; and in the Word of revealed truth Thou hast manifested Thyself, and brought life and immortality to light by the gospel. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY EVENING.

O LORD, our Creator and Redeemer, our strength and our defence, our buckler, and the horn of our salvation, our glory, and the lifter up of our head,—to Thee we come at the close of this day's labour, and unto Thee we desire to render that praise which is due to Thy high and holy name. We know that Thou hast been near unto us all the day, because we are instructed that Thy providence is extended to the most minute things; and though we have been unconscious of danger or of difficulty, yet would we remember, that the pestilence which walketh in darkness, and the destruction which wasteth at noonday, though unseen by us, is yet known to Thee; but if we make Thee our refuge, if we make the Most High our habitation, "there shall no evil befall us, neither shall any plague come nigh our dwelling."

We would confess that it is of Thy tender mercies we are not consumed, and because Thy compassions fail not we are sustained day by day. We gratefully acknowledge Thy fatherly love in our daily preservation.

Lord, confirm us in the practice of that truth which we have this night heard. It is in proportion as we love Thy truth that we are enabled to shun and to hate the thing that is evil; "for he that doeth the truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest that they are wrought in God." We trust in Thee, O Lord, and in confidence in Thy protection lay us down to sleep: Thou wilt sustain us. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY MORNING.

MOST holy, righteous, and glorified Lord, Thou art the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the ending, who wast, who art, and who art to come, the Almighty. Thou art the well-spring of life. In Thee are hidden all the treasures of knowledge, and Thou art the fountain of happiness in time, and wilt continue to be through eternity.

We who in this our low estate are but creatures of a day, draw near to Thee to offer our morning sacrifice of prayer and thanksgiving, and to supplicate Thy benediction on the duties of another day. Without the support of Thy hand we are destitute of all power; and without the light of Thy countenance we must toil on in ignorance. Upon our

acknowledged dependence on Thee rests all our support ; for they who trust in Thee shall be as Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abideth for ever.

O Lord, we acknowledge that all the treasures of wealth or knowledge that this world can bestow are valueless, if they be not united to spiritual views. Thou hast created us with immortal souls, which alone can be susceptible of satisfaction by immortal possessions. We pray, therefore, that one thing may be principally desired and sought after by us,—namely, “that we may dwell in the house of the Lord for ever, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple.” Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY EVENING.

O LORD God of heaven, Thou art great and greatly to be praised ; Thou art clothed with honour and majesty : yet still, though Thou art high and inhabitest eternity, Thou condescendest to dwell with the poor in spirit, and Thou art willing to be in the midst of the humble and contrite.

Encouraged by Thy divine condescension, O Lord, we now approach Thee, and acknowledge with heartfelt gratitude the bounties of this day.

Lord, we desire to humble ourselves in Thy presence. Who among us can say, “I am free from my sin” ? When we take a view of our actions during the past day, in how many instances have we sinned against Thee ! Thy Word discovers unto us how grievously we have erred from the way of Thy commandments, and how mistakenly even our best actions have been conducted. The pride of self-derived intelligence has directed us, and sensuality has marked our course. Will true religion allow us this wild liberty ? We acknowledge, O Lord, that the heart cannot become regenerate while the affections are in the gratification of evil delights. O that we may rather be brought into adversity than enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season !

Lord, help us to resist the world, and whatsoever in it may plead for sensual gratification. O help us, that we in this house may serve Thee with love and fear. May we say from the heart, “As for us and our house we will serve the Lord.” Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

O LORD God Almighty, who art of purer eyes than to behold iniquity, when we reflect upon the perfection of Thy divine nature, we are constrained in the words of Thy truth to ask, “Wherewithal shall we cleanse our way, so as with acceptance to worship Thee in spirit and in truth ?” And Thou answerest us in the same Word of truth, “By taking heed to our way according to Thy Word.”

Help us, O Lord, we beseech Thee, to meditate on Thy precepts, and have respect unto Thy ways ; to delight ourselves in Thy statutes, and not forget Thy Word.

In the state in which Thou hast, by Thy wise providence, seen fit to place us, O teach us to be therewith content. Depending upon Thee,

may every effort that we make leave us in the possession of that confidence which shall teach us that Thy grace is sufficient for us, and as all our skill cannot free us from the assaults of our spiritual enemies, so teach us that whosoever trusteth in Thee, "mercy shall compass him about."

As the Church at present appears in a state of consummation from the evils and false principles in which it has indulged, O aid us that we may look continually unto Thee for counsel. May Thy holy Word be unto us as our sole director in all that has relation both to our souls and bodies. For Thy name's sake, grant our petitions, O Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

O LORD our God, to whom belongeth mercy, Thou hast again protected us through another day, and amidst all our cares and anxieties, Thy good Spirit has been watchful over us, and brought us safely to its conclusion. We desire to express our grateful sense of Thy divine protection and forbearance; Thou hast multiplied Thy mercies, and Thou hast not visited us according to our evils, but notwithstanding all our transgressions Thou hast still acted towards us as a tender and compassionate father.

Lord God of our salvation, permit us to adore Thee this evening for the unspeakable blessings derived from the gift of Thy holy Word. How gracious are the words of eternal life, and how tender are the expostulations that are made to induce us to receive them! How gloriously are the delights of heaven displayed before us, and how earnestly are we counselled to prepare to lay hold of them! When sickness overtakes us, how consolatory are the truths we find therein; and when friends turn from us in the hour of adversity, and "injuries will abound when adversity prevails," then do we find that Thou art a Friend sticking closer than a brother, and experience how much better it is to trust in the Lord than to put any confidence in man. We glorify Thy holy name, O Lord Jesus Christ, for Thy great goodness towards us. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY MORNING.

ALMIGHTY Lord and Saviour, the Father of our spirits, the God of all consolation, after a night of repose, whereby our bodies are again strengthened and prepared for our daily duties, permit us to come into Thy presence, and dedicate the first moments of this new day to Thee. O Lord, we praise Thee, we give Thee thanks; Thy blessings flow onwards uninterrupted; Thy goodness and mercy know no limit. O let Thy heavenly influence descend into our hearts, and grant that the portion of Thy Word we have read may operate as a solemn warning to pursue our duties with care and watchfulness, that we may ever be in a state of humble readiness to attend that call which shall summon us into Thy presence.

We feel the deep solemnity of Thy Word: "Set thine house in order."

We behold daily our friends and those whom we love called away from us, and every fresh removal reminds us of the warning, "Set thine house in order." We look into our own hearts, we see our affections divided; sometimes, O Lord, our hearts are all towards Thee, and then cometh the wicked one, and all our desires are for the gratification of self. Then comes torment and suffering; we know we have neglected our duty, we feel angry with ourselves: O help us to return unto Thee, for without Thee we can do nothing. Forgive our sins, and blot out our transgressions, for Thy own name's sake. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY EVENING.

O LORD God Almighty, gracious and merciful, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, with humble gratitude we desire to approach Thee, and pour forth our prayers before Thee. Help us in this great duty, for in this as in everything else we feel, O Lord, that without Thee we can do nothing. Help us rightly to fulfil Thy divine injunction to enter into our closet, to shut the door of our minds against the world, and to pray to Thee from that inmost love of Thee and of Thy kingdom, for those blessings only which are of a durable and heavenly quality. But, Lord, Thou knowest what is best for us: our times are in Thy hand; and for those temporal benefits in which we have so largely participated, and which are still needed while we tabernacle in the flesh, we only ask Thy gracious continuance of them: feed us with food convenient for us; clothe us with raiment suitable to our condition, and O help us to receive with gratitude whatsoever Thy wisdom either bestows or withholds.

Heavenly Father, help us above all things to become spiritually minded; to go and sell all that we have: to live according to Thy holy Word of truth; to sell or relinquish our own propriety, or selfishness; surrendering all our selfish inclinations, subduing and keeping in subjection our perverse thoughts, and rejecting all pride and haughtiness, that we may become poor in spirit, and rich as inheritors of Thy heavenly kingdom. O give unto us a portion of true wisdom, the wisdom which cometh from above, that we may at all times follow Thee in the regeneration. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY MORNING.

THOU who art of purer eyes than to behold iniquity, we approach Thy mercy-seat this morning, and with hearts humbled by a sense of our demerits, we would confess our sins before Thee! Yet have our multiplied evils not called down the punishment due to our sins. Thy providential interferences have in Thy perfect love been made to save us from lasting misery. Often have we been prevented indulging our impure lusts and desires by some apparently sudden interposition of Thy providence, which, though at the time has been met with bitter feelings by us, has nevertheless been the means of snatching us from misery and ruin, and has thus shown that Thy mercies are ever new towards us, "Thy love never sleeps."

We confess with shame that we have preferred a temporary to an everlasting good. The warning voice of conscience has often in vain pleaded with us: the proofs of Thy love we have too frequently resisted. The entreaties and the threatenings of Thy Word have made but small impression upon us; but still Thy love has borne with us; still art Thou, in the language of expostulation, uttering, "O that there were such a heart within them, that they would fear Me always, that it might be well with them." Our iniquities, indeed, testify against us; our sins are pressing us down to the grave. Lord, we cast ourselves upon Thy mercy. If Thou help us not, we must perish. O pardon our iniquities, for Thine own name's sake. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY EVENING.

O LORD Almighty, whose infinite goodness is constantly manifested unto Thy creatures, enable us to draw nigh to Thee this evening, that our sense of Thy mercy may be expressed in humble and grateful thanksgiving. How great are the blessings we enjoy under the gospel dispensation: "God in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them." On Thee, O glorified Redeemer, rests our only hope. Thou art the tried corner-stone, the only sure foundation; and other foundation can no man lay than is laid. To Thee we look, as unto our King, Priest, and Prophet. May Thy dominion be in us an everlasting dominion. May the teachings of the truth be unto us the only infallible guide; and may we by following Thy wise counsel be led onward in the strait and narrow way, until we attain to the measure of heavenly fulness and the enjoyments of everlasting life.

Lord, thou hast exhorted us to be perfect even as Thou art perfect; and in the glorification of Thy humanity, Thou wast made perfect through suffering. May we therefore count it our greatest privilege to follow in Thy steps. As trials come upon us, O aid us to look unto Thee for help. Assist us in all things. May we learn of Thee as we daily bear the cross, until we find rest to our souls in Thy heavenly kingdom. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, as Thou for us didst sanctify Thyself, so may we show our love and gratitude, and consecrate our lives to Thy service. Should indignity be heaped upon us, should we be rendered the derision of the wicked, O may Thy meekness under indignity, Thy patient endurance under the most grievous sufferings, Thy return of good for evil, be brought before our spiritual perception, and lead to a remembrance that as they of old called the Master of the house "Beelzebub," so will they now those of His household.

As Thou didst enter into Thy glory through suffering, great Saviour, so may suffering purify and perfect us. Assist us to become like-minded with Thee. Give us to feel a humble assurance that every one that is perfect shall be as his Master. But, Lord, in our endeavours to attain

perfection, assist us to remember that in this, as in everything else, our sufficiency is alone of Thee. It is by Thy power alone that we are enabled to overcome. O let that power be ever present with us; may it subdue falsehood, and cast Satan's insinuations and deadly persuasions behind us, so that in all our conflicts with our spiritual adversaries, we may be enabled to say, "Blessed be the Lord our strength, which teacheth our hands (the power of good) to war, and our fingers (the power of truth) to fight:" and be all the glory His. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY EVENING.

O GOD, the giver of every perfect gift, we desire to praise Thy holy name for the various products of the earth, which minister to the supply of our daily wants: for the animals, the vegetables, the minerals by which our comfort is secured and our convenience added unto and increased. Nor do they merely supply our temporal necessities, but furnish instructive lessons to our minds; they are the images of things heavenly or their opposites: they teach us the necessity of orderly arrangement within ourselves, and of subjecting all our desires, propensities, and passions to the regulating power of Thy truth and goodness.

O Lord, we desire to adore Thee for all Thy blessings, and we pray that we may be sensibly affected by them, so as to manifest at all times a becoming reverence to Thee, who hast so marvellously provided for us.

And, O Lord, permit us to retire to rest under the shadow of Thy wings. May serenity and peace permeate our every thought and desire; may we feel Thee near us, and confide in Thy protecting care. May the Word of Thy truth be precious to our souls, and if we are in states of wakefulness, may we meditate upon it. May no plague come near our dwelling. May the pestilence which walketh in darkness smite us not, but may Thy hand sustain us from this time forth and for evermore. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FORTY-FOURTH WEEK.—SABBATH MORNING.

GREAT and merciful Jehovah, creator of the universe of worlds, Redeemer and Saviour of all the myriads that dwell within them, we praise Thee for the return of the day of rest, and we offer our earliest thoughts and consecrate our earliest moments to Thy service. O that this day of rest may prove to us a day of spiritual delight, the joy and rejoicing of our hearts, the glory and the lifting up of our heads.

Mindful art Thou, O Lord, of all the wants of our children, and no good thing wilt Thou withhold from those who put their trust in Thee. Thou wilt not suffer the soul of the righteous to famish; Thy gracious Word assureth us, that the righteous shall eat to the satisfaction of his soul. We dare not term ourselves *righteous*. Our evils rise up in judgment against us, and we are constrained to say, "It is of the Lord's mercy we are not consumed." O help us, while we acknowledge our evils, to repent of them and to turn unto Thee, that by a constant looking for assistance, we may be preserved from relapsing into sin.

Assist us, O merciful Father, to acquire a meek and lowly spirit, that Thy love and truth may freely flow into and bless our souls this day. From our family temple, we go to join in the services of the temple where Thy people congregate. Lord, meet us there. Cheer us by Thy presence. Let Thy presence be felt by every humble worshipper, and let Thy salvation go forth as brightness, to cheer the hearts of Thy waiting servants. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SABBATH EVENING.

O FATHER of mercy, God of all consolation, we approach Thy footstool at the conclusion of this Thy day of rest. We praise Thee, we give Thee thanks for the gracious privileges we have been permitted to participate in, and we implore Thy divine blessing upon all that we have heard or read this day. At the same time we implore Thy gracious pardon for all Thou hast seen amiss in us. We are constrained to acknowledge that our thoughts have often wandered from our duty, and our minds have occupied themselves too intently upon the world; even those duties that we have performed most worthily have been grievously tainted by selfish and worldly thoughts. O deliver us from this sad tendency of our evil nature. O help us to serve Thee with greater spirituality.

O Thou who art the Light of the world, send forth Thy light among us, and so assist us to prepare our minds for its reception, that it may at once enter in and possess us. By the light of Thy truth may we discern our real nature and quality. May no evil escape our search; may Thy truth discover our secret faults, and impart the power to remove them. Assist us in the proper use and application of Thy light; may it prove a lamp to our feet, preventing all occasion of stumbling in us. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY MORNING.

O LORD our heavenly Father, it is by Thy mercy that we are spared to behold the light of another day; Thou hast protected and preserved us during the night season: may Thy holy Name be magnified. Help us to draw near to Thee who art a Spirit, and to worship Thee in spirit and in truth.

We confess our utter inability to worship Thee as we ought and as is our duty. No man can come to Thee except as Thy love shall attract him. O Lord we acknowledge our hearts are prone to evil, and our desires wander out into the world in search of its delights and its pleasures. "Create within us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us, and lead us in the way everlasting."

Give unto us a spirit of true repentance, that we may forsake our evils, and be brought into a state of humility and lowly-mindedness. O render us more and more sensible of the folly and guilt of sin, and give unto us a perception of the peace, joy, and spirituality which those enjoy who are obedient to Thy Word. In entering upon the duties of another week, may the services of the past Sabbath be kept in our remembrance: may the solemn warnings and exhortations we have

heard impress us so seriously, that we may keep our hearts with all diligence, and set a bridle upon our lips, that we sin not. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY EVENING.

O LORD most merciful, O God most gracious, who is like unto Thee, "keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and sin"? Not a day passes but we feel a renewal of Thy goodness; for though our corrupt inclinations still urge us to sinful indulgences, yet Thou bearest with us; we can, indeed, truly say, that "it is of the Lord's mercy we are not consumed."

"We have heard of Thee by the hearing of the ear." Thy word of truth is continually speaking to us, urging us to obedience, pointing out the consequences of sin, exhorting us to repentance, and asking, "*Why will ye die?*" We hear Thee, but still we are disobedient; we know Thy will, and still we do it not. O how fearful is our condition! What if Thou wert to call us in this our sinful state into Thy presence! What if, in the midst of our evils, this night our souls were required of us! How could we meet Thee? With a knowledge of the conditions on which our happiness depends, how could our spirits hear the words, "Verily I say unto you, I know you not."

With a knowledge of Thy truth, "Blessed are they that do His commandments, upon them the second death shall have no power;" how could we hope to escape the second death, when we have not done Thy commandments, and when we have done those things which we ought not to have done? Lord, spare us and deliver us; give us yet time. O our God, deliver us, for Thine own sake. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY MORNING.

UNTO Thee, O Lord our Saviour, do we lift up our hearts with our hands in thanksgiving and praise, for Thou art our protector; to Thee we owe our safety during the night season, and to Thy mercy do we owe the blessing of renewed existence. Teach us to approach Thee and worship Thee in spirit and in truth, and O render us sensible of Thy purity, that we may never presume to call upon Thy name but in a spirit of the deepest reverence and humility. O sanctify Thy word to our spiritual good this day. Fill us with humble and holy confidence in Thy gracious promises. Thou hast created us, Thou hast formed us, Thou hast redeemed us, and Thy gracious encouragement is expressed in the words, "When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee, and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee; when thou walked through the fire thou shalt not be burned, neither shall the flame kindle upon thee." O gracious and divine assurance! may our hearts rest upon these heavenly consolations. When the waters of temptation are as the waters of Noe to our souls, when floods of falses threaten to overwhelm us, and our frail bark seems ready to be engulfed, may we remember that Thou art still near, and still ready to help us in every time of need. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY EVENING.

GREAT art Thou, O Lord, and greatly to be praised; for ever blessed be Thy holy name for all Thy marvellous loving-kindnesses to us and to the whole family of mankind. O may the family altars of Thy people be this night surrounded with the humble, penitent, and devout worshippers; and as with one voice may they unitedly exclaim, The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, and His mercy is everlasting! In His name will we trust, for no good thing will He withhold from them that put their trust in Him. In His name will we take refuge, for His name is a strong tower; the righteous put their trust in it and are safe.

Another day has passed of our natural existence, and brought us a step nearer to the everlasting habitations; Lord, we would humbly lay bare before Thee the state of our inner man. We dare not say that we have passed this day free from evil; for when we look within, evil desires and evil intentions rise up in judgment against us, which, though they may not have resulted in open and criminal acts, yet convince us that our hearts are deceitful above all things and desperately wicked, and but for the restraining hand of Thy providence, would break out constantly in sensual and criminal indulgence. O who shall understand his errors? Cleanse Thou us from secret faults. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

O LORD our heavenly Father, whose divine Word exhorts us to seek Thy face, and who hast promised to be found of all who seek Thee, the returning day brings us into Thy presence, "Thy face, O Lord, do we seek;" O let the light of Thy countenance be lifted up upon us. Cause Thy face to shine, and we shall be saved. Lord, we thank Thee that we are permitted to behold Thee through the medium of Thy Word, and to hold communion with Thee through its divine truths. Help us to love Thy divine Word more and more; by a happy experience of its soul-reviving truths, may we be enabled to join in praise with the Psalmist: "O how I love Thy Word; it is dearer unto me than thousands of gold and silver."

Lord, we thank Thee that Thou hast given to us organs of sensation, which serve to remind us of those organs of the soul by which all heavenly delights are enjoyed. May we delight ourselves in the Lord, that we may receive the desires of our hearts. May we taste and see that Thou, O Lord, art good, and that they are blessed who put their trust in Thee. O may we exercise this exquisite sensation, as to be at all times tasting of the good of Thy love, of the truth of Thy wisdom, and of the delight of Thy life. May we, by exercising this heavenly taste, see the full value of our immortal souls, so as to be satisfied with nothing but Thy goodness, O Lord our Saviour. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

ALMIGHTY Lord our Saviour, Thou makest the outgoings of the morning and of the evening to rejoice; Thou openest Thy hand and suppliest the wants of every living creature. There are none so insignificant as to escape Thy notice; Thy providence is both general and particular, and nothing transpires with which Thou art unacquainted. As Thy truth instructs us that the hairs of our head are all numbered, so does it also convey to us the assurance that not a sparrow can fall without thy knowledge and permission. Such knowledge is too wonderful for us; it is high, we cannot attain to it.

O Lord, we humbly beseech Thee that while this Thy Omniscience is daily placed before us, help us to study Thee in Thy works, and to be obedient to Thy laws: help us to see that a violation of Thy laws, whether natural or spiritual, brings upon the violator suffering and punishment; for Thou art no less immutable in Thy glorious person, than in the laws which originate in Thy perfect wisdom. Thou dost not punish the wicked, but it is the evil itself which inflicts the punishment; it is our iniquity which separates between us and our God. Thou hast bestowed perfect freedom upon Thy creatures; Thou hast set before them life and death, blessing and cursing; and Thy love is perpetually exhorting us, and calling upon us to choose life, that we and our seed may live. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY MORNING.

O LORD Almighty, with the returning day we humbly approach Thee: we give Thee thanks for Thy protection and preservation of our souls and bodies during the hours of darkness. How very gracious unto us Thou art! All unworthy as we are, there is no change in Thee. Ever abundant in goodness and truth, Thou openest Thy hand, and we are the recipients of Thy bounty. Thou art the source of life and light. O Being of beings, we exist, because Thou art life. We acquire all our knowledge from Thee, the source of all wisdom; and the most worthy use we can make of the intelligence Thou hast bestowed upon us is to humble ourselves before Thee. While we behold and adore the infinite greatness of Thy glorious character may it be the delight of our souls and the support of our weakness to know and to feel the extent of Thy goodness. Thou has placed Thyself before us as our model. Everywhere in Thy Word Thy example is one of perfection, and tacitly speaks to our souls "*Learn of me.*" Yet hast Thou granted us perfect freedom and liberty. There is no creature superior to ourselves: Thou hast created us; we bear Thy glorious image; we are not destined to imitate other creatures; but in all that we do, Thou hast so endowed us that we possess the happy liberty to work as though we wrought of ourselves, and thus are we indeed rational and accountable creatures unto Thee, O Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY EVENING.

INFINITE, Eternal, and Omnipotent Redeemer, assist us to approach Thee with humility, and in obedience at once free, cheerful, and voluntary, enable us to offer this evening our humble tribute of prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.

Assist us, with a knowledge of Thy truth, to deny ourselves, and to take up our cross and follow Thee in the road of humility and self-denial—that road which, when tabernacling in the flesh, Thou didst Thyself travel—that road which, taking and bearing Thy yoke, brings us to the secret and sacred retreat which imparts peace and rest to our soul. Help us, O Lord, to see that “we have nothing of our own wherein to trust.” Our merit consists in humbling, yea, in annihilating of self! If we lose all sentiments of self; if we abase and reduce ourselves even to dust and ashes, as it is in fact all that we are—there are treasures of grace which Thy Word promises to bestow upon us; Thou wilt cause Thy face to shine upon us, and in Thy light we shall see light. Our humble petition is that **THY WILL** may be *ours*. What Thou seest fit to bestow, O make us grateful for. What Thy wisdom sees necessary to deny, give us the grace to be submissive unto; and grant that our most earnest and ardent wishes may be “to do Thy will, O God.” Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY MORNING.

O SAVIOUR and Regenerator of the world, we approach Thee this morning with a lively sense of Thy goodness. We have laid us down in peace; we have been refreshed by sleep; and Thou hast renewed our strength. O may we learn to be thoroughly sensible of Thine infinite goodness. May all the benefits which Thou hast conferred upon us, in the protection and preservation of our bodies in the world of nature and in the world of truth and goodness, enkindle our love to Thee, and encourage us to place more and more our confidence and hope in Thee, O Lord God of our salvation. We glorify Thy high and holy name. Gracious and merciful God, we acknowledge Thy divine beneficence. Never hast thou averted Thy ear from the calls of Thy creatures; and always in the dark and dreary walk of temptation, have we experienced Thine outstretched arm for our protection. O may our souls be ever mindful of Thee, O Lord; for never has Thy goodness been unmindful of us. From the humblest insect to the seraph, all things are indebted to Thee for their existence, and for the perfection they attain! O Heavenly Father, help us so to behold Thee in Thy works, that every day's observation may tend to draw us into closer union with Thee our only Saviour. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY EVENING.

O MERCIFUL and redeeming Lord our Saviour, another day has been added to our existence, and at its close we again draw near to Thee in prayer around our family altar. Lord, let the blessing be upon our present assembly: though we be but few, O let us experience the fulfil-

ment of Thy promise. Assembling in Thy name, may we in spirit behold Thee in our midst.

We dare not say that we have this day done all that we might have done, either for the good of our fellow-creatures, or for the advancement of our respective states in the regeneration. We have indeed looked too little into the state of our own minds, and too much into the failings of others. Neglecting to repair the hedge of our own spiritual vineyard, we have often employed ourselves in discovering the gaps which are found in the hedges of our brother's vineyard; and we confess with shame that we have reprehended him, when we ought to have been employed in the correction of ourselves: we have attempted to remove the mote from our brother's eye, and behold, a beam has been in our own. We see how much we have to do to make our own calling sure; and yet how bitterly do we neglect it that we may reflect upon the doings of others. Neglecting to put away the evil of our own doings, we would presume to allude to the evils indulged in by our brethren. O Lord, assist us to overcome this dangerous propensity. Assist us to cast out first the beam from our own eye.

Help us to keep the sphere of our own life distinct from the sphere of others, so as neither to interfere with theirs nor to let theirs interfere with ours, but to do our duty in that sphere in which thou hast called us. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, whose goodness and mercy are ever towards Thy creatures, again hast Thou unsealed our eyelids, and poured upon them the light of another day. Again hast Thou renewed our existence: Thou hast renovated our bodies, and rendered them strong to labour. Our earliest thanks are due to Thee. May Thy holy Name be magnified.

We wait upon Thee, O Lord, to implore Thy blessing upon the duties of this day, and to pray for the supply of our wants. Of Thy fulness have we hitherto partaken, and we feel that Thou wilt still bestow upon us whatsoever is needful, if we ask for it. O supply Thou the wants of our natural existence, and give unto us such a portion of natural bread as shall render us strong to labour in our earthly vocation.

Give unto us, even in our natural avocations, a sense of Thy presence, so that we may fulfil our duties as Thy servants; doing Thy will from the heart. While we pray for Thy temporal benefits, and for Thy blessing on our natural avocations, we would earnestly implore Thee to bestow upon us those better gifts of the Spirit which may prepare our souls for the high enjoyments of Thy kingdom. These things we ask in Thine own name, O Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY EVENING.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Lord, at the close of another week we desire again to approach Thy mercy seat. We return Thee our humble and hearty thanks for Thy divine protection, and we are enabled

again to exclaim, "Hitherto the Lord hath helped us." The waning year reminds us of the rapid progress of our own natural existence. The fall of the leaf is an emblem of human life, and of the frailty of all terrestrial things. The grass withereth, the flower fadeth, the vigour of manhood gives place to the feebleness of age. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fail. How soon may all be stripped of their beauty and vigour, even as the first blasts of winter nip and destroy the autumnal herbage and foliage. The blighting winds of winter may destroy our health, and lay prostrate in the dust our mortal frames; but if we have been obedient to Thee, if we have wrought out our salvation with fear and trembling, Thy Word encourages us under the assurance that we shall renew our strength; we shall mount up with wings as eagles; we shall run and not be weary, we shall walk and not faint. O gracious promise, divine assurance, which thus in the season of desolation confirms the gracious promise, "Thou shalt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee." May this be our happy state, O Lord; and that we may experience it, O assist us to fix our minds exclusively on Thee, and to observe Thy precepts and do Thy commandments. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FORTY-FIFTH WEEK.—SABBATH MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, we come before Thee this Sabbath morning to worship at Thy footstool. O let Thy servants experience the fulfilment of ancient prophecy in their individual states. We are poor and needy; we seek after Thy truth; O send forth Thy light and Thy truth: assuage our spiritual thirst, O Lord; forsake us not in the hour of our need. In this our low and wilderness state, O let Thy springs of truth gush forth and fill our souls with the truth of heaven. May our affections blossom into goodness, and ripen into active love and usefulness: and as Thine eye is upon them that fear Thee, upon them that hope in Thy mercy, so Thy hand delivers our souls from death, and keeps us alive by the bread of life.

Guide us, O Lord, in the faithful performance of the duties of this day. Order all our steps, that none of them may slide. In all our goings be Thou near to direct us, and let all our steps be ordered of Thee. Lord, we commit ourselves entirely to Thy gracious guidance, trusting that whatsoever is right Thou wilt bring to pass. Bless the labours of Thy ministering servants, and crown them with success. Shed Thy benign influence on our teachers of youth, and surround them with the spheres of Thy light and love, and may all who delight in Thee, receive the desires of their hearts, and experience the blessedness of spiritual peace and rest. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SABBATH EVENING.

O LORD Almighty, our heavenly Father, as our path in the regeneration becomes more beset with difficulties and trials, may its brightness increase, its flame burn with greater steadiness, shining brighter

and brighter unto the perfect day. And while we pray that this light may go forth as brightness to ourselves, we also pray for its directing influence to all Thy creatures, more especially to those who, as Thy teaching disciples, ought to be as the light of the world, to guide Thy people from hence to the heavens. O may they constantly look to Thee, and be enabled to keep their understandings open, that in Thy light they may see light.

In the sacred duties of their office, may Thy ministers be supported by Thee. Endow them with fortitude to declare Thy perfect will; assist them to set their faces against every corruption. May they cry aloud and spare not, but show the house of Israel their transgressions and sin, and call them to repentance and newness of life.

O Lord Jesus Christ, who alone art our Master, and who hast given commandment for children to obey their parents in all things, grant Thy grace to the heads of this and of every other family, that they may show forth a pattern of meekness and obedience unto Thee, and thus be models for the imitation of their children. So shall we all grow up into the fulness of the stature of Jesus Christ, and shall be ultimately made happy in Thy heavenly kingdom. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY MORNING.

ALMIGHTY Lord, our heavenly Father, we pray that the spiritual privileges in which we have participated may remind us of our exalted relationship unto Thee: that we are Thy children, and that it is our duty so to display our love and obedience that we may not grieve Thy Holy Spirit nor walk after the flesh.

As wayfarers, strangers, and pilgrims, may we still pursue the course marked out for us in our respective callings with diligence and industry, and while the world employs our hands, may our affections be set on things above, and may we, like the patriarch of old, journey onwards; "still going towards the south;" still keeping our eyes steadily fixed on the light of Thy truth; still looking to Thee, the glorious Sun of righteousness. O gracious and merciful Redeemer, impress us always with a sense of Thy presence; help us to be willingly obedient to the precepts of Thy truth read this morning. Deaf as we have hitherto been to Thy divine calls, blind as we have been to our own true interests, may Thy words, "Hear ye deaf, and look ye blind," now find a humble and grateful response. By Thy divine dispensations awaken us, and bring us to Thyself. Enlighten our darkness, turn us from our crooked and perverse paths, and lead us in the way everlasting. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY EVENING.

LORD, in Thy Word Thou hast exhorted us to be angry and sin not. We confess we have been irritable, our feelings have been unforgiving; we have at times even felt revengeful, and have thus grieved and driven from us our guardian angels, and supplied their places by

malignant spirits, satans, or even devils ; and yet "we have heard of Thee by the hearing of the ear."

O Lord, we are deeply sensible of our evils ; we feel more and more the truth of Thy words, "men ought always to pray." We ought always to have our conversation with Thee : always to set Thee before us, always invoke Thine aid against the infestations of evil, always resist the temptations to sin ; and when the evils within would tempt us to withdraw our allegiance from Thee, always should we be ready to repel them with Thine own divine words, "*Get thee hence, Satan.*"

O help us, heavenly Father, not only to hear Thee, but to do as Thou hast commanded us. May Thy purity be our model of imitation. May we strive to become holy as Thou art holy. As Thou, by the direst temptations, didst glorify Thy humanity, being more than conqueror in every infestation of evil which beset Thee, so may we become regenerate, through Thy divine and continued help. May each trial draw us nearer to Thee, until, by a perfect and willing obedience, we may see the infinity of Thy love in the wondrous acts of Thy providence in our behalf, and be enabled with the suffering man of old to exclaim, "We have heard of Thee by the hearing of the ear, but now our eyes behold Thee." Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY MORNING.

O LORD, Thou knowest our weakness ; help us, we pray Thee. When the infestations of evil assault us with their dire malignity, and our hearts fail, and we are ready to perish, then bring to our remembrance the gracious words we have now read, "I will be with you even unto death," and give us that inward feeling of security which teaches that Thy promises never fail, that from the bonds of iniquity Thou wilt redeem us : Thou wilt bring us safely through the wilderness, and establish us in peace and safety.

O Lord, we beseech Thee, increase our faith. Impart to us an inward perception of Thy presence, and assist us to feel that which we profess to believe : that all our faculties, from the least even unto the greatest, may be enlisted in Thy service ; that externally Thy will may be done on earth, as internally it may be done in heaven. Lord, be Thou with us, and bless the labour of our hands this day. Bless our employers, and prosper them in their undertakings, that they be dispensers of Thy bounty to those over whom Thou hast set them. Bless the efforts of all parents to train their children in the way they should go. Bless the labours of all servants, and give them an assurance that the faithful performance of their duties is also the performance of charity. Let all, both small and great, feel Thy blessing resting upon them. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY EVENING.

HELP us, O Lord Jesus Christ, we beseech Thee, to grow in the knowledge and love of Thy truth. May we not rest satisfied by a knowledge of Thy will, but may we labour industriously to do it. Help us continually to go forward in the work of spiritual improvement. Much

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time hast Thou given us, but O how sadly have we neglected it! O merciful Father, spare us, spare us, we beseech Thee: sustain and animate us in the course we have yet to travel. Render us more patient, more diligent, more watchful: O help us to keep ourselves free from the ensnaring gratifications of the world, and bring us into a repentant and contrite state. Pardon, O Lord, the evils which we have committed this day, and let the influences of Thy good Spirit so possess us, that the rest of our lives may be more faithfully devoted to Thy service, and more useful to our fellow-creatures.

And now, O Lord, most merciful! O God, most righteous! take us under the shadow of Thy wings this night; pardon for Thy name sake the evils we have committed; and if permitted to rise again in this world, so strengthen our present resolutions that we may earnestly strive to sin no more. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, assist us, we beseech Thee, to acquire that purity of heart which imparts Thy divine benediction and beatitude, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." O help us to behold Thee in all Thy wonderful works, in all the operations of Thy providence, in Thine all-pervading love in the great works of redemption and salvation; and wheresoever we may turn our eyes, may we so use them as to bless and praise Thy holy name for all Thy goodness, and for Thy wonderful works to the children of men.

To a knowledge which the truths of Thy Word impart, O help us to become obedient to all Thy wise and just commands. May Thy fear be ever before our faces, for there is no want to them that fear the Lord. Assist us this day to keep our tongues from speaking evil, and our lips from guile, to depart from evil and do good, to seek peace and pursue it; to remember that, as Thine eyes are upon the righteous, and Thine ears open to their cry, so no evil can befall those who humbly trust in Thee. Help us, O Lord, to acquire this trust, and when our trials here are ended we shall hope, through Thy mercy, to be admitted to Thy kingdom, and dwell in the house of our Lord for ever. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, Thine eye beholds the children of men, but Thy love relaxes not; it continues to exercise itself in the righteous dispensations of Thy providence, unseen to us, but so operating as to bring us frequently into great straits and difficulties and sufferings, and thus leading us ultimately to reflect upon our waywardness, to see the ruin to which we are hastening, and from its rapid approach to turn in time and repent, and find that mercy which repentance always brings. Thus dost Thou operate in our behalf, bringing us by a way we know not of, and saving us, even though it be by fire. O that men would praise the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful acts to the children of men!

With a knowledge of Thy providence and of its constant operation, O

merciful Father, help us to acquire an humble confidence, and to be gratefully submissive under all Thy dispensations. We behold all the disorders of nature as so many effects of the grievous evils in which we indulge, and as solemn warnings to repent and turn unto Thee. To enable us to repent, may we, morning, noon, and at evening, lift up our thoughts in prayer to Thee. May we set Thee constantly before our eyes, and strive to follow Thee in the strait and narrow way to life.

Hear us, O Lord, and according to the multitude of Thy tender mercies answer us, for Thine own name's sake. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY MORNING.

WITH a grateful sense of Thy divine goodness, O Lord, we acknowledge that it is by Thy power that we possess the ability to will and to do. There is no source of independent being but Thyself, O Lord. Thou art Life in itself,—the self-sufficient, self-subsistent, and only subsisting Being. Our affections are warmed and kept in being from the fire of Thy love. Our thoughts are enlightened and purified by the light of Thy wisdom. If we approach not Thee, we must become spiritually cold, and spiritually blind and dead. O heavenly Father, we pray Thee to enable us to behold and feel that it is in Thy light we see light, in Thy heat we feel heat! Withdrawing from Thee, we withdraw from all heavenly blessedness; neglecting communion with Thee, our light expires, and we become as dead! O help us to be obedient to Thy gracious command, "Follow me, and let the dead bury their dead." O help us to become every day more and more imbued with the love of Thee and of Thy kingdom. Our supremacy consists in our resemblance unto Thee. We have within us those receptacles for Thy love and wisdom, which enable us to become likenesses, as our bodily structures, are images, of Thee. We pray, therefore, that this day, and every day, we may be enabled to glorify Thee in our bodies and in our spirits, which are Thine. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, we thank Thee for this day's blessings, and for the sacred treasures contained in Thy Word of truth, which at all times we are so freely permitted to draw from; and humbly grateful are we for the privilege of conversing with Thee, of pouring out our souls before Thee in prayer. Whether in prosperity or adversity, health or sickness, joy or sorrow, we feel that conversation or prayer with Thee adds to our prosperity, or smoothes our adversity; gives new zest to the enjoyment of health, or soothes the pangs of sickness and suffering; increases the cheerfulness of the gladdened heart, or enables us when in sorrow to possess our souls in patience. In all the most solemn occasions of life, when conscience brings us to its upright bar, if in prayer we confess our sins, and seek for pardon from Thee, O Lord, who hast promised to blot out our transgressions for Thy name's sake, what we seek for, we find. When nature, in her dire convulsions,

shakes our souls with fear, our prayer is unto Thee for protection and help, and Thy answer is, "Fear thou not, I am with thee; be not dismayed, I am thy God." "They who descend to the sea in ships, and see Thy wonders in the deep," pray to Thee for help and confidence, and they are defended in the hour of danger. In all our states of trial, in all our seasons of rejoicing, in every calamity to which we are exposed, may we remember Thine own words of encouragement—*men ought always to pray*. Heavenly Father, may Thy will be done. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, we would offer our thanksgivings unto Thee for all the wonders that have issued and are daily issuing from Thy creative hands. Help us to ascend in spirit towards Thee by the objects before us and by the creatures Thou hast made, that we may behold in each some ray of Thy goodness, have a perception of some minute particle of truth, and read in the book of the world fresh confirmations of the Book of divine revelation and truth. From the dust on which we tread, and of which our material bodies are framed, we will raise ourselves in humble devotion to Thee, view Thy divine beneficence, and call to mind the period when, in the wondrous display of Thy love and mercy, Thy feet trod the path of suffering, and went onward in the glorification of Thy humanity, still doing good, and leaving the traces of Thy footsteps in blessings to all Thy creatures.

By a contemplation of Thy glorious perfections, as seen in the least of all Thy works, O Being of beings, Uncreated, Eternal, and Omnipotent, may our souls be in a constant state of spiritual elevation. While doing our duty here, may Thine aid be always present; may we aspire to be soon admitted into the assembly of the first-born, and join the spirits of the just made perfect, to praise Thee in newness of spirit in Thy heavenly kingdom. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, Thou has given to every man according to his several ability Thy heavenly talents, and to all hast Thou given the command "Occupy till I come"; to one five, to another two, to another one. Are we in the humble position of those who receive but one talent: O help us so to use it that it may double its value, and be returned to Thee as the Giver, with humble gratitude. Every good that we behold in others may we love and cherish, remembering the source whence it originates; may we appropriate so much of it as belongs to our own state, and thus render our own sphere the more delightful; and may we love the medium through which it flows, ascribing to Thee all the honour, which is Thy due. Assist us, O Lord, so to watch over our own life and conversation, that there may at all times be in our centre an emanation from Thy love and light, to warm and animate and direct us. Hedge us round about with Thy truth, and let it be unto us as a wall of separation and defence. Keep our thoughts in a state of spiritual elevation and watchfulness,

that we may "stand upon our watch and sit upon our tower," carefully observing all who may approach, and contending against every evil, that as an enemy may infest, or seek to enter and destroy the fruits of our vineyard. Give unto us just powers of discrimination, that we may not be imposed upon by the fallacies of pretended teachers, but in all things suffer ourselves to be guided by the light of Thy truth. O heavenly Father, hold Thou us up, and we shall be safe. Into Thy hands we commend our spirits. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, let Thy truth enter our minds, and remove the darkness under which they may hitherto have laboured. We feel more and more the necessity of the power of Thy truth, of that power which shall not only discover the evils lurking in the secret places of our wills, but which shall contend against them and cast them out.

By the power of Thy truth O fortify us against the attacks of our spiritual enemies; by the power of Thy truth enable us to resist the insinuating pleadings of our own evils. May we beware of those wolves in sheep's clothing, which would tempt us to gratify our corrupt inclinations, under the plea that they were given us that we might indulge them. These specious pleadings, proceeding from the desire of the sensual principle for indulgence, O Lord, grant us Thy grace to resist. Support us under every trial, comfort us in every affliction, and carry us safely through this and every day of our existence. And help us, O Lord, to be mindful of our brethren, as well those of our own kindred as of Thy Church. Bring back the erring. Heal the sick and broken-hearted, and smooth the last hour of those who are passing from a natural into a spiritual state; and O hasten the time when all men shall know and worship Thee, from the least even unto the greatest. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, Thou hast given us the assurance that "where Thou art, there also shall Thy servant be." May this cheering promise raise our souls above the fear of death. Assist us, O Lord, so to live that, whether called upon by night or day, suddenly or slowly, to relinquish our natural body, we may be in such a state of resignation to Thy will, as to be enabled to say, "Behold Thy servant, O Lord; be it unto him according as Thou wilt." We see our days shortening, we know that here we have no abiding city, and our obvious duty is to keep ourselves in a constant state of preparation. We can do this, O Lord, only by Thy divine assistance. Help us, then, to subject every thought and every affection to Thy divine control. If affliction come upon us, may it be instrumental in promoting our purification; and if permitted to pursue our course in health and strength, may we employ both in active works of charity and usefulness.

And now, O Lord, we beg Thy gracious protection this night. Watch over us, preserve us from our spiritual enemies, and give us sound and

refreshing sleep. Or if Thou permittest a state of wakefulness, may our meditation of Thee be sweet. May we commune with our own hearts, and think of all Thy deeds of love, and glorify Thee silently as we rest upon our bed. But whether sleep or wakefulness, life or death be our portion, Lord, we are Thine, and into Thy hands we commend our spirits. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FORTY-SIXTH WEEK.—SABBATH MORNING.

ALL-merciful and glorified Lord! we adore Thee, we worship toward Thy holy temple, we magnify Thy high and holy name for permitting us again to behold the light of another Sabbath. Let the people praise Thee, O God, yea, let all the people praise Thee. O may this day be a day of rejoicing to all the families of the earth, and may the people say continually, The Lord be praised.

Lord, pour upon us the spirit of supplication, and inspire us with thoughts to ask such things only as may best advance our true spiritual interests, and secure for us a residence in one of those mansions which Thou hast prepared for those that love Thee. We pray that Thy love may be shed abroad in all our hearts; for it is by this alone that we can hope to be enabled to accomplish all that is required of us. It is Thy love which enkindles pure devotion, Thy love which makes us view our brethren with kind and affectionate feelings, and Thy love alone which enables us to bear each others' burthens. May thy love, therefore, be the animating spring of our existence. As our duties commence at our family altar, may those duties be performed with a single eye and a pure heart, and may the Word we have read prepare us for the Word read in Thy Church. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SABBATH EVENING.

O HEAVENLY Saviour, at the close of this day our souls approach Thee with devotion and thankfulness. Thou hast this day fed us with the bread of life, and Thou hast permitted us to drink of the streams of the river of Thy truth, satisfying the hungry soul with bread, and strengthening the souls of those who were ready to faint by reason of thirst, with the pure water of life.

Lord, we adore Thee as our bountiful parent. Thou hast opened Thine hand, and supplied us with good. Thou art our deliverer from evil, and hast this day defended us from the assaults of our spiritual enemies, and made us to dwell in safety. We desire to acknowledge that all our sufficiency is of Thee; without Thee we can do nothing; and if this day's duties have been faithfully performed, it is unto Thee, O Lord, that all the praise is due.

And now, O Lord, behold us as a family prostrate before Thee. The duties and pleasures of this day being past, continue to pour out thy kindly influences upon us during the night season. In the defenceless state to which we are reduced by sleep, O let thy holy angels keep their guard around us; and should we be kept in wakefulness, may we meditate

upon Thy truth, and may the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, our strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY MORNING.

O LORD our Saviour, every day new life is imparted unto us from Thee. From our bed of rest and security we issue forth, and cares, and toils, and perils, and temptations assail us, but still Thou art mindful of us; we are not hidden from Thy sight; Thou art the gracious preserver of our lives; and amidst all our difficulties and dangers Thou art near to help us, and this Thou doest day by day; even to old age Thou art with us and to hoary hairs Thou wilt protect us. Thy voice is encouragingly heard: "Fear thou not, I am with thee; be thou not dismayed, I am thy God." And when our daily labour ends, and we return to our peaceful homes, and taste anew the blessings Thy providence has prepared for us, Thy love calls for renewed gratitude and thanksgiving, and we offer our evening tribute of prayer and praise. Lord, help us to take pleasure in Thy service; help us at morning, noon, and evening, to offer our prayers unto Thee, and to give Thee thanks. Help us by frequent and fervent devotion to acquire that piety and spirituality which may purify our affections and elevate our thoughts to heaven. Keep us daily and hourly in the recollection of the uncertainty of our natural existence, and of the certainty of our eternal state. Help and prepare us to meet Thee, our God and Saviour, and give unto us finally a place in one of the many mansions in Thy heavenly kingdom. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY EVENING.

LORD of all the families of the earth, eternal and ever blessed God! Help us at the close of this day to draw near to Thee with reverence; help us to adore Thee, our God and Saviour, in whom all fulness dwells; help us to glorify Thee as the Lord God omnipotent.

All nature is subject to Thy rule; Thou permittest the elements to rage, and Thy divine fiat restrains their fury. By Thy words, "*Peace! be still,*" Thou stillest the furious tempest. We cannot behold all the reasons why the desolating storm is permitted; such knowledge is too wonderful for us; it is high, we cannot attain to it. But we know that it must originate in good; for as Thou art essential goodness, only that which conduces to goodness can be permitted. With humble confidence, therefore, O Lord, we commit ourselves to Thy gracious keeping. No evil wilt Thou suffer to assail those who trust in Thee, and no good thing wilt Thou withhold from them that walk uprightly. Impress these truths upon us, O Lord; so that whatever may be the desolations which are permitted to assail us, we may still hope in Thee. Thou, Lord, art good unto them that wait for Thee, to the souls that seek Thee; and they that wait upon Thee shall renew their strength. O help us to show forth Thy loving-kindness every morning, and Thy faithfulness every night. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY MORNING.

THOU, O Lord, art good and doest good, and there is no want to them who put their trust in Thee. "The righteous shall enter into peace. They shall rest in their beds, each one walking in his uprightness." How gracious are Thy promises, O Lord; how encouraging to Thy creatures!

We praise Thee for the blessings of the past night; Thou hast kept us in safety, and we have arisen again renovated in health and strength by the repose we have enjoyed. As we have rested on our beds, so teach us to repose our souls on the doctrines of Thy revealed Word. May we rest in peace on Thy perfect love, which never yet has failed us; Thy goodness and mercy have followed us all the days of our lives. May we repose on Thee our Creator, humbly looking up to Thee for assistance to acquire the state signified by the *New Birth*. It is Thou, O Lord, that can alone enable us to accomplish this. O create in us a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within us, and lead us in the way everlasting.

Assist us to repose on Thee our Redeemer. May the glorious work which Thou hast accomplished enkindle devout feelings of gratitude and praise. On the glorious work of redemption as wrought by Thee we can dwell with exultation. But for the accomplishment of this great work, we must now inevitably have perished, for there was none to deliver us. But Thine own arm brought salvation unto Thee, and Thy righteousness sustained Thee. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY EVENING.

O LORD Almighty, our beneficent Father and Friend, we come before Thee this evening with humble and penitent hearts. Conscious that we have neglected our duty, and that we have given place to evil, we would humbly implore Thy pardon, and seek Thy grace to help us for the future, so that we may successfully contend against our corruptions.

We desire to lay our hearts bare before Thee, that by Thy searching influence upon them we may be rendered sensible of the destroying power of sin, and at once enter upon the duty of dislodging our evils. Help us, O Lord, we beseech Thee, to consecrate our souls to Thy service; help us to prepare our hearts, that they may become temples in which Thou canst take up Thine abode.

Thou art constantly appealing unto us, offering to be our guest; and from the perfect love with which Thou regardest us, we hear Thee speaking in the words of entreaty, "Behold I stand at the door and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open unto me, I will enter in and sup with him, and he with me." O may we listen unto Thy voice, and at once commence the great work of preparation to receive so divine a Guest. May we never forget that Thou canst not accept a divided heart: we cannot serve God and mammon. Our whole heart must be given to Thee, O Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

O GOD of mercy, whose loving-kindness all Thy creatures are continually experiencing, we approach Thee this morning, humbly praying that Thou wilt cause Thy face to shine upon us, and that we may be enabled to pursue the duties of this day, so that, if spared to its conclusion, we may present ourselves before Thee with humble confidence.

In our approach to Thee this morning, we are sensible of Thy divine goodness. Thou condescendest to hold conversation with us. O help us to feel grateful for the privilege, and grant that the words of our lips and the meditation of our hearts may be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, our strength and our Redeemer.

Thy Word is unto us as our priest and prophet, continually reminding us of our duty—crying aloud unto us, sparing us not, showing us our transgressions and sins, and exhorting us to repentance and newness of life. And O how needful are these Thy constant appeals! for at our best state we feel how utterly unworthy we are, and how necessary it is that we should be kept in constant remembrance of the duties we so imperfectly perform. We confess we are self-satisfied and often self-righteous; and Thy Word justly condemns us. O Lord, help us to return unto Thee. Help us to do the work of repentance. We ask Thy divine aid, O Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, Thou only just and true, help us to guard against self-deception! How frequently are our religious exercises mere appearances of devotion! drawing near to Thee with our lips, how often our hearts are far from Thee! and while we profess to be mindful of Thee, how careless and negligent are we of the wants of our brethren, forgetting that our love and duty to Thee can only be effectually shown as we have love one to another. Alas! the sacrifices we offer are far indeed from genuine worship,—the worship of the heart; and even our most solemn meetings are often little better than solemn mockery, and displays of self-love and self-righteousness. O Heavenly Father, wash us, make us clean, we beseech Thee. Assist us to put away the evil of our doings from before Thine eyes. Assist us to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burthens, to let the oppressed go free, to deal out our bread to the hungry, and to cover the naked with a garment. Assist us to perform the perfect work of charity, both internally and externally, so that in our future approaches to Thy footstool there may be more of the fervour of true spiritual devotion, and that our life and conversation may keep pace and be in accordance with our profession of faith. So shall Thy righteousness go before us, and glory be our reward. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY MORNING.

WE acknowledge, O Lord Almighty, that if left to ourselves, so prone are we to fall into sin and indulge in its direful gratifications, that

we should soon finish the awful work of our destruction, and sink in irretrievable ruin.

As Israel was tried in the wilderness, so also must we be subjected to the purifying trials of temptation in the wilderness of the mind; but though Thou permittest us to be allured into the wilderness, Thou art still with us, speaking comfortable words in the seasons of trial, and in our most desolate states opening a door of hope, whereby we may be encouraged to go forward. It is Thou that givest us bread to eat that the world knows not of, even the bread which cometh down from heaven, the heavenly food which stays the soul in confidence on Thee. It is Thou that causest water to gush forth from the rock, and in the desert state of our minds to refresh us with the streams of truth, which increase our vigour and enable us to go on our way rejoicing. And thus in all our perils Thou art near us, and our very desolations do but convince us that, depending upon Thee, all things shall work together for our good, and our trials find a happy termination in the kingdom of rest and peace. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, Redeemer, and Saviour, we approach Thee this evening with feelings of gratitude and thankfulness. Another day has been added to our lives, and blessings innumerable have been showered down upon us. We would call to mind the many bounties we have enjoyed, we would enumerate Thy mercies, that by the memory of them our gratitude may be constantly excited. O who can declare all the loving-kindnesses of the Lord; who can set them forth in order? they are more than can be numbered. The works of the Lord are great, sought out of all that have pleasure therein. O Lord, as we read Thy Book of wisdom, and trace the wonders of Thy hand, wrought among the generations of old, may the sacred narratives bring before us the corresponding benefits which we in mercy receive. It was Thy hand, O Lord, that delivered Israel from the bondage of Egyptian tyranny, and brought forth Thy people from the slavery under which They groaned. Lord, rescue us, we beseech Thee, from the bondage of sensual pleasure. Subdue within us the tyranny of self love and the lust of dominion, and let the wonders of Thy truth so operate upon our souls that our affections may be brought under Thy divine government. We ask these things, O Lord, for Thy name and mercy sake. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY MORNING.

O LORD, we thank Thee that we are permitted to approach Thee this morning. We have been preserved in safety, and been raised up in health and strength. May Thy holy name be glorified!

We thank Thee that we can address Thee as our Father, the tenderest and most beneficent of parents: O may Thy love dwell in our souls, and urge us onward, constantly in faithfulness to do Thy commandments.

We worship Thee in Thy glorified humanity, as God in Christ, the divinity in the humanity, reconciling the world unto Thyself, not imputing our trespasses unto us. O how unbounded was Thy love in the great work of redemption! Neither word nor deed on our part can sufficiently testify our gratitude. We praise Thee, O Lord, we acknowledge Thee to be our Saviour; heaven and earth are full of the majesty of Thy glory. Thou hast rescued us from the power of our spiritual enemies, Thou hast restrained their infernal influence. Thy providence hedges us round about, Thy wisdom guides, Thy omnipotence sustains and defends us, and Thy love and mercy has prepared and set up a kingdom, where, if we are faithful unto death, we shall receive and enjoy a crown of life. O how great is Thy goodness, and how great Thy mercy! We glorify Thee, O Lord Jesus Christ. Thou only art worthy to receive adoration and praise. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY EVENING.

MOST merciful Lord God, with a deep sense of Thy loving-kindness towards us we approach the footstool of Thy throne, to offer up our thanks and praises for Thy protection of us during the past day. Deign to accept our humble tribute, O Lord,—the tribute of grateful hearts, all we have to offer; but we know if this humble sacrifice be sincerely offered, it will be accepted, for Thy Word assures us that “a humble and contrite heart, O Lord, Thou wilt not despise.”

Never can we be sufficiently thankful for the gift of Thy holy Word; in it we learn our duty, and its divine truth is the language of Thy glorious person; it is Thy sacred voice, speaking to us in our own tongue, and adapting itself by natural imagery to our humble condition. Lord, let Thy blessing accompany the portion we have this night read, and bring home to our souls its spiritual application. We offer humble and contrite hearts in sacrifice. O let our sacrifice be seasoned by heavenly affection. Grant that our hearts may overflow with inward love and fervent gratitude, that we may be seasoned by heavenly affection, for only can we be accepted as we are salted with fire, and this fire the fervour of divine love. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY MORNING.

O LORD our heavenly Father, let Thy Word go forth with power, and grant us Thy grace that we may do it. Help us to devote all our love, all our gratitude, and all our adoration unto Thee alone. Never may we divide Thy glory, and give honour to imaginary deities. “Thou, even Thou, art Lord alone: Thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth with all things that are therein, the sea and all that is therein, and Thou preservest them all.” Unto Thee alone do we render glory. Thou art our Creator; Thou art our Redeemer; and Thou art our Regenerator. There is no God else beside Thee, a just God and a Saviour. Help us, O Lord, to show

forth our gratitude for the manifestation of Thy glorious perfections. Thou art not a God afar off, but Thou art always near unto us. Help us to have a lively faith in Thee, and to repose all our confidence in Thy mercy. We have none in heaven but Thee, and there is none upon earth that we desire beside Thee. To Thee, therefore, do we dedicate our service. Our souls—all that we have, all that we are—are Thine, most blessed, most glorified Lord. Accept our humble duty, and may we and all the families of the earth unite in glorifying Thy name—Holy, holy, holy, Lord Jesus, God Almighty! Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY EVENING.

O LORD, our heavenly Father! we pray for Thy divine love, for without this love shed abroad in our hearts, in vain would be our efforts to subdue our selfishness. It is this love which is as the bread of the spiritual man; the bread which increases the more it is distributed; the bread which, appropriated, nourishes the soul to everlasting life. Lord, evermore give us this bread, that we may have wherewithal to dispense unto others.

O Lord our Saviour, we pray that our hearts may be salted with fire, and that every act of worship in which we engage may be salted with salt; and as this mineral is the means of preserving from putrefaction, and conduces so largely to the health of our bodies, so may the truth of Thy Word, the spiritual salt of wisdom, preserve our souls from putrefaction, and season all our spiritual nourishment with the savour of heavenly intelligence. Help us, O Lord, to retain this salt in ourselves,—to store our minds with the savour of heavenly doctrine—to value Thy truth more and more, and by its power in overcoming that which is evil, help us so to exercise it that it may ultimately procure us solid and lasting peace. Under the influence of this truth, and praying that it may be unto us as the angel of Thy presence, O Lord, we retire now to rest, commending our souls to Thy gracious keeping. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FORTY-SEVENTH WEEK.—SABBATH MORNING.

ALMIGHTY Lord God and Saviour Jesus Christ! There is none like unto Thee; Thou art great, Thy name is glorious, Thy works proclaim Thy goodness, majesty, and power. There is no being to whom we can compare Thee—so august, so magnificent, so awful! Behold the heaven of heavens cannot contain Thee. And yet Thou art willing to take up Thine abode with us, the lowly children of Thy hand's creation; for though Thou inhabitest eternity, Thou dwellest also with the humble; Thou, by Thy gracious presence, revivest the hearts of the contrite ones. And though we neglect to open our hearts at Thy call, still art thou mindful of us, and as a tender Father Thou watchest over us, sending forth Thy dispensations, that we may be awakened to a sense of our true interests and of our dependence upon Thee.

Through this day's desolations Thou hast safely brought us. Why have we been preserved? why has the storm with its swift destruction

spared us? All that we can answer is, that "it is of the Lord's mercy we are not consumed;" He has overshadowed us with the wings of His divine protection; and in our preservation we are called upon to rejoice with trembling, while with gratitude we acknowledge, "The Lord hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad."

Blessed be Thy holy name, O Lord, for this morning's enjoyments in Thy sanctuary and in the closet. Our souls rest on Thee; in Thee do we trust: suffer us not to be confounded. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SABBATH EVENING.

LORD! we beseech Thee, let Thy blessing accompany the reading and preaching of Thy Word this day. May all who have heard it look with confidence to Thee, and while they acknowledge that no good thing will be withheld from them that put their trust in Thee, may their acknowledgment be accompanied with contented and humble spirits; and may we all feel grateful for the blessings we enjoy in the several stations Thou hast allotted us. Keep our hearts open to the blessed virtue of contentment, O Lord our Saviour. Thy love and beneficence are displayed in all Thy works, and in these we all participate. The orb of day, the luminary of night, are the work of Thy hand, and Thou hast formed the eye that it may rejoice in the glorious light. O help us to rejoice with contented spirits that these glorious luminaries, while they pour their radiance around, are ours to enjoy equally with those who fill more exalted stations.

To inspire us with contentment, help us to reflect upon all the wonders spread around, abroad, above, and below us; to consider the work of Thy hand: that there is no object, even the most diminutive, but reads to us the lesson of contented enjoyment in the path in which it travels, and even those which are inanimate shall appear to instruct us by the wise maxim, "Be content with such things as ye have."

Lord, we owe our all to Thee! Thy voice called us into existence! Thy hand fashioned us! Thy life pervades our every faculty! In Thee we live and move and are. With gratitude we commit our souls to Thy keeping. Whether oppressed by adversity, or steeped deeply in affliction, in the tempest or in the calm, in high health, or in languishing sickness, Lord teach us to be content, and in patience to possess our souls. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY MORNING.

EVER blessed, merciful, and gracious Lord God, we approach Thy Divine Majesty this morning impressed with gratitude for Thy protection during the night season, and imploring a continuance of Thy watchfulness now that we have entered upon the duties of another day and another week.

We know that *Thou* needest not to be petitioned by us, for *Thou* notest all our wants, and the vicissitudes through which we have to pass are not hidden from *Thine* eye; but it is for our benefit that we should

approach Thee; for by drawing near to Thee we come within and are surrounded by the sphere of Thy influence, and are brought more immediately into communion with Thee; and they who surrender themselves to Thy wise guidance are prepared for every casualty. However great may be the difficulties which surround us, however imminent the dangers with which we are threatened, Thou O Lord seest both them and us, and by Thy providence Thou canst make a way whereby we may escape. To Thee, therefore, we come with the most profound reverence, desiring to be at all times led and guided by Thy hand. Help us to repress all uneasiness or anxiety about the future, and to remember that the present moment is the only period we can call our own; while it lasts, help us to exercise and improve it profitably, that in this world we may taste of as much happiness as will conduce to our regeneration. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY EVENING.

ALMIGHTY God, the Father of all mercies, we approach Thee this evening, and in a spirit of thanksgiving and praise desire to adore Thee for the blessings of this day. What Thou hast so bountifully given, we with cheerful gratitude receive. Thou who hast filled our mouths with food, hast also filled our hearts with gladness. As the chill and darksome air admits the benign influence of heavenly light, as the dry and parched earth imbibes the soft dew and gentle showers, as the thirsty soul takes in the sweet and cooling stream, so do our understandings and our hearts expand under Thy gracious influences, and feel grateful for the infinitude of Thy blessings. Fain would we offer unto Thee the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to Thy name. O accept our poor offerings, and let them find favour in Thy sight, O Lord.

As Thy bounties flow forth from the inexhaustible fountain of Thy love, and are bestowed upon us with a free, ungrudging, and unsparing hand, may the remembrance of Thy gracious words, "Freely ye have received, freely give," stir us up to show our gratitude in deeds of beneficence and love to others. As Thy love knows no limit, but is universally diffusive, so may our gratitude be displayed by an active and diffusive benevolence, a warm and fervid affection for our neighbour's good, and an unceasing desire, accompanied by an unceasing labour, to promote the happiness of all, and spread abroad, with a prudent but willing hand, what Thou hast so beneficently bestowed upon us, being ever assured that no want can come upon us, because in our Father's house there is bread enough and to spare. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY MORNING.

O LORD our God, we will extol Thee, we will magnify Thy name for ever and ever; Thy mercy knows no limit; Thy goodness is universal, and is equally extended to all; and it is the duty of all, while they pray for the supply of their daily wants, to give thanks to Thee at all times for the benefits they have enjoyed. O Lord, behold Thy servants, one

of the families participating in Thy bounties now kneeling before Thee. We desire to thank Thee for the blessings of the past night, and for the renewal of our strength, by which we are enabled to enter upon the duties of this day; and we pray that, as Thy goodness is new every morning to us, so may we strive, ever looking to Thee for aid, to engage in every good work, and to become imitators of Thee; for they who would truly become Thy disciples must in this as in every other duty "*learn of Thee.*" Help us, then, O Lord, we beseech Thee, to keep in subjection the principle of self, that we may never be elevated above doing our neighbour's good. Help us to keep in remembrance the second great commandment, to love our neighbour as ourself; to rejoice with those who rejoice, to love even those that hate us, and bless those that curse us. Pour forth the influences of Thy Spirit upon us, and as the lives of angels are exercised in constant works of heavenly goodness, so may their sphere pervade us, and incite us to do good to all, and to rejoice and offer thanks for the success of all. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY EVENING.

ALMIGHTY God, Thou art the Father of all the families of the earth, Thou art our Father, and day unto day and night unto night renews Thy care unto us. On Thee we are dependent not only for existence but for every blessing we enjoy. With gratitude unfeigned, O Lord, we acknowledge all the mercies we have enjoyed, from our birth to the present moment. We adore Thy bountiful providence for the endearing ties of family connections, and for having granted us to be participators in the joys of domestic life. We thank Thee for the health and temporal prospects which we enjoy, for the abundance with which Thou furnishest our tables, for the clothing which covers us, for the habitation which Thou hast assigned us, and for all the comforts and conveniences which surround us. We thank Thee for the success which has hitherto crowned our exertions, and for the instruction which has been communicated unto us, through the medium of the wisdom and intelligence of others, the source of which we most gratefully acknowledge to be in Thee, O Lord. We thank Thee, O Lord, for the afflictions which Thou hast permitted to visit our habitation, even the sorest that can happen to frail nature, the removal from our circle of one [or more] of our dearest friends, for Thou hast not left us without support and consolation. Glory be to Thy holy name, O Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

O THOU that hearest prayer, and hast left the injunction "that men ought always to pray and not to faint," we come before Thee this morning renewed in health and strength. Thou hast kept us in safety during the past night, we have slept in peace, and have awaked in circumstances of comfort; our food is provided for us, and the day opens upon us with the promise of all that we need. In gratitude we offer the earliest thoughts and desires of our souls unto Thee; may they be as the

firstlings of our flock and the fat thereof; and may the words of our mouths and the meditation of our hearts be accepted in Thy sight, O Lord our strength and our Redeemer.

O Lord, Thou knowest what is best for us before we ask it; fain would we be taught of Thee—fain would we wait to hear what Thou, by the influences of Thy Spirit, should suggest. If left to ourselves our prayers would be too frequently framed after the fashion of this world, and our desire would be but to receive the pleasures and enjoyments of this lower state. So ignorant are we of what would conduce to our true interests, that we might seek for and desire those things which would be most prejudicial, and in the blindness of our ignorance might earnestly pray for honours and titles, or for the wealth of the world. "Lord, teach us how to pray!" Give us whatsoever Thou seest fit, even though we ask it not; and withhold from us what may be detrimental, even though we ask it most earnestly. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

MOST glorious, most holy and beneficent Saviour! who is like unto Thee? with whom canst Thou be compared, or to whom canst Thou be likened? High as the heavens are above the earth, so are Thy ways above ours, and Thy thoughts above our thoughts; there is none to whom we can compare Thee. Thou sittest upon the circle of the heavens, and the inhabitants of the earth are as grasshoppers before Thee. But high as Thou dwellest above the heavens, Thou art not unmindful of the humble inhabitants of the earth. Thou notest all their wants, and suppliest them. Beholding all their wanderings, Thou interposest Thy righteous dispensations; Thou preventest the destruction into which they would plunge themselves, and stopping them in their headlong career to misery, turnest them and bringest them by a way they know not of, and savest them even though it be by fire. Oh what love is equal to Thy love? The mother may forget the tender infant, but Thy love can never forget us. Oh what thought can animate the understanding of man more than this: that the great Master of all things, the most potent and mighty King of kings and Lord of lords, the Creator of the world and of the universe of worlds, doth so love the whole of His creatures that not one of them is beneath His notice? Lord, in Thee do we put our trust, and into Thy hands we commend our spirits. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, as Thy goodness extends to all, and thy tender mercies are over all Thy works, may we be kept in remembrance that no good can be done but that has its origin in Thee; and may we therefore honour Thee in the instrument Thou hast chosen for dispensing Thy bounty; as we behold Thy servants executing judgment in behalf of the oppressed, dealing out their bread to the hungry, covering the naked with a garment, relieving the fatherless and the widow, raising the poor from the dust, and visiting the sick in their affliction, may the

remembrance that these actions are so many emanations of Thy heavenly goodness lead to adoring gratitude on our parts that Thou hast endowed a fellow-creature with so many excellencies.

Lord, we give Thee thanks that Thy providence is ever exercising itself for the good of all Thy creatures: and however bitter many of Thy dispensations appear to us, we know that they are necessary, else they would not be permitted. These dispensations operate as medicine to our souls, for which we owe Thee our duty and our thanks equally as for our daily bread. Help us, therefore, to give Thee thanks for all things, and enable us, with Thy faithful servant of old, to say, "I know, O Lord, that Thy judgments are right, and that Thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me," with the intention of doing me good; therefore I submit myself with gratitude to whatsoever Thou shalt order or permit. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY EVENING.

O MOST merciful Father, we pray Thee so to direct us that we may dispense our beneficence and charity to show forth our gratitude to Thee. Suffer us not to fall into any ostentatious or external display. May the first-born of our souls, pure love to Thee, show the divinity of its origin by pure and disinterested love to all with whom we come in contact. As our impure desires, our corrupt affections, and our selfish and worldly loves are ever apt to claim approval by the appearance of external goodness, O help us to remove these as they successively appear; yea, help us to apply the sword of the Spirit for their extermination; for these are the Canaanites which are our constant scourge, and must be cast out, if we would enjoy the land in peace, and possess the power of spiritually showing our gratitude by deeds of charity and usefulness to others. O Lord, we acknowledge that in every case we can do nothing without Thee. Help us, then, in all we attempt, first to address ourselves to Thee, and in all we have accomplished to remember the duty of offering all the praise to Thee; then will our offerings be as acceptable to Thee as they are constant and abundant. Taking heed to Thy commandments will be our peace-offering,—returning good for evil will be to offer fine flour,—doing alms, letting not our left hand know what our right hand doeth, will be to sacrifice praise to Thee,—and forsaking all unrighteousness will be our propitiation: and with all our offerings may we offer salt; the truth of Thy Word, as the savour of righteousness, shall bring us to the devout and grateful acknowledgment that it is Thou, O Lord, operating in us to will and to do, that alone has enabled us to perform any good, and unto Thee alone belongs the glory.—Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, who art the great Physician of our souls, we draw near Thy sacred person imploring Thee to grant us the true faith, that confidence in the mercy of Thine omnipotent power which may embolden us to supplicate Thine aid to heal our spiritual infirmities.

Thou seest our inward condition; there is not a thought in our minds but lo, O Lord, Thou knowest it altogether. Thou beholdest how wavering and unsettled are our affections, and how unstable we are in all our ways. Though we turn unto Thee, how seldom do we exclusively devote ourselves to Thy service! we halt between two opinions; we would serve Thee, but contaminate Thy service by mingling with it the ways of the world and the thoughts of mammon. Thus there is no spiritual soundness in us. Our whole head is sick, and our whole heart faint. O put forth Thy hand and touch us, that our spiritual diseases may be healed. As by the sense of bodily touch, communicating with the outward atmosphere, pure and healthy elements are united to the natural body, so do our communications with Thee bring us into an internal and spiritual atmosphere, which, being breathed into our souls, remove the stains of pollution and evil, and though our sins have been as scarlet, cleanses us, and renders us as white as snow. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, help us to draw nearer and nearer to Thee; for we feel that we cannot approach Thee, however remotely, in sincerity, without being rendered better; and as we successively detect by the light of Thy truth the evils that lurk within us, and by the power of Thy truth dislodge them, so dost Thou draw near unto us; for Thou art ever ready to help all that call upon Thee and in faith desire Thy aid. In Thee resides all the healing virtue of perfect love. To Thee the poorest and most wretched object may come and find acceptance, and hear Thy gracious words, "Thou art loosed from thine iniquity." Thou art no respecter of persons, the poor are at all times equally acceptable to Thee as the rich, and sinners are converted unto Thee; for to call sinners to repentance was one gracious object of Thy mission to our fallen race; and as Thou hast glorified and rendered divine every part of Thy humanity, so may the lowest of the low and the vilest of the vile find in Thee approaches to Thy glorious person, a very present help in time of trouble. Thy ready aid will be afforded to all who desire it, and Thy healing hand extended to all Thy suffering creatures. To Thee, O most blessed Saviour, do we address ourselves. Create within us a clean heart, and renew within us a right spirit, and restore us to spiritual health and soundness. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY MORNING.

O LORD God and Saviour, another week has been added to our lives, and as we labour in this world, so only can we be prepared for our spiritual state. Above all things, O Lord, impress us with the necessity of seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, knowing that obedience to this divine precept will put us in possession of all needful blessings. Help us to banish from our souls all dependency and distrust; and if sorrow come upon us, and our spiritual adversaries by their evil influences strive to cast us down, so that our souls are melted because of

trouble, O interpose in our behalf the shield of Thy power, and arm us with the spiritual coat-of-mail—trust and confidence in Thee; raise us above the fear of man, and teach us by a lively experience that it is better to trust in the Lord than to put any confidence in man.

O Thou infinitely wise, just, and holy Being, go before us, we beseech Thee, this day, and let Thy blessing be upon those who employ us—upon those with whom we labour, and upon our labours themselves. Give unto us prudence to conduct our worldly affairs, and wisdom to improve in spiritual things. May some precept from Thy Word of Truth strengthen us in all we put our hands to, and render even our natural avocations blessed by the truths of Thy Spirit, which operate as causes to produce the effects of charity and usefulness. Hear us, O Lord, we beseech Thee; go before us, and bless the labour of our hands throughout this another week, for Thy name and mercy sake. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY EVENING.

O HELP us, gracious Father, to feel that inward and devout gratitude, which may keep Thy benefits ever in our remembrance, and lead us to delight ourselves in the holy employments of charity towards all the creatures Thou hast made.

O Thou blessed fountain of all love and mercy, inspire our hearts with Thy heavenly grace, and thereby enable us rightly to apprehend, diligently to consider, faithfully to remember, and worthily to esteem and be affected with Thy imperishable and unfailing goodness, and to render all due acknowledgment, praise, and love unto Thee, the fountain of all true blessedness. Inspire us with a devout obedience to all Thy just and wise commands, and fill our souls with adoring gratitude for all Thy benefits. Enable us to join in the song of thanksgiving uttered by the sweet singer of Israel—"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, who only doeth wondrous things; and blessed be His glorious name for ever, and let the whole earth be filled with His glory. Blessed be the Lord God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting; and let all the people say, Amen." Accept, O Lord, these our humble offerings of thanksgiving and praise; and as Thou hast safely brought us to the conclusion of this week, be Thou our protector through the night season. Suffer us to repose under the shadow of Thy wings, secure in the protection of Thy divine omnipotence. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FORTY-EIGHTH WEEK.—SABBATH MORNING.

ANOTHER Sabbath summons to Thy courts on earth. O help us to prepare for that state of never-ending enjoyment which awaits the righteous in Thy heavenly kingdom.

What joys of time can compete with those of eternity? or what is the period of sighing and sorrow in this sublunary sphere, compared with the ineffable cheerfulness and joy which awaits in heaven those who have proved faithful to death on earth? O how gratefully may we give utterance to our feelings, when, after being brought through some

necessary trial, a certain degree of purification has been effected, and by it we are enabled to say, One moment in heaven will make amends for all. And when the trying scene of all shall come, which must come, O how delightful will it be to be enabled to say, The goodness and mercy of the Lord will enable us to surmount even this last trial, the separation of the soul from the body; and while the one returns to the dust, the other shall ascend to Him who gave it.

Lord, we desire to offer our united thanksgivings for these heavenly consolations. Amidst the changes, the decline, the transitoriness of this sublunary scene, under trials and vicissitudes the most grievous, the prospect which Thy boundless love opens before us cheers our souls and elevates our affections to a world where all vicissitudes cease. To this world we hasten: O guide us, merciful Father, to its confines, and admit us, when bodily life concludes, to mingle in the society of those to whom death can never approach. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SABBATH EVENING.

THE day of rest is nearly gone." Blessed be Thy name, O Lord, for the mercies and benefits we have enjoyed. We have united with Thy people in prayer and praise. The living truth of Thy Word has flowed from the lips of Thy servant, our minister; his exhortations have called us to repentance; he has reminded us of the duty we owe to Thee; he has summed up Thy benefits and blessings, bestowed upon us during the past week; he has called our attention to the uncertainty of natural existence, and the absolute certainty of our eternal state; he has inquired of us whether we have prepared ourselves for eternity; and by the enumeration of many evils in which we have indulged, he has convicted us of sin, and shown that unless we repent we must inevitably perish. O help us to profit by all we have heard and read. We would not cloak our sins before Thee, but confess that we are altogether unworthy; that there is none that doeth righteousness, no, not one. We mourn over our past follies, and we pray Thee to grant us Thy grace that we may resist evil for the future.

Blessed be Thy holy name, O Lord, for this day's enjoyments; for though our evils have cast a shade upon us, the light of Thy countenance has still shone upon us, yea, we have heard Thee speaking peace and pardon to our souls! How gracious have been Thy words, "I am He that blotteth out your transgressions for my own name sake, and will remember your sins no more." Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY MORNING.

ADORABLE Lord and Saviour, we Thy unworthy servants approach Thee at the commencement of another day and of another week of labour. We adore Thee for the blessings of the past night, and for the new vigour with which Thou hast endowed us, and by which we are enabled to enter upon our duties with a consciousness of renewed strength; but we devoutly acknowledge that all our sufficiency is of Thee.

Prior to entering anew on the active business of life, we kneel in Thy presence, humbly claiming Thy divine guidance and blessing, while we devote ourselves to our several duties.

In our several labours, while we with industry and perseverance pursue them, O help us to set Thee, our gracious Lord and Master, before our eyes; that so, convinced of Thy omnipresence, we may carefully and earnestly shun everything that has a tendency to alienate our souls from Thee, their rightful Sovereign. The joy and pleasure which this day may be allotted to us, or the trials and perplexities which Thou mayest permit to approach us, shall still find us rejoicing in Thy goodness, or humbly and gratefully submitting to our trials; knowing that in the season of prosperity we should rejoice, and in the season of adversity consider that we are equally the subjects of Thy care, and the children of Thy providence. Into Thy hands, O Lord our Saviour, we desire to commend our souls. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY EVENING.

EVER blessed, glorious, and beneficent Lord God Almighty, we approach Thee at the close of this day with heartfelt gratitude. In nothing is Thy love more abundantly shown than in Thy gracious forbearance. For though we have all sinned, and come short of Thy truth, yet hast Thou borne with us, remembering that our nature is frail, and very prone to evil.

With deep humiliation, O Lord, we confess our sins, humbly praying that Thou wilt give unto us penitent hearts, and assist us to walk for the future with uprightness. Of all the blessings Thou hast showered down upon us, help us to be grateful for the capacity given of attaining higher and more interior degrees in the regeneration. Thou hast given us a capacity for the reception and attainment of truth; thus of acquiring a good conscience. O give us diligence and earnestness, that no opportunity may be lost in securing this inestimable quality. All earthly blessings are enhanced in value, all spiritual delights rendered more exquisite and elevating, as they are received and enjoyed under the guidance and sanction of a good conscience; for a good conscience is Thy approving Spirit within us. As we with faithfulness perform our duties, ever looking up to Thee for help in time of need, as amidst temptations and sensual pleasures Thy truth enables us to repel the seducing blandishments to sin, it is the influence of the Spirit of truth which is the preservation of a conscience void of offence before God and man; and this enables us to rest in peace under the severest trials, and to feel the assurance that He who walketh uprightly walketh surely. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY MORNING.

ALL merciful Redeemer and Saviour, who, previous to the passion on the cross, didst give to Thy disciples the solemn exhortation, "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation;" help us, we beseech Thee, to keep this precept before us.

How secure and careless have we often been; how regardless of the temptations which on all sides have besieged our hearts and affections! How frequently has our heedlessness brought us into trouble and suffering, and even greatly endangered our spiritual as well as our bodily existence! Who has averted the evil? Who has turned aside the peril? Who has shielded us from the arrow that flieth by day, or the pestilence walking in darkness? It is Thou, O Lord; the eye of Thy watchfulness has preserved us, and we can in truth declare that it was of the Lord's mercy we were not consumed.

Lord, we pray Thee, assist us in the duty of watchfulness! O prevent us from tempting Thy providence; from supposing that all that is needful will be accomplished for us if we do but believe in Thy goodness. It is indeed Thy goodness and mercy which hath preserved us hitherto, and we know that Thy goodness and mercy will follow us all the days of our life; but Thy divine precept has commanded us to watch as well as pray, to exercise vigilance, that our spiritual adversaries may not bring us into captivity. We pray Thee be near to us this day, for Thy name and mercy sake. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY EVENING.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful God, with the return of the evening, behold Thy servants, the members of this family, again in Thy presence! Look upon us, O Lord, with the eye of Thy divine compassion. Amidst the multitude of Thy benefits, which are new every day, we cannot say we deserve Thy bounty; our conduct has not been such as even to evince gratitude or a due sense of Thy goodness. O how true do we find Thy divine precept: "Thy sun shines on the evil and on the good; Thy rain descends upon the just and upon the unjust."

We know that we are placed here as probationers, and that our final destination, after the few days of our pilgrimage here are ended, is in an eternal world and state; and yet, though this truth is so well known by all, we are constrained to confess how seldom it seriously occupies our reflection. Each night calls us before Thee, O Lord. Each evening's repose is as a symbol of the final sleep of the body which shall speedily return to the dust from whence it was taken; and yet how thoughtlessly we often retire to rest, as though we were certain of again pursuing the employments of this lower state. O Lord, "so teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom." At the close of each day, when we come into Thy immediate presence, help us to enter on the important but necessary duty of self scrutiny. Search us, O God, and try us, and lead us in the way everlasting. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

O LORD our God, Thou art great; we will exalt Thee, we will praise Thy name for ever and ever. Thou hast renewed our existence! Thou hast safely brought us through the dangers and the darkness of the past night, and once again the cheerful light has dawned upon us, and we

come into Thy presence, Father of light and life, to offer our tribute of praise, and to implore Thy blessing and guidance upon the duties of this day. In this world the duties of Thy children are manifold, conducive alike to their health and happiness, as to the proper performance of the laws of charity and usefulness. Lord, let Thy blessing be upon our labours. Prosper Thou the work of our hands, and let Thy people rejoice in the prosecution of all their honest labours, and let them each eat of the fruit thereof, and be at peace. But not for the purpose of earthly enjoyment hast Thou placed us here; not that we may set our affections on the world, its riches, its honours, or its pleasures; but that we may, by the exercise of our talents, and ministering to our neighbours' good, prepare for that more glorious world where the riches of the spirit, the wealth of the soul, may be enjoyed in fulness; therefore our humble petition shall be to Thee, O Lord, that Thou wouldest be pleased to grant to Thy servants "wise and understanding hearts"—hearts to feel Thy love in every blessing we enjoy; understandings to see and acknowledge Thy wisdom in whatsoever Thou permittest. We ask this for Thine own sake, O Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

O GOD, Thou art the Friend as well as the Father of Thy people. Thy friendship varies not, but is unchangeable as Thy divine nature; and we are Thy friends if we do whatsoever Thou commandest us.

The evening has returned; our toil calls for repose; and as a man's countenance is gladdened by his friend, so we seek Thy face anew. Thou art the friend of all men, even to the unthankful and the evil. Though we have all sinned—not once, but again and again—Thy friendship for us still retains its fervency; yea, it would seem the more we wander from Thee, the greater is Thy love and friendship for us; "greater love hath no man than that he lay down his life for his friends." And in the great work of our redemption this love didst Thou manifest, and in Thy love and in Thy pity didst become our Saviour.

O how different is Thy love, blessed Saviour, how devoted Thy friendship, when compared with that of the world! Here, where the most sacred obligations are violated by infidelity; here, where true and disinterested affection is so rare; here, where we often want the means to render aid to those whom we truly love; here, where in the truest friendship time so rapidly snaps it asunder, and death severs the ties with which the tenderest friends have linked their hearts,—here no perfect, no enduring friendship need be expected; it belongs not, in its purity, to this world of change. Therefore, we look unto Thee, as our unchangeable Friend, the Friend who sticketh closer than a brother; and into Thy hands we commit our spirits. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, who hast graciously promised, that whatsoever we shall ask in Thy name, Thou wilt do it, Thou art the hearer of

prayer, and unto Thee this morning we approach; we call upon Thy name: hear us, we beseech Thee, and instruct us in the duties which devolve upon us. Again have our bodies arisen from sleep. While we lay without sense, without animation, and destitute of any knowledge of danger that might approach us, Thou, Lord, didst watch over us; Thine eye beheld us, Thy hand averted every danger; and having refreshed our bodies, Thou hast permitted our eyes to open upon the cheerful light of day. For this we thank Thee, O Lord, and pray Thine aid to assist us in redeeming the time and serving Thee with greater fervour and spirituality. We confess with shame how slothful and inert we have been in the performance of our spiritual duties; how insensible we have been to Thy benefits, how void of feeling under Thy fatherly and righteous dispensations. Our love towards that which is good has too frequently been cold, yea, almost lifeless; and thus have we given way to temptation, and fallen into snares that threatened to overthrow or suffocate the small remains of virtue left. Thoughtless of the eternity to which we were hastening, seemingly dead to the welfare of the immortal soul, we have stood on the verge of the eternal world in false security, and for many years neglecting the warning of the gospel: "This night thy soul may be required of thee." Lord, help us to awaken from torpor. Help us to redeem the time, seeing the days are evil. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY EVENING.

O LORD Almighty, our heavenly Father, how infinite in goodness and mercy art Thou! There is no limit to Thy love; and it is as universal in its operation as it is boundless in its extent. We have, during the past day, abundantly tasted of it. Thy temporal blessings have been showered down upon us: we have been fed abundantly with needful food; our bodies have been protected by warm and comfortable clothing; and now we meet in our quiet home; and all is the gift of Thy unwearied goodness. O teach us true gratitude for these Thy boundless favours.

But great as are Thy temporal gifts, greater still are those which are spiritual. The gift of Thy Word, full of the treasure of heavenly wisdom, it is impossible for us sufficiently to estimate. When we read its sacred truths, and feel the immensity of their value, we are constrained to break forth in adoring thanksgiving, while we say: "How precious are Thy thoughts unto us, O God, how great is the sum of them! they are more than can be numbered." Another great and precious privilege is the permission to approach Thee in prayer; to hold conversation with Thee; to lay bare our thoughts, and seek Thy counsel; to feel that we have a Father who takes an interest in all we think, act, and do, and whose great object is to shield us from suffering, and prepare us for the purer and nobler delights of the heavenly kingdom. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY MORNING.

INFINITE, omnipotent, and omnipresent God, Thou hast permitted us to arise from our bed, having refreshed our bodies by sleep.

Many have beheld the light of this day, but have found no repose during the night. Many, with Job, have thought, "Our bed will comfort us," but have been tossed to and fro with care and pain, and bodily suffering, while we have reposed in security, have been strengthened for our duties in the world, and are now permitted to appear before Thee in health and sanity. O God, while we thank Thee for the great, the inestimable blessing of sleep, we pray Thee to visit the numerous families whose misfortunes, or whose sickness, or even whose vices, have kept them in states of wakefulness. We remember our own unworthiness, and yet we are freed from sufferings! We know not why this is permitted; we cannot see into the wonder-working power of Thy providence; we know that our transgressions are many, and that we deserve punishment for our sins, yet we are free from pain and others suffer. Is it wrong, O Lord, to plead a mitigation for their suffering; to pray that Thou wilt give rest to the weary, health to the sick, and a reformed heart to the vicious? No, it cannot be wrong, so long as we feel Thou art a God of love, and whatsoever we ask in prayer, believing, we shall receive, if it be proper for Thee to grant. We commit all to Thy good providence. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY EVENING.

O THOU that searchest the heart, and triest the reins, we draw near to Thee this evening. We know by the truth of Thy Word, that a divided heart Thou wilt not accept, and to draw near to Thee with the lips while the heart is far from Thee, can never bring us into communion with Thee: it is the entire heart Thou requirest—that for which Thou art pleading continually, that into which Thou art waiting to enter, in order that Thou mayest bless the receiver. Thy gracious words are, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will enter in and sup with him, and he with me." O merciful Father, assist us to be obedient to this divine call. Why dost Thou stand without, but because of our unwillingness to admit Thee? And whence does this unwillingness arise, but from a want of a just knowledge of self, a knowledge which we might acquire were we but obedient to the truths of Thy Word which we profess?

Lord, assist us to prepare our hearts for Thy glorious residence. Assist us to become child-like, and obedient to Thy divine exhortations; to renounce all anger and animosity, to put away everything deceptive, and to cast out avarice, fraud, violence, pride, and self-conceit; so that, by removing the servants of self, of sin, and the world, we may prepare our hearts for Thy divine abode. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY MORNING.

ETERNAL and immutable Lord God, Thou alone art subject to no change. "The same yesterday, to-day, and for ever," Thou art from everlasting, the wise, the just, the holy; and as is Thy wisdom, so is Thy will; Thou art equally unchangeable, because equally perfect.

O Thou all perfect God, we approach Thee this morning, thankful to renew with Thee our covenant, again to praise Thee for Thy watchful and providential care, again to express our gratitude for the renewal of our existence. All that the world possesses is as transient as this day, which closes another week. All that pertains to time speedily reaches its appointed limit; the verdure of spring, the maturity of summer, the abundance of autumn, and apparent sterility and torpor of winter; every beauty which we behold is fragile; one generation passes away, and another generation comes, and hastens onward to give place to a third; and all, like those which have preceded them, pass away, and the place thereof know them no more. But blessed be Thy name, O Lord our God, Thou hast, through Thy Word, given us an insight into eternity. What are the minutes, the hours, the days, the years, we have passed, compared with that eternity—that never-ending enjoyment which awaits the righteous in Thy heavenly kingdom! O prepare us for this state, for Thy name and mercy sake. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY EVENING.

LORD, while we assemble before Thee in humble prayer, acknowledging the innumerable blessings we receive, while we supplicate Thee for their continuance, while, as a family, we acknowledge unitedly Thy protecting providence, and pray that we may be preserved in the love of Thy truth; we would pray, also, that each may be led to lay bare his heart before Thee, and each arraign himself at the bar of his own conscience. Not only may we inquire of ourselves, as we lay our heads upon our pillows, "What good have we done during the past week?" but also in what evil we have indulged. Teach us to examine our souls, and not merely to feel sorry for our more glaring evils, but to enter into the inner parts of our hearts, and search out the causes of evils, the origin of our most secret faults: and as we explore our hearts, and feel contrition for past offences, praying that Thy good providence may preserve us from evil, for the future may the recollection of virtuous actions, which Thou hast enabled us to perform, bring to our hearts humble gratitude, peace, and joy.

O Lord, grant unto us an assurance that Thy providence ever exercises itself in love towards us for the removal of evil. Impress our souls with the certainty that in all our calamities nothing can separate us from Thy love; and however we may suffer for conscience' sake, nothing can close Thine eyes from beholding us. If we walk uprightly before Thee, Thou wilt assuredly establish the soul in righteousness, however great, in the eyes of the world, may be the appearances of evil against it. Grant us, then, O most merciful Father, Thy gracious assistance, that we may preserve a conscience clear and void of offence before Thee and before our fellow-creatures. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FORTY-NINTH WEEK.—SABBATH MORNING.

HOLY, beneficent, and righteous God, another Sabbath having dawned upon us, we come into Thy presence with heartfelt gratitude, and pray for Thy blessing upon the duties of the day, while we praise Thee for its mercies and its benefits.

O may the earthly Sabbath remind us of the heavenly and eternal one, upon which we shall enter at our bodily decease, and so prepare us for that momentous day, that it may be indeed unto us as the dawn of rest and blessedness divine.

O teach us so to reflect upon that important period which, while it places before us our true state and condition, shall yet in humble confidence enable us to stand before Thee. While here, help us to keep that day so continually in our memories, that, when the interiors of our minds are laid open before us, and the whole course of our life on earth is seen at once, divested of all deception and in its actual condition, there may yet be found our names written in the Lamb's Book of Life. So teach us, and help us to live, most merciful Father, that the period of our passage from time into eternity, may not find us clogged with vices, and beholding our inevitable entrance into the eternal world as the most frightful period of all the epochs which in this life have befallen us; but rather, though we have indeed grievously sinned, and are altogether unworthy of the least of all Thy mercies, yet there may be found in us "some good thing," which may help us to honour Thee aright, and enable us to ascend upward into Thy heavenly kingdom. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SABBATH EVENING.

O. GOD, Thou art our Father, our Saviour, our Friend; we praise Thee for the blessings of this day. It has been unto us a day of rest and of inward happiness; Thou hast made it, by the messages of Thy love, "the joy and rejoicing of our hearts, the glory and the lifting up of our heads." We have heard Thee speaking in Thy Word, and have been instructed that an infinite Wisdom, by an infinite and all-wise providence, is the guide of our affairs. We are not left to chance, nor to the mercy of men, but we enjoy the protection of an omnipotent and merciful God. If rightly guided by Thy Word in our supplications; if whatsoever we ask for, is asked for in Thy name, what can hinder our reception of it? Thou art able to give us all that is needful, and no good thing wilt Thou withhold from them that fear Thee. What difficulty can assail us, that is too great for omnipotence to free us from, or over-rule for our good? Thou, who seest the whole of the universe of worlds at a glance, and arranges the order of existence, that the greatest amount of happiness, consistent with future blessedness, may be enjoyed by all; Thou canst surely bring us through all our trials, and this Thou wilt do, if we look to Thee for help; yea, Thy Word gives us the assurance that our very troubles shall work out our eternal glory, if, when we are tempted, we look to Thee for help and purification. To Thee, then, O Lord, we look for help in every time of need. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY MORNING.

ALMIGHTY God, we Thine unworthy servants approach Thy divine person this morning, and desire humbly to adore Thee for Thy protection of us in the night season, and for the invigoration of our bodies by sleep, by which we are prepared to enter again on our duties in the world.

We praise Thee for the wonderful frame Thou hast bestowed upon us, and for its constant renewal, so that day after day sees no diminution of our strength; for though the labour of the day wearies us, the repose of the night restores the balance of our existence, and enables us to go forth to our work and to our labour till the evening. O Lord, help us to be grateful for this renewal of strength, and help us to use it for the benefit of ourselves and of our brethren, so that it may tend to the glory of Thy holy name.

But not only would we praise Thee for the strength wherewith Thou hast endowed us; but we would humbly adore Thee, that Thou hast created us in Thine image, after Thy likeness. Our strength is indeed but weakness,—below many, yea, most, of the creatures Thou hast made; but the power of our souls is great, and by it Thou hast placed all things beneath our feet, and given into our hands and subjected to our dominion the wide-world creation. O Lord, help us to keep before our eyes Thy divine and glorious person, that we may direct and order our lives and conversation by Thy divine example. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY EVENING.

ADORABLE Lord, our Saviour and Redeemer, at the close of this day we would humbly approach Thee in thanksgiving and praise.

We praise Thee for all the mercies which in our past lives we have received at Thy glorious hands. We praise Thee for this day's blessings, and for the privilege of being able to unite with our family and at our family altar to offer our prayers. Thou art the hearer of prayer. How often, with joyful emotions of soul, have we experienced the fulfilment of our petitions; O how often has the truth been realized by us: "whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive." Through the knowledge of Thy divine beneficence we are made happy ourselves, and from the insect in the dust to the seraph nearest Thy throne, all the various degrees of happiness are so dispensed as to cause the delight of every living thing; and each object that we behold in the enjoyment of its own particular delights is but the reflex of Thy beneficence. Praised be Thy name, O God of love! the earth in its course, the sun and moon whose beams enliven it, the man whom thou leadest on his way, the beasts who feed upon Thy bounty, making glad the pastures, the birds who wing the air, pouring forth their little lives in musical songs of gratitude,—all declare how great Thy goodness is, all join in the universal song to Thee who art good to all, whose tender mercies are over all Thy works. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY MORNING.

MOST merciful, gracious, and ever blessed Lord, the giver of every good and perfect gift, in whom alone we have redemption, even the forgiveness of sins, assist us to look up unto Thee this morning with reverence, that we may present our supplications in a becoming manner, and hear Thee speaking unto us in spirit, and granting our requests.

Our desires are toward Thee, O Lord, and our hopes altogether rest on Thy sustaining hand. There is nothing in this lower state that yields tranquility to an immortal spirit. We seek for rest, but find none: our existence has been spent hitherto in a vain search after happiness. Amidst the corruptions which prevail around us, amidst all the allurements of the senses, in the pleasures and allurements of the world, even among the society of our friends and relatives, there is yet an unsatisfied mind, a craving for rest and peace, a sighing that "we had wings like a dove, to fly away and be at rest." But all attempts to secure happiness in the pleasures of the world, or in the society of friends, end in disappointment: nothing true, or lasting, or practicable, is to be found, save in Thy kingdom, O Lord. Therefore in Thee do we trust; Thou hast appointed this lower state as one of vicissitude and trial, and we pray Thee help us to prepare for higher in Thy heavenly kingdom. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY EVENING.

MOST merciful Lord God and Saviour Jesus Christ, another day in Thy mercy hast Thou granted us, and Thy protecting and guiding providence has safely brought us to its conclusion. O teach us to be humbly grateful, and assist us, while we make mention of all Thy mercies, to praise Thee for all Thy loving-kindness to the children of men.

Thine eyes, O Lord, beheld us, ere we were yet formed. All our days, which should yet be, and of which not one then existed, were written in Thy book; and before we had entered on probation, or knew what trial was, Thy fatherly tenderness had ordered Thy gentle dispensations to exercise themselves on our behalf. And now that many of us have advanced far on our course, we are enabled to call to remembrance how many are the dangers that have been averted, how many wants satisfied, how constantly and uninterruptedly we have been preserved and protected. During the years we have passed in this lower state, we can call to mind the perils to which in our infancy we were exposed, when Thou, O Lord, wast our sole supporter. Our lives have been nourished, our bodily powers daily renewed, our faculties and talents have been unfolded and expanded, and proofs innumerable have passed before us of the superintendence of Thy providence, and of Thy fatherly love and care, from our infancy even to the present moment.

O Lord Jesus! Thou creating Father! Thou redeeming Saviour! we glorify Thy high and holy Name. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

O LORD of life and glory, who art high, inhabiting eternity, yet condescendest to dwell with the poor in spirit and humble in heart, let Thy gracious presence revive us this morning; lift Thou up the light of Thy countenance upon us; cause Thy face to shine, and we shall be saved.

We render unto Thee, at this early hour of another day, our most humble and earnest thanks: the night has passed, and Thou hast protected us. The day opens before us; O continue Thy loving-kindness unto us. Thanks be to Thy mercy, which has enabled this family to meet in worship, and to pay adoration unto Thee, to whom it is alone due, O Lord God of truth. We desire to devote ourselves wholly to Thy service; we would be wholly Thine; we would be Thy servants; with gladness would we consecrate our talents and powers unto Thee, our God, in whom we will trust; our Redeemer, to whom all our love is due; our Saviour, who has rescued us from the powers of death and hell; our Regenerator, by whom alone we and all mankind can be saved.

O how can we requite Thee for all that Thou hast done for us? We have nothing to offer, nothing of our own, nothing worthy to lay at Thy feet!

“Give unto the Lord, O ye kingdoms of the earth, give unto the Lord glory and strength, bring an offering, and come unto His courts,” is the language of Thy divine Word. But what offering, Lord, can be rendered acceptable unto Thee? We have but broken and contrite hearts, and these Thy Word declares Thou wilt not despise. These we offer: accept them, O Lord, for Thy name and mercy sake. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

ANOTHER day has passed. Another step bringing us nearer to the threshold of eternity has been taken. O Lord, we cannot say this day has occupied us as it ought. We, with the greater portion of our fellow-creatures, have been intensely occupied in worldly duties. But O how little of our time has been devoted to Thee; how few the thoughts upon the state to which each day brings us nearer! In labouring for the bread which perisheth, how diligent we are! In toiling for a fortune, or that which we consider a fortune, how unceasing, how unwearied are our exertions! truly do we rise early and sit up late, and eat the bread of carefulness. O that our industry was as untiring, our labour as indefatigable, our anxiety as intense, for the bread which endureth unto everlasting life as for the bread that perisheth! O that we would but seek first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness! O that we had but faith in the gracious promise that by so doing all needful things would be added unto us.

O Lord, we pray Thee help us to wean ourselves from the world; while it occupies our hands, still may our thoughts be heavenward. Help us to make Thy praise our chief business; and at the close of each day help us to institute a strict examination of our conduct, whether our labour has been conscientiously pursued, whether our brethren have been benefited, whether in all our doings we have kept in remembrance the

solemn warning, "Thou God seest me!" Help us to do Thy will, "O Lord, our strength and our Redeemer." Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY MORNING.

O THOU omnipotent God, we adore Thee as the King eternal, immortal; and in Thy divine humanity visible as the only wise God, our Saviour. We draw near to Thee this morning as the only source of life and blessedness; we thank Thee for Thy divine protection during the past night, and we pray Thee let Thy divine influence and Thy presence be with us through this day. But Thou art ever present at all times, in all places. Thou, O God, art everywhere. O what a soul-elevating knowledge is this! When we contemplate the immense magnificence of this our globe, when we consider that years* are requisite, even with the utmost velocity of motion, for a body to reach the sun of this natural world; when we reflect that the countless multitude of stars, though they appear to us but as points of light, are yet themselves suns, the sources of heat and light to attendant worlds; and when we consider that all these worlds are the abodes of human beings, all equally Thy care, and all equally present to Thy omniscient eye, we are lost in wonder at the term omnipresent. We behold it as an attribute of Thy infinity, O Lord God, but such knowledge is too wonderful for us; it is high, we cannot attain to it; it is past finding out. And yet, inconceivable as is the idea, it is certain that Thou, O God, art everywhere! Thou art omnipresent! We glorify Thy high and holy name, O Thou omnipresent God. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY EVENING.

ALMIGHTY God, the Father of all mercies, the God of all consolation, with a deep and humble sense of Thy goodness we approach Thee this evening. Every new day adds to the immense weight of gratitude due to Thee, and ought to excite in us constant watchfulness and earnest endeavours to amend our hearts and keep our thoughts in a heavenward direction.

Daily do we deplore our evils, and yet we seem to continue in them, yea, our hearts appear set in us to do evil and that continually. And still, though we have so frequently slighted Thee, Thou art the same tender, unwearied, and beneficent Father. Still are the dispensations of Thy providence exercised that we may be brought to repentance. Still art Thou calling unto us, "Why will ye die? Return unto me, and I will have mercy upon you! Come unto me, and ye shall find rest to your souls! O what love is equal to Thy love? What forbearance can equal Thine? Had we listened to Thy calls, and been obedient to Thy divine exhortations, we might now have been resplendent in holiness, and the spirit of Thy truth might have gladdened our souls by its purifying principles dwelling constantly within us. But O how blind have we been; how small is the progress we have made in the regenerate life; how little have we exercised self-denial; how much time have we wasted; how little

* Twenty years are necessary for a body to reach our sun.

fruit have we borne ! yea, the harvest seems past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved ! Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY MORNING.

O LORD our Saviour, who art near to succour all Thy children in every time of need, help us, we beseech Thee, to set a watch upon our lips. Help us to remember that Thine eye is never absent from us ! O heavenly Father, help us to keep the remembrance of Thy presence before our mind continually, so that we sin not in thought, in word, or deed ! Lord, Thou hast formed our spirits ; Thou canst not be ignorant of our thoughts, or of the conceptions and purposes of our souls ; help us, then, to keep Thee ever before us ! Thou art infinite. Knowledge cannot be wanting to Thee, who art its very source. O may the recollection of this ever preserve us from evil, and keep us in so watchful and observant a state that we may "stand in awe and sin not."

Our souls are lost in amazement, as we contemplate Thy infinite wisdom, O God. We can but silently adore the amplitude of that power, the extent of that knowledge, which, ever present, permits, or guides, or orders, or arranges, or restrains all the actions, thoughts, and purposes of all men in all worlds. O may these considerations, while they perpetually warn us against committing evil, open to us a never failing source of consolation. In our greatest troubles, in our severest distresses, in our bitterest anguish, Thou, Lord, art near to assist us, to deliver us out of our troubles, to assuage our sufferings ! Knowing this, we will rest in humble assurance that "the Lord of hosts is with us, the God of Jacob is our refuge." Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY EVENING.

O LORD, deeply as we have sinned against Thee, undeserving as we are of the continuance of Thy mercy, still, we pray Thee withdraw not from us the influences of Thy good Spirit, but let Thy forbearance be yet known towards us, and grant us yet time to repent, ere we go hence and all opportunity for repentance be ended. O spare us, that we may recover spiritual strength ere we depart and be no more seen.

Lord, we beseech Thee, help us to keep our consciences in a constant state of watchfulness. Help us to strengthen the things that remain, that are ready to perish ; to quicken into activity and life the truths which have so long lain dormant ; every evening to subject our souls to close self-examination ; and from this moment to determine, Thine aid being vouchsafed us, to live a life in harmony with Thy will. Instructed by the warning which Thy Word is ever iterating, watched over by the vigilance with which we pray Thee Thou wilt infl our consciences, resolutely determined to be no longer the slaves of evil, but by a constant watchfulness and looking unto Thee for help, receiving and exercising the weapons of a spiritual warfare against the enemies of our salvation, may we, however hard the conflict against evil may appear, from this evening determine on the warfare, looking continually to Thee for help,

and feeling the encouraging truth of Thy apostle, that "we can do all things through Christ Jesus that helpeth us." With this resolution and these hopes, Lord Jesus, we commend our souls to Thy gracious keeping. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY MORNING.

MOST merciful Lord our Saviour, we humbly offer unto Thee the sacrifice of broken and contrite hearts. We have nothing else to offer. O that our hearts may be found overflowing with affection towards Thee, desiring nothing so much as a conjunction of life with Thee! O that our hearts were so filled with love and gratitude, that our constant delight and desire was to do Thy will, O God! O that our tongues, like those of the angels, could show forth all Thy goodness to the children of men! But even the hearts of angels are incapable of showing forth all Thy love. Even the tongues of angels lack words to hymn forth all Thy praise! What, then, can we do, frail children of the dust? We can do nothing; for all that has been done for us exceeds the power of men or angels to offer any adequate return; and Thou requirest nothing but our love, our obedience, and a willingness to be guided by Thee; and this not for Thine own sake, but for ours.

Lord, help us to love Thee, and confide in Thee. Help us, that we may praise and adore thee with increased spirituality. Help us to surrender ourselves, all that we have and are, to Thy guidance. Let the Word of Thy truth, which we have read, be our counsellor through this day, and may its power render us strong to resist the temptations of our spiritual adversaries. Let the love Thou hast shown to us, be by us shown towards our fellow-men, and in all our thoughts, words, and actions, may we glorify Thee, the only wise God our Saviour. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY EVENING.

WE praise Thee, O Lord Jesus Christ, for all Thy marvellous kindness towards us. In all duties, in our very acts of nourishing the body, may there be a recollection of Thee, and grant that the soul may inwardly feel Thy constant presence, and constantly offer its devotions unto Thee. As we partake of the nourishment requisite for the body, may we imbibe some portion of Thy Word, and may it be in us as the True Bread, nourishing our souls unto everlasting life.

As the business of the world exercises our hands, may our affections be engaged in labouring to secure Thy love; and may we, in our temporal duties, so feel Thy love impelling us in the direction of usefulness, that in even the ordinary duties of the world the love of Thee and of Thy kingdom may ever shine conspicuous.

Give to us, O Lord, we beseech Thee, a deep feeling of reverence for Thy Word of truth, and grant that it may be our constant guide in the house of our pilgrimage. May it be our guide to keep us in the straight and narrow way. When we are in doubt, may its promises clear our minds from all anxiety, and give us a steadfastness and an assurance

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that Thou wilt never forsake them that put their trust in Thee. And when we feel sad, and our affections languish, may its precious truths bring us consolation, and raise us from despondence to cheerfulness and hope.

In all things, O Lord, assist us to keep our affections and thoughts fixed upon Thee; to be kind to all our fellow-creatures; to be pitiful and courteous; to render, according to our ability, assistance to all that need; and to pursue this course, not to gain the praise of men, but to keep our consciences clear before Thee, and to give Thee all the praise. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FIFTIETH WEEK.—SABBATH MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, Thou art our God; we will praise Thee, we will glorify Thy name for ever and ever. Thy Word is our constant counsellor; may it remind us of the necessity of activity in working out our salvation with fear and trembling.

O heavenly Father, help us to make this Sabbath the beginning of a state, in which sloth shall no more press us down to the earth. We cannot but acknowledge that we have lived too much for ourselves. The scarcely warm remains of faithfulness, which have kept us from the commission of flagrant evils, have resulted rather from the love of self, from the fear of losing our worldly reputation, than from pure love of Thee. Our virtue has been limited to ourselves; our best efforts have scarcely extended beyond the desire to receive as much again from others as we bestow; and our righteousness has partaken much of the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees. Lord, help us to rise out of this lukewarm supineness into the fire of fervent and perfect charity; to be active and diligent in the ways and work of Thee our Saviour. Help us to turn our inmost affections to Thee, O glorious Sun of righteousness; and let Thy divine beams fall warm upon our hearts, and inspire us with holy desires, until our whole souls become enkindled and re-animated with the fervency of heavenly love. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SABBATH EVENING.

ALMIGHTY Lord, our heavenly Father, it is Thy constant aid and assistance which enables the "just to live by faith." The nearer we draw to Thee, the more warm and fervent in spirit do we become, for Thou art in the midst of the heavenly sun, and from Thee flow forth all those fervid beams of love by which the soul is quickened unto eternal life. O may we ever walk towards Thee, the living fire of unity; and Thou art present in Thy Word. "*Is not Thy Word like fire?*" How many warming, how many comforting truths are there! May we, who so constantly hear its comforting truths, unite in the holy exclamation of the man of old—"O how I love Thy Word; it is dearer unto me than thousands of gold and silver." We thank Thee, O heavenly Father, that we have been privileged to enjoy the blessings of another Sabbath. The Word of Thy truth has again refreshed our

spirits. May it act as living water to irrigate our understandings, and may our memories be rendered so retentive that those truths best adapted to our state and condition may be constantly before us.

Bless the labours of Thy servant, our minister: may the day's exercises be to him a refreshment of spirit; may he find fruit from the labour of his hands; and may both we and him render to Thee all the honour and all the praise, for ever and ever. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY MORNING.

LORD, we thank Thee that Thou hast added to our lives yet another day. We enter again upon a new week of duty and of usefulness. Help us, we beseech Thee, faithfully to pursue our respective avocations. Thy Word, which is designed to be a lamp to our feet and a light to our paths, has again been read in our ears. May each of our minds be directed and cultivated by those graces and virtues which it enjoins; and in pursuing our worldly callings, while Thy Word is often brought to our remembrance, may we be careful to use it, whenever we have occasion, with that reverence which its sanctity demands.

As our love is best shown to Thee by the love we bear towards each other, we pray for a spirit of neighbourly love. In all our actions and transactions with the world, may a principle of conscience be our conscience director. May our best endeavours be given to fulfil the royal law, "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." Upon whatever pursuit we are about to enter, may we first examine whether we are likely to do injury to our neighbour; and whatsoever our consciences may show us to be injurious, may we at once abandon. So shall we experience Thy blessing, and Thou wilt prosper our virtuous and honest endeavours, and render them equally beneficial to our neighbours and to our own souls. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY EVENING.

ALMIGHTY Lord our heavenly Father, we pray Thee to help us to reflect upon the certainty of our future state; may it be so deeply impressed upon us, that we may daily die unto sin, until we finally be released from the cares and "burthens of the flesh," and be fitted for the joys and refinements of the Spirit.

Another day hast Thou added to our existence, and with blessings and mercies hast Thou endowed us. From many dangers have we been preserved, and from the infestations of evil spirits have we been protected. We glorify Thy high and holy name, O Lord; we pray that we may at all times exhibit grateful spirits. We thank Thee for the renewed privilege of meeting to worship, and of hearing Thy holy Word read. O grant that we may be so impressed by Thy presence that our minds may in deep solemnity wait to hear what Thou shalt declare unto us. May the influences of Thy good Spirit find a ready entrance into our souls: may the virtues which have their origin in Thee take up their abode in our hearts, and draw us into close communion with Thyself.

While we thus pray for ourselves we would not be unmindful of our brethren. O that the dispensations of Thy providence may reach the perverse and rebellious, and fill them with obedience unto Thee. Strengthen Thou the weak ; comfort Thou the afflicted ; heal Thou the diseased ; and may all the families of the earth be ultimately brought to acknowledge that the Lord is good and doeth good, and His mercy endureth for ever. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY MORNING.

“THE secret of the Lord is with them that fear Him : if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.”

How wonderful is the wisdom which penetrates into all the secret intentions and purposes of the soul ! How infinite in knowledge must that wisdom be which so framed the commandments as to include every species of vice into which frail and erring man might fall ! which sees not only the more flagrant evils which hardened depravity may openly indulge in, but penetrates those more specious evils which clothe themselves in the appearance of good, and which, like Satan, enwraps itself apparently in the drapery of an angel of light, imagining that because it can deceive men, it can also prevent the eye of Thee from beholding its true character.

O God of truth, prevent us, we beseech Thee, from falling into this dreadful state. How can we know what is passing in the inmost recesses of our brother's heart ? How can we know in what his actions originate ? Ignorant as we are, how can we presume to judge ? Never may we speak a word which may prejudice our brother in the estimation of another. Never may we use dark insinuations, or lead others to infer that there is in our brother some evil which is of so deadly a character that it is too frightful even to mention. We have seen this done, and we cannot say we are wholly free from sin. But O Lord most merciful, O God most righteous, preserve us from every species of evil speaking and false witness, and rather let us suffer ourselves than be the cause of others unjustly suffering. In all things may we stand in awe and sin not, and may our actions be as upright as the truth is perfect. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY EVENING.

O LORD our heavenly Father, we desire to confess that we are altogether unworthy of Thy divine goodness. Many thoughts press themselves on our remembrance which have tended to evil rather than to good ; and though we may not have uttered words which slander others, we cannot say our thoughts have been altogether free from it. Nor have we discriminated accurately between good and evil, but both alike have been subjected to our censure ; O who can understand his errors ? Lord, we pray Thee, cleanse us from secret faults, and if this day we have been preserved from falling into grievous evils, may we ascribe the praise to Thy goodness, rather than be lifted up by high ideas of our own righteousness.

For all the blessings of this day, Lord, make us grateful; and O continue Thy divine protection unto us through the night season. To the members of this family who are present, let Thy divine favour be continued, and may those who are absent be guided by Thy wisdom, and feel it a privilege to have their lives directed by Thy providence. And O grant that all the families of the earth may participate in the privileges of knowing, loving, and serving Thee; until at length the kingdoms of this world, shall become the kingdoms of Thee, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, "on those that fear Thy name, shall the Sun of righteousness arise, with healing in His wings.

Lord, let the fear of Thee be constantly before us; let Thy presence go with us this day, that we sin not.

Knowing how prone we are to trust in ourselves, and knowing that this trust must be always insecure, may we from henceforth rely alone upon Thee, and by looking to Thee continually, always have before us and with us the Friend that sticketh closer than a brother. Under a conviction that we are always in Thy presence, may we enter upon our duties, and may we by our example and authority so train our children and our domestics that they too may live under the influence of Thy love and fear. May the elders of this family feel that Thou requirest truth in the inward parts; and may this be so imparted unto those who are entering upon the government of themselves, that their hearts may be prepared and consecrated as temples in which the God of truth may take up His abode. Finally, O Lord, may the youngest as well as the oldest in this family bless and praise Thy holy Name for the privileges we enjoy. When we go forth to our labour, may we lift up our hearts with our hands to Thee in the heavens. When we return from our labour, may we be enabled to say, from a happy experience, "Return unto thy rest, O my soul, for the Lord hath dealt bountifully with thee. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

O LORD our heavenly Father, amidst every enticement to worldly gratification, yea, while we participate in worldly enjoyments, still may the voice of Thy truth whisper to our souls, "Set thine affections on things above;" "Here thou hast no abiding city;" "This is not thy rest."

Ever may we remember, "Thou God seest us." Ever may Thy presence go before us, that we sin not. We have need perpetually to keep Thee in remembrance, for if our thoughts or affections be withdrawn from Thee we speedily fall into evil. But, O Lord most merciful, O God most righteous, Thou knowest our incapability and our foolishness; Thou hast seen our best resolutions, even those made with the sincerest intentions of fulfilment, give way before the seducing pleasures of the world.

We feel an inward love for Thee and for Thy kingdom, yet have our sinful propensities too frequently withdrawn our hearts from Thee; we have again and again been delivered from the infestations of evil, yet have we returned to our wickedness; thus has the law of evil in our members warred against the law of truth in our hearts. O forgive our past failings and evils, and keep us from again relapsing.

May this evening be the commencement of a more interior state of goodness, of a more determined endeavour to contend against evil. O aid us in our endeavours to live soberly, righteously, and godly in this lower world, that we may hereafter enjoy that perfect rest and peace which remaineth for the people of God. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY MORNING.

O LORD our heavenly Father, we desire to thank Thee that Thou hast endowed us with liberty and rationality: Thou hast enabled us to look back on the past, and to look forward towards the future. Thus hast Thou placed us in a position whereby we can behold evil and good. We can reflect upon all the suffering which evil has entailed upon us, and looking to Thee for help, we can avoid sin for the future. We can contemplate, through Thy revealed Word of truth, all the glories of the eternal world and state, and by a life of obedience to Thy just and wise commands, we can so prepare ourselves, that when our day of labour here is ended we can enter upon the fruition of heavenly blessedness.

Lord, help us to make a proper use of these inestimable gifts. Knowing the great change which awaits us, and being enabled to anticipate the period when that change shall take place, O assist us so to lead virtuous, upright, and holy lives, that when age comes upon us we may have a well grounded hope of eternal happiness.

But in all states, O Lord, let Thy wisdom be our guide; help us to walk before Thee in holiness and righteousness. Help us to make prudent provision for the day of darkness which must come upon us. So prepare us, that when the night of natural existence shall have passed, we may enter upon a morning of unclouded brightness and splendour in Thy heavenly kingdom. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, we desire to thank Thee for the vicissitude of the seasons, as well as for the alternations of day and night. When the day is spent, and the night brings us again to our family altar, to offer our grateful adorations to Thee, the God of our life, we have passed a further portion of our natural progress, and are brought nearer that region of perfect blessedness in which there is no night, where there is one unclouded day, where there is the verdure of everlasting spring, and the fruits of an eternal summer, and the joys of an everlasting light and glory, where Thou, O Lord our Saviour, art dwelling in Thy holy temple, and in Thy divine humanity shedding around on the myriads of Thy happy creatures, life, joy, and blessedness.

With these glorious prospects before us, O Lord, endow us with contented and resigned spirits to whatever Thy providence shall see fit to order, to ordain, to arrange, or to permit. In this season of comparative torpor and sterility, may we be enabled to exercise our minds on the mutability of human life; and seeing that nothing in this world is stable, may we so exercise our affections and thoughts in the contemplation of Thy Word of truth, and in the practice of a life of holiness and use, that when the winter of our natural existence is past, we may enter upon the enjoyment of an eternal spring in heaven.

Lord, we desire to commit ourselves to Thy gracious keeping. May parents and children, masters and servants, and all the souls composing this household, in deep and devoted gratitude acknowledge that Thou hast dealt bountifully with them, that Thy goodness and mercy has followed them. And may we and all mankind unite in praising Thy Name, and glorifying Thy goodness. Let the name of the Lord be magnified. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY MORNING.

ALMIGHTY Lord and Saviour, we thank Thee that Thou hast so abundantly supplied us with the symbol of Thy truth, water, and we pray Thee, enable us to contemplate its uses, that we may ever behold it as a symbol of that purifying power, which so essentially contributes to the work of our regeneration. In the support of our natural existence, how important is the element of water! Without it we must inevitably have perished; for though we have the salubrious air, the riches of the earth, the warmth of fire, without water we could not exist; and how wonderful are the changes and the combinations of which it is susceptible. It is indeed a type of Thy wisdom which is infinite. Thy truth extends to all generations; and Thou hast given to its symbol a power of such wonderful elasticity and expansion, that it can be raised into the loftiest parts of the atmosphere, and pour forth its vitalizing properties in the minutest portions. Thou canst etherealize it to the greatest purity, until, as the dew of Hermon it descends on the mountains of Zion, commanding the blessing, even life for evermore: it gives life and odour to flowers, life and verdure to plants, life and cheerfulness to man. And yet how little do we appear to value it! Its supply is so constant that we appear to know not how awful to us would be its cessation.

O heavenly Father, help us to show a more becoming sense of gratitude for all Thy temporal blessings, and help us so to apply their uses for the instruction of our souls that nothing may pass by us unheeded. May Thy truth, of which water is the symbol, irrigate the soil of our understandings. May Thy truth purify our affections from evil. May Thy truth discover to us, and set us free from, error and falsehood. May Thy truth be in us a well of water springing up unto everlasting life. May we pray as constantly for our portion of living water as of living bread, and may we realize the Divine benediction—"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled." Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY EVENING.

AL MIGHTY God, who art the protector and friend of Thy people, again we humbly approach Thy mercy-seat. By Thy mercy have we been sustained and supported through another day, and Thy blessings have descended upon us uninterruptedly. May Thy name be magnified!

As Thou hast bestowed upon us water as a symbol of Thy truth, so hast Thou given unto us fire as a symbol of heavenly goodness. How wonderfully and how equally is Thy goodness diffused. We cannot know of its extent: we may indeed feel the effects of its life-giving properties, for we could not exist a moment, but by Thy goodness; how striking is the truth that Thou art never far from us! "We live, and move, and have our being in Thee." Thy goodness is indeed universal, and so boundless in its operations as to be past finding out; and so, too, do we observe its symbol fire. How useful is it in this our natural state: and yet, how little are we acquainted with it; how subtle is it in its going forth! There is no substance into which it does not penetrate: how truly analogous is it to Thy love, which knows no limit, confines itself to no one object, but burns in its fervent purity for the evil as well as the good! We feel Thy goodness, O Lord, for it has followed us all the days of our lives; its effects are visible unto us, for without it we could not exist a moment; but who among us can describe the infinite variety of ways in which it is diffused? who can know the modes by which it causes all that exist in the universe of worlds to feel the power of its fervent potency—"Such knowledge is too wonderful for us; it is high, we cannot attain to it." But the going forth of Thy love, or heat, is still visible unto us; we are reminded of it at every step we take. We see it operating in a perpetual motion of life; we behold it in all nature, in all sensible and corporeal things; its numberless modes of operation may, and indeed do, frequently escape our closest notice; but wherever we bend the eye of observation, wherever we exercise our powers of thought and reflection, in whatever avocations we engage, still we feel and in a manner behold heat, a symbol of Thy goodness, a symbol of Thee, the everlasting source of life and blessedness. The air we breathe, the water we drink, the earth upon which we live, everything we behold, is permeated with heat; and it must be so, because everything exists by Thy goodness, of which heat is the expressive symbol. Lord, we pray Thee render us more and more sensible of this Thy goodness towards us: and make us more and more grateful for the innumerable blessings bestowed upon us. May our hearts be filled with Thy love, may our actions be guided by Thy goodness, and in every duty in which we engage may our charity be known of all men. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY MORNING.

IN Thy holy Word, O Lord Jesus Christ, Thou hast given to Thy children an inexhaustible mine of wealth. Earthly riches may decay and perish, fraud and subtlety may deprive us of our possessions, and casualties of every kind tend to keep the mind in a chaos of anxiety and suffering; but the wealth of the soul, contained in the everlasting Word

of truth, no casualty can touch, no subtlety undermine, no expenses exhaust. There he who spendeth much may return and dig deep, and obtain much more, and still the mine expands, and displays such vast riches that nothing can exhaust. And this treasure have all they who put their trust in Thee, O Lord, and who daily approach Thee for the supply of all their wants. Give to us then, O Lord, we beseech Thee, wise and understanding hearts, that we may seek the true riches. O God, Thou fountain of all bliss, grant us Thy grace to live by the truth, and exhibit in our lives the power of Thy love, and desire every other gift in subordination to these Divine principles. To Thee, and Thee alone, O glorified Saviour, would we lift up our hearts with our hands, as to our Father in the heavens. What Thou seest good to bestow, however small, however trivial it may seem, shall be for us sufficient. We pray Thee fill our souls with Thy wisdom and Thy love, so shall we be thankful for what Thou givest and for what Thou withholdest. And O assist us to make it our daily endeavour to strive after those acquisitions, to covet those best gifts, which Thou, O merciful Redeemer, waitest freely to bestow on all who humbly desire and ask for them. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY EVENING.

O LORD, who art good and doest good to all, what return can we make for all Thy favours? There is but one return we can make, not indeed as compensation for what we have received, but as evidencing a grateful recollection of what Thou hast commanded: "*Love one another.*" "*If I your Lord and Master have washed your feet, ye ought also to wash one another's feet.*" "*Love your enemies; bless, and curse not.*" O God of love, such are the commands Thou layest upon us, and by obedience unto them we can still make but a poor return for all Thou hast done for us. And Thou hast set before us a perfect example. When glorifying Thy humanity, and thus showing the way we could become regenerate, as were Thy teachings, so were Thy acts. Thou didst pray for Thy foes, for those who were studying how they might most sensibly afflict Thee. While vengeance animated the hearts of Thy persecutors, love and compassion warmed Thine: "O forgive them, for they know not what they do," were the words of divine love. Thus beholding Thee, O compassionate Saviour, may we strive to learn of Thee, and bless those that curse us, do good to those that hate us, and pray for those who despitefully use us and persecute us; that we, by the exercise and imitation of divine sympathy, may become the children of Thee, our Father in the heavens. With hearts filled with love, tenderness, and forgiveness towards those who have injured us, and towards all mankind, Lord, permit us now to lie down and sleep, knowing Thou wilt sustain us. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FIFTY-FIRST WEEK.—SABBATH MORNING.

O LORD most merciful and gracious, the source of all happiness, permit us to approach the throne of Thy holiness this morning, and help us to acquire an ardent and pure affection for Thy divine person,

grounded not so much in what Thou hast done for us (although we ardently pray to be kept in constant remembrance of all Thy divine benefits), as in a pure love for Thy excellency, perfection, and holiness. We would love Thee as children, not as slaves or hirelings; we would desire to be obedient to Thy divine commandments, not from dread of everlasting punishment, but from fear which springs from love. May our obedience be displayed to Thy all-wise injunctions, not from dread of punishment, which attends their infraction, but from a pure love of righteousness, and from an ardent affection to Thy person. May Thy divine words, "Be ye perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect," be ever present before us.

Help us, O Lord, to acquire a spirit of true zeal: zeal which shall induce an active superintendence of all our affections and thoughts, so that we may never fall into that state of coldness and apathy which is so pregnant with mischief to our souls. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SABBATH EVENING.

LORD of the Sabbath, who hast so mercifully blended instruction and happiness this day, we Thy children humbly but lovingly approach Thee. Let what Thou hast seen amiss in us this day be pardoned, O Lord, for Thy mercy sake. We are emboldened thus to address Thee because "like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him." O may Thy fear be ever before our eyes, that we sin not. We have need, O Lord, as Thou knowest, of constant help; we can indeed do nothing without Thee; and we feel that Thy righteous dispensations must be constantly exercised, or we should fall into that dangerous state of apathy against which we are so solemnly admonished in the words "Pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the Sabbath day." No duty can be faithfully performed but by the surrender of some selfish inclination: no precept can be faithfully obeyed without warring either with our passions or our corrupt inclinations; and Thy Word of truth assures us that unless we forsake all that we have, we cannot be Thy disciples. Such is our weakness that we every moment depend upon Thee for aid to resist our besetting sins. But Lord, we thank Thee for Thy gracious promises of assistance: Thou art ever ready to hear and to answer from Thy high and holy place, and "they who wait upon Thee shall renew their strength." In Thy strength, O Lord, we trust. O help us, for Thy name and mercy sake. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY MORNING.

O THOU whose everlasting goodness has by the refreshing influences of sleep again prepared our bodies for the duties of usefulness in the world, accept our humble gratitude for Thy never failing mercy, and grant us still the watchfulness of Thy providential care, that we may be preserved against the snares of our spiritual enemies.

We feel, O Lord, that our own strength is totally insufficient to contend against evil; and all our prudence avails but little against the wiles

of Satan. Past experience has convinced us that the sensual principle, as the serpent, still works by subtlety; leads us gently and imperceptibly, by false reasoning, into the flowery path of pleasure; shuns the straight and narrow way, but conducts us by winding and devious paths, till the gulf of destruction yawns before us. Against these seducing influences, O Lord, we pray to be preserved and delivered. Help us to be watchful over our own hearts, that the enemies of our own household lead us not into evil. Preserve us from the seductions of sensual pleasure, lest we become sinful in fleshly delights. Imbue us with integrity and uprightness, lest covetousness, which is idolatry, usurp Thy place in our hearts. Keep us from pride and presumption, lest we fall into the snare of self confidence, and deny Thee, our only God and Saviour; and O grant us that aid which may keep the passions under control, and preserve us in purity and virtue. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY EVENING.

ADORABLE Saviour, Thou art the first and the last; who wast, who art, and who art to come, the Almighty; the dwelling-place and refuge of Thy children in all generations, their sure defence in the hour of trial; unto Thee we now humbly address ourselves, knowing that according to our sincerity, so will the answer be to our petitions. We can with truth declare that hitherto the Lord hath helped us, and been our protector; and our humble petition is that Thy wisdom may still be our counsellor, Thy strength our defender, and Thy mercy our never-failing assurance.

O help us to awake from that fatal indolence which seeks only for natural gratifications, and which, if continued in, must end in our ruin.

We presume not to address Thee under any idea of our own worthiness, for we have all grievously erred; but we come unto Thee under a deep sense of our evils, and with a full conviction that by Thy power alone can we be rescued from them. Notwithstanding our transgressions, Thou hast hitherto borne with us; and our infirmity and frailty has but added to Thy pity and forbearance. Lord, we beseech Thee, help us to become more vigilant in our duty: help us to sacrifice all our inclinations, that by so doing we may become more completely influenced by Thy goodness. Help us to look with less anxiety on the things which pass away, and to be more earnestly solicitous for those which are eternal. O let Thy mercy hold us up, and we shall walk secure. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY MORNING.

O THOU who hast encouraged Thy creatures to come unto Thee, and hast graciously promised that whatsoever we ask in Thy name Thou wilt bestow upon us, hear us, we beseech Thee, this morning, and let our prayer come up before Thee, our King and our God. Our voice shalt Thou hear in the morning; we will direct our prayer unto Thee; our exclamation shall be, "O God, Thou art our God; early will we seek Thee."

We feel that by looking unto Thee, we can alone be preserved from evil, and be delivered from the infestation of our spiritual enemies. Day by day does the Word of Thy truth convince us of its stedfastness; without Thee we can do nothing. O heavenly Father, we desire most earnestly that aid which shall teach us the force and loveliness of truth, and which shall under all circumstances make us cling unto it. We pray for integrity and uprightness, for that singleness of eye and purity of heart which shall enable us to endure any suffering rather than compromise the truth. May the examples in Thy Word, which Thou hast so openly set before us, teach us that denying ungodliness, our duty is to live righteously in this present evil world. May we give good heed to our own conduct rather than presume to question the lives of others. Above all things, O Lord, keep us from "evil speaking, lying, and slandering," for this is to violate Thy righteous command by bearing false witness against our neighbour. Hear us, O Lord, and help us to do our duty, for Thy name and mercy sake. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY EVENING.

HEAVENLY Father! redeeming Lord! parent of all that is true and good! with the declining day we come into Thy presence, and Thy Word of truth having been read in our ears, we now on our knees humbly enter on conversation with Thee; for prayer, rightly considered, we believe to be conversation with Thee, our God.

Thou art a God of truth, and by Thy truth must our actions be this day tried. Lord, we would arraign ourselves before Thee, and ask our consciences how we have spent the day that is past. Commencing its duties by imploring assistance to pursue a particular line of duty, and knowing assistance is never withheld from those who humbly seek it, how have we laid hold of the aid which Thou, Lord, hast proffered? Have we been diligent to keep our own conduct within the compass of truth and uprightness without presuming to attack the faults of others? Have we faithfully and in all things preserved ourselves from sin, without thanking God that we are not as other men—unjust, extortioners, or even as those living in most flagrant evils? Have we felt that even in comparing our own piety with that of others there is sin? for when our piety reaches its highest degree of purity, what is it but still contaminated by evil: yea, those who have passed from a natural into a spiritual state are not free from sin; the very angels are not pure in Thy sight. Lord, our self examination still convicts us of sin. O help us to repent, for our works are not found perfect by Thee. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

THOU, O Lord, who art mercy and goodness itself, hast renewed our existence, and again hast Thou permitted us to unite in prayer and thanksgiving. Blessed be Thy name for Thy loving-kindness and forbearance towards us. May we show our gratitude by a devout and willing obedience to all Thou shalt enjoin. May a recollection of the pro-

tection extended towards us during the past night, and the permission granted in the enjoyment of another day, cause us to devote it to Thy service.

Help us, O Lord, we beseech Thee, to enter upon the duties of this day under the guidance of Thy love and fear. While we are jealous of our own conduct, and keep an eye of watchfulness over our every thought and deed, may we manifest a spirit of forbearance and tenderness towards others. Above all things, O Lord, preserve us from envy and jealousy. Never may we be guilty of censuring our neighbour, or of insinuating anything to his disadvantage. Thou, O Lord, hast variously endowed us, both as respects talents and station, and Thy wisdom alone knowest what we are best adapted for; may we therefore fulfil the duties of our own station with fidelity, without reflecting upon those who have other duties to perform. O give us to perceive that taking pleasure in exposing the foibles or the vices of others, or such as so appear to us, has its origin in the kingdom of darkness. Rather let us be foremost in calling into notice their good qualities, and like the angels, explore them for good, and bring their good before our brethren, that Thou, O Lord, who art the only source of good, may be glorified in them. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

O THOU who hast invited Thy creatures to come into Thy presence and make known their wants before Thee; O Thou who hast invited us "to ask and we shall receive; to seek and we shall find," we now humbly draw near to Thee; we seek Thy face. O do Thou be found of us, and let the light of Thy countenance be lifted up upon us, that we may experience Thy salvation. We desire to offer our grateful adorations for the blessings of the past day, remembering that all our enjoyments have been the result of Thy free bounty, and that Thy goodness and mercy have followed us all the days of our life. We praise Thee; we magnify Thy name! Thou alone art holy.

Lord, we pray Thee, assist us to become spiritually minded. We confess that our conversation is not always free from reproach, and still less is it holy or spiritual. We do not sufficiently struggle against the indolence, the manners, the luxury, and pleasures of the world. So far from our conversation being in heaven, it tends too frequently to the earth, and partakes of its corruptions. We profess to be believers of thy Word, but pride and negligence prove that we are very imperfectly influenced by it. While we believe that the poor in spirit are in the enjoyment of those blessings which constitute heavenly happiness, we still struggle for pre-eminence, and would wish to be exalted before our brethren. Lord, humble our pride! Give unto us lowly and contrite hearts, and help us to become of the number of those who are poor in spirit. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY MORNING.

O MNIPOTENT, eternal, and glorified Lord, permit us, a few of Thine unworthy children, to approach and adore Thee. We cannot speak

of Thee even in our loftiest language so as to express our ideas of Thy perfection. Heaven is Thy throne, the earth is Thy footstool, and all that heaven and earth contains proceeds from Thy creative hands, Yet immense as is Thy power, and exalted as is Thy habitation, Thou hast respect unto the lowly, and hast graciously promised to raise the poor from the dust, and to set him among princes of Thy people. We are thus emboldened to draw near unto Thee, to acknowledge our dependence upon Thee, and to supplicate those needful blessings essential for our present well being, and conducive to our future happiness. We humbly thank Thee, O Lord, for the blessings of the past night. It is by Thy mercy that we are still continued in existence: Thy power has protected us and preserved us from the assaults of our spiritual enemies: Thy goodness and mercy still continues to provide all things needful for our bodily subsistence. Lord, we give Thee thanks for all Thy fatherly care: we pray Thee that our hearts may be so impressed with Thy goodness, that we may serve Thee in newness of spirit, and walk before Thee in holiness and righteousness until our life's end. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY EVENING.

O LORD God Almighty, we desire to thank Thee for another day's blessings. How wonderful is the wisdom which orders, arranges, and disposes all things for the benefit of Thy creatures! Short-sighted as we are, we too frequently murmur at those vicissitudes which are the very means of conducing to our health and happiness. In what we call the cheerless season of winter, how many blessings lie concealed; how much is there which lies treasured in the cold of the season requisite to preserve in us the health of the body! And how is the vicissitude of the seasons designed to remind us of those alternations of state, so conducive to the improvement and regeneration of the soul! "While the earth abideth, spring time and harvest, summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease." Such are the expressions of infinite wisdom in Thy Word, and so are the alternations of state in Thy creatures. Every season is a season of hope. In our deepest states of suffering, "weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning." When that which is cheerless comes upon us, and our souls seem sunk in the gloom of spiritual cold, still there is the everlasting verdure of Thy Word, which brings to our remembrance consolation and support. "Why art thou cast down, O my soul, and why art thou disquieted within me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet behold Him who is the light of my life, and my God." Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY MORNING.

LORD of all power and might! Thou art the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God our Saviour.

We desire to adore Thee this morning, to offer our early sacrifice, the tribute of prayer and praise. We thank Thee for the Book of revelation, a portion of which we have now read, and O how wonderful is its contents, how filled with infinite wisdom, which in these last days Thou

hast graciously unfolded before us! We thank Thee, too, for the book of nature: in the works of Thy hands we are enabled to behold a faint transcript of Thy heavenly kingdom, and even of Thine eternal power and Godhead. O how boundless is Thy wisdom; how infinite is Thy goodness! Thou hast created man in Thy image, and hast endowed him with a capacity for increasing in knowledge to all eternity; and as he humbly acknowledges that all his ability is derived from Thee, so is he capable of penetrating into the wonders of Thy created universe and of beholding Thy goodness, wisdom, and power in every object that surrounds him. Lord, we glorify Thee for the ability with which Thou hast endowed us, and we pray Thee to assist us in making a proper use of it. In beholding the wonders of Thy creative power in nature, O help us to contemplate the uses they are designed to impart to the spirit, remembering at all times that it is the spirit which quickeneth. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY EVENING.

THE day is spent, the evening has come upon us, and we return from our daily labours. O Lord Jesus Christ, we pray Thee assist us to give up this life of sensuality and self-conceit: and that we may become spiritually minded, assist us to remove our every evil and to perform the work of true penitence. May uncharitableness and animosity be removed, and may we, from Thy example, "love our enemies, bless them who curse us, do good to them who hate us, and pray for them who despitefully use us and persecute us." To become meek and lowly as Thou wert, may we set Thee continually before us; and renouncing pride and ambition, may we take Thy yoke upon us, and find rest to our souls. To do justly and to attain to the perfection of truth, may we from henceforth not only act with scrupulous fidelity in all our dealings, but restore whatever in time past we may have unjustly appropriated, remembering that he who is faithful in that which is great is also faithful in that which is least. Finally, O Lord, may we be deeply impressed with the sanctity and holiness of Thy Word, and in seeking to become spiritually minded, may we approach Thy Word of truth with that degree of reverence which shows a due sense of the purity of that Being whose love is the life and soul of it: so shall it operate upon our wills and understandings with spirit and power, and be to us as the light which shall shine more and more brilliant unto the perfection of light in heaven. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY MORNING.

O LORD, we beseech Thee, amid the vicissitudes to which we are exposed, keep us, as well as our fellow-creatures, in the uninterrupted possession of tranquility.

Riches are often a burthen to their possessor, he knows not how to use them so as to procure the much-desired rest. Even those who acknowledge their all of good to come from Thee, and desire to bestow that good in Thy service, even these labour and are weary because they fear they may not dispense Thy blessings as they ought. There is, indeed, O Lord, in this world nothing to give rest or to allay anxiety; and

in addressing Thy glorious person, acquainted as Thou art with our frailty, we can even speak of the travail of the soul as evidenced in Thyself when tabernacling in the flesh on earth. Displaying Thy divine innocence, yet didst Thou experience heaviness and vexation of heart. How did the wickedness and the wretchedness of the world draw tears of compassion from Thee! Thy doctrine contemned, Thy followers traitors, Thy very sufferings and death sneered at and mocked!

In this world we must have tribulation, but O, cheering assurance! Thou hast overcome the world. In Thee alone can rest and peace be found; to Thee alone the weary come, and Thou waitest to give them repose. While here there must be toil and labour. Our life is but as the labour of a day. But Thou art our consolation, O Lord! To Thee we look for help! On our shoulders we humbly bear Thy yoke: O do Thou give rest to our souls. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY EVENING.

O THOU sanctifying and regenerating Lord! while we review Thy mercies, we think with astonishment and wonder, yet with thanksgiving and praise, on all the love and tenderness with which we have been visited. As long as we have been inhabitants of the world, Thy goodness and truth have followed us. Initiated into Thy Church, the first tokens of Thy love were sprinkled upon us by the correspondence of Thy truth, and we were baptized with water unto repentance. Trained by the tenderness of parents, it was Thy love that was seen in theirs, Thy love that prompted theirs; and Thy wisdom, modified to meet our infantine capacities, spoke to us in the simple accents of their parental regard. And now that in many of us years are mature, O assist us to receive the unction of Thy Spirit that we may become regenerate. As we advance in years may the recollection of what we have passed through and of Thy providential guidance render us more humble, more grateful, more fervent in spirit, more confident in faith, more devoted in love.

Help us in all things to repose ourselves on that goodness and mercy which have followed us all the days of our life. Should temporal prospects change,—if for the better, aid us to be more useful and to exercise our prosperity for the benefit of all Thy creatures; if for the worse, aid us that we may submit to the change, knowing that it cannot long endure, but when it has accomplished the end for which it was permitted, it shall tend to draw us into closer communion with Thee. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FIFTY-SECOND WEEK.—SABBATH MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, Thou art the Lord of the Sabbath; unto Thee do we direct our prayer and will look up.

Thy consolations are still with us in the house of our pilgrimage: he that heareth Thy Word and doeth it, he it is that loveth Thee, and Thou wilt love and reveal Thyself unto him, and he shall be one with Thee, even as Thou art one with the Father. O gracious promise! O cheering hope! Invigorated by it, we can abide the day of Thy coming, with

humble confidence; for if we be obedient to it, we know that Thy Word is true and righteous, and Thou art ever ready to give Thine aid as we in sincerity implore it. Lord we beseech Thee, let the last day, the day of judgment, which follows the day of our departure from this world be, continually before our eyes, that while we live in certain expectation of it, our hearts may be undergoing regeneration while our lives are engaged in works of charity, piety, and usefulness. It is appointed unto all men once to die, and after death, the judgment. What if this day prove to us or any one of us the last, are we prepared to meet it? Alas, no! O spare us, Father of mercies; yet give unto us time to recover our strength, and from this moment till the moment we are called away, help us to serve Thee with greater spirituality, and walk before Thee in newness of life. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SABBATH EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, Thy Sabbath to us has in our wilderness state blessed us with Thy gracious presence. Thou hast been in the midst of us. In the season of suffering our prayers shall be offered unto Thee, O Thou who art the hearer and the answerer of prayer; and when our way seems dark and perplexed, and intricate, and we know not where to tread, to Thee, most blessed Saviour, will we lift up our hearts with our hands, who art the way, the truth, and the life.

When we behold Thee in Thy works, how majestic, how great, how glorious art Thou! When we consider the boundless compass of Thy dominion, and the amazing power and providence which guides and governs the whole, we view our insignificance with wonder, as we exclaim, Who are we that God should regard us, or take an interest in our affairs? "What is man that Thou art mindful of him, or the son of man, that Thou visitest him?" While we wonder at, and adore the glorious majesty of Thy divine person, and while Thy Word instructs us that Thou art high, inhabiting eternity; we are comforted by the reflection, that Thou dwellest also with the poor in spirit, and Thou art so condescending as to take up Thine abode in the hearts of the contrite ones. None of Thy creatures are below Thy notice; the worm that creeps, the bird that flies, the beast that roams the forest, the man that worships, and whom Thou hast made in Thy image, all depend upon Thee, all wait upon Thee, and Thou satisfiest the wants of every living thing. We praise Thee, O God, we acknowledge Thee to be the Lord. Heaven and earth is full of Thy goodness. Glory be to Thy name, O Lord most high! Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY MORNING.

INEFFABLY wise, good, and glorified Lord, Thou alone canst guide us through the devious paths of the world; Thou only canst make us dwell in safety; and the affairs upon which we are about to enter, Thou alone canst prosper.

In entering upon the engagements and duties of this week, we pray

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for Thy divine direction ; may our actions originate from the desire of usefulness grounded in that charity which delighteth not in iniquity, but delighteth in the truth : and may there be such a settled determination to pursue with integrity the duties of our station, that, Thy grace assisting us, we may turn neither to the right hand nor to the left, but keep ourselves unspotted from the world. Lord, help us to set a watch upon our lips that no word going forth unadvisedly may compromise those with whom we have dealings or communication. May we be slow to speak, and never speak without reflection. O help us above all things to avoid detraction, remembering the caution contained in the admonition of the apostle, "Behold how great a matter a little fire kindleth." We have frequently seen, even in making covert insinuations against others, which contain no direct charge of criminality, how much of suffering has been caused. For a time the charge seems covered, but, like the fire, it lies apparently but not absolutely suffocated ; it breaks forth ultimately at a time we do not expect, and causes misery indescribable ; it touches at first but one, it continues its course to a family, it pursues its progress to a city, and finally empoisons the length and breadth of a country. O what a mountain of evil arises from speaking unadvisedly ! Thou, O Lord, before whom the consequences of sin are ever present, seeing to what excesses we might run, unless cautioned against thoughtless expressions, didst give us the solemn admonition, "Verily I say unto you, every idle word that men shall speak they shall give an account of in the day of judgment." O God, preserve us from thoughtless and idle speaking, and teach us to be watchful over our every thought and deed. May we never look with harshness and uncharitableness upon the failings of others, but may we be very jealous of our own conduct. O give us to see that the great business of this life is to prepare for that which shall never have an end. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

MONDAY EVENING.

O LORD, Thou art our God, we will exalt Thee ! Thou art our Redeemer, we will magnify Thy name, for "Thou hast redeemed our souls from death, our eyes from tears, our feet from falling." Who is like unto Thee, Lord God of truth ? What love can equal Thine ? Thou art our Father, Thou art our Saviour, Thou art our unchangeable Friend. Through this day Thou hast safely conducted us, and although no danger has crossed our path and no obstacle has appeared to impede our progress, yet the hand of Thy providence, unseen, has safely guided us ; it is of Thy mercy, because Thy compassions fail not, that we have been sustained and brought through all the duties of this day. O how wonderful is the goodness manifested in our constant preservation by Thy fatherly love ! If Thou hadst dealt with us after our evils, and rewarded us according to our transgressions, we must have died in our sins and perished everlastingly. But such was Thy love that Thou didst not leave us a prey to our spiritual enemies. Amidst all our evils, there was still the tenderness of divine compassion extended towards us ; and when the world would have perished by reason of iniquity, Thou "in Thy love and in Thy pity didst redeem us, and become our Saviour."

We desire, O Lord, to express our heartfelt gratitude for Thy wondrous display of love and mercy. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY MORNING.

THE day has again called us to our labour, and we humbly thank Thee, O Lord, for the refreshing influences of sleep, which have renewed our existence and rendered us again fit to perform our daily duties. We pray Thee, O Lord, let Thy presence go with us this day. Pour into our affections and thoughts the influences of Thy good spirit, that Thy fear may be ever before us, and that Thy love and truth may dwell in our inmost parts. May we be invested in the armour of the Spirit of truth. May the shield of faith, and the sword of the Spirit, and the helmet of salvation, be our defence against Satan and his agents, those evils and fables, which so frequently imprison the soul, and alienate it from its rightful sovereign. O grant us a safe deliverance from their wiles, and enable us to serve Thee with singleness of eye and purity of heart. May the members of this family, while they see Thy hand in their daily preservation, and enjoy the blessings so unremittingly bestowed upon them, display a spirit of humble and grateful love. May they die unto self and live unto Thee; may Thy light so shine in their lives as to render them patterns unto others, glorifying Thee our Father in the heavens. Finally, O Lord, help us, that we may always be found running in the way of Thy commandments, and that our latter end may be peace. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

TUESDAY EVENING.

O GOD, the Creator, Redeemer, and Protector of Thy people; Thou art great, and greatly to be praised. There is none equal unto Thee, O Lord God of truth. Thou art infinite in goodness, wisdom, and power, and in Thy name shall all the families of the earth be blessed.

We Thine unworthy servants approach Thee this evening, knowing that Thy goodness and mercy have followed us all the days of our life; we feel confident that Thou wilt be our guide even unto death. We acknowledge our transgressions, and our sins are ever before Thee; but O Lord most merciful, O God most holy, let Thy gracious pardon be extended towards us, and assist us to perform the great work of repentance. Preserve us from ungodliness and worldly lusts; preserve us from scepticism and infidelity; prevent us from following a multitude to do evil, and in all things assist us to recover the image and likeness in which we were originally created. In our return unto Thee, O let the Word of Thy truth be our increasing joy and delight. May its solemn warnings bring to our remembrance the uncertainty of our present existence, and keep us in a constant state of preparation to meet Thee, our God and Saviour. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

ALMIGHTY God, our heavenly Father, another day has by Thy goodness dawned upon us, and calls us into Thy presence. Our first thoughts, our first affections, are due to Thee; accept them, O Lord, as the morning sacrifice, and let our chief desire be to do Thy will. We have been preserved during the past night by Thy divine providence. Thou hast refreshed and invigorated us by sleep, and rendered us strong to labour. What can we offer unto Thee for all the benefits Thou hast conferred upon us? There is nothing that we can do to show our gratitude but obedience to Thy commandments, and this obedience we can only pay by constant assistance from Thee. We wait upon Thee, O Lord, that we may renew our strength. O help us, for without Thy aid all our efforts must end in disappointment. Assist us to set Thee constantly before our eyes, and as Thou art a God of order, help us to be orderly in all our pursuits. Thou hast given us our several employments, and appointed us individually to move in some sphere of active duty. Give unto us a method of so fulfilling our duties, that there be nothing of confusion in our pursuits, remembering that "Thou art not the author of confusion," may we so labour that by an imitation of Thee even in our natural pursuits, we may evidence the sincerity of our faith. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

O LORD God almighty, we thank Thee for the blessings and protection of the past day, and for all the mercies we have enjoyed hitherto, and we approach Thee this evening to invoke Thy further protection, and to pray that Thou wilt guard us through the perils and dangers of the night.

With thankful hearts we acknowledge Thy goodness in bestowing upon us Thy holy Word; make us to walk in Thy statutes; "Give us understanding that we may keep Thy law, yea, that we may observe it with our whole heart."

Lord, help us to contend against the evils which infest us; and deeply impress us with that spirit of true devotion which shall enable us to hear and do Thy will. May the example set by Thee when tabernacled in the flesh be ever imitated by us. May patience, perseverance, endurance, gentleness, and disinterestedness distinguish us in all our actions towards others. May this temper and spirit not only be exhibited towards those who love us, but towards all. O may Thy words, "Love your enemies, bless them which curse you, do good to them which hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you," be ever borne in remembrance that so Thy example may be operative upon us, and we may learn to die daily unto self. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY MORNING.

MOST gracious, most merciful, and holy Lord God Almighty! who is like unto Thee? who is able to compare with Thee? Infinite in wisdom and power, from everlasting to everlasting Thou art God. Infinite in goodness, Thy love is universal, and Thy mercy extends to all Thy creatures. Again have we tasted of Thy bounty; and it is of Thy mercy that the refreshment of sleep has been granted us, and we are endowed with strength to enter again upon our various duties. Our humble prayer to Thee, O Lord, is that we may be enabled to keep Thee ever before us, that we may learn of Thee, and follow Thee in the regenerate life.

O Lord, we acknowledge how full of evil our hearts are: yea, there is no soundness in us. The whole head is sick, and the heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked. The loves of self and the world have usurped dominion over us. How variously have our passions infested us and alienated our souls from Thee! Pride and vanity, hatred and revenge, craft and subtlety, depreciation of our neighbour and an exaltation of self have at times completely silenced the pleadings of Thy voice within us. We have indeed been very guilty, and it is of Thy mercy that we are not consumed. Day after day passes with but little progress made in the regenerate life. Years pass on, and still we are in the bonds of iniquity. Another year, another period of our existence is nearly passed, and still we are unprepared to meet Thee if it should please Thee to call us. O heavenly Father, help us to redeem the time, seeing the days are evil. Assist us to keep our eyes fixed upon Thee and to follow Thee. Help us to know Thy will and to do it, by abandoning our own wills and all that belongs to them. Lead us by Thy divine hand in the paths of religion and virtue. Prepare us for the important change which cannot be far distant, but which may be nearer than we have any conception of. Draw us more and more within the sphere of Thy love, till we are wholly and altogether Thine. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THURSDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, our heavenly Father, help us to walk in "that more excellent way" which is the design of all Thy dispensations, to bring us into that "straight" that "narrow way," the termination of which is everlasting life. May our principal desire be to secure the blessings which await the righteous. May we reflect deeply upon the power which goodness and truth, wherever they are affectionately received, exercise upon the life and conversation. May we also think with gratitude upon the influence they exercise over the most profligate, even in this dark world of sin and sorrow, and call to remembrance that a time will come when righteousness shall triumph—when the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdoms of our Lord Jesus Christ. O Lord, our Saviour, most earnestly do we pray Thee that Thy kingdom may be hastened; that a spiritual reformation may bring the world to Thy footstool, and that all may acknowledge Thee, from the least even unto the greatest. As our days pass rapidly on, may our duties be more and more faithfully discharged, until the sun of this world shall no more

give us light, but having finished our course here, we shall pass into the eternal world, where Thou, O Lord, shalt be unto us as an everlasting light, and the days of our mourning shall be ended.

We implore Thy divine blessing upon all the members of this family, and upon all our fellow-creatures, and into Thy hands we resign our spirits. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY MORNING.

ETERNALLY blessed and merciful Saviour, we desire to approach Thee this morning, and to glorify Thy name for the infinite goodness which is displayed unceasingly towards us, who so little deserve Thy favours. When we survey the universe, the work of Thy hands, nothing can exceed Thy greatness; and when we behold the care and fatherly solicitude with which Thou regardest and providest for Thy myriad creatures, Thy goodness is exhibited before us, and like Thyself is infinite and past finding out. Thy greatness so stupendous, inhabiting Thy high and holy place; but Thy goodness, so universal, stoopeth to the lowliest of Thy creatures, and while Thou veilest Thy greatness, and over all Thy glory spreadest a covering, Thy goodness is seen in the perfect love which is showered down on all Thy creatures.

When we approach the Word of Thy truth, Thou softenest its brightness by the clouds of the letter in which it is enveloped. Thou adaptest it to every state and condition of men; Thou consolest the afflicted; Thou raisest the humble; Thou givest Thy bread to the poor; Thou visitest the meek with Thy salvation; Thou healest the broken in heart, and bindest up their wounds; the afflicted cry unto Thee, and Thou hearest and answerest them, and Thy goodness penetrates to every state of suffering—ever anxious, ever ready to heal the broken in heart. Lord, we adore Thee; we glorify Thy name; we praise Thee for all the marvellous acts of Thy love; Thy goodness is indeed universal in its operation, and every creature participates in its blessed influence. But it is the poor in spirit, the meek and lowly, that enjoy Thy goodness in all its fulness. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FRIDAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, help us to keep the divine precept, "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness," ever before us; and may our intercourse with the world never interfere with this, the first and greatest of our duties. May no unrighteousness disfigure our worldly occupations. May the truth "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself" convince us that we must not separate our duty to our neighbour from that of our God. We are not to pursue one line of duty when in the immediate presence of our Saviour, and another when we associate with our brethren in the world. The kingdom of God and His righteousness must be primary, both in the church and in the world, in the sanctuary and in the house of merchandise. In dealing with our fellow-men, help us to practise candour, veracity, and justice. In whatever field of

employment we may be occupied, may fidelity to our trust and conscientious discharge of our duties at all times distinguish us, May our conversation be such as becometh the gospel. May our light so shine as to reflect the glory of our Father in heaven, and O help us so to labour in the discharge of our duties in this world, as to be prepared for the enjoyment of eternal blessedness when our day of labour in this world is ended. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY MORNING.

O LORD our Saviour! that we might learn our duty and ever have a model for imitation before us, Thou didst even condescend to take upon Thee our low estate; Thou didst assume our nature, and as a man among men Thou didst tabernacle, and Thou didst make the process of Thy own glorification, a pattern whereby we might become regenerate, leaving to us the injunction "*Learn of me.*" Lord, help us to be obedient to this divine injunction, that we may not any further disfigure the glorious form in which thou hast created us; but that we may rather strive to recover the likeness which sin only has so fearfully marred. By learning of Thee, and bringing all our powers, talents and faculties to Thy service, may we strive to display before the creatures of earth a faint resemblance of those perfections which are seen in purity by the creatures in heaven, who behold Thy glorious person.

O help us that we may not abuse any of the senses Thou hast bestowed upon us. May we keep our ears open, and hearken to what the Lord our God shall say unto us in His Word; and may we ever display a willing obedience to all Thou shalt enjoin. May we elevate our thoughts to Thee as the light of the world, and keep our mental eye open, so that all the perfections of Thy nature, and all the truths of Thy Word, in the inmost of which Thy Spirit resides, may fill our understandings with the knowledge of heavenly wisdom. And, O merciful Father, aid us in the exercise of all the powers of our souls, that they may usefully act upon all the members of our bodies, so that when these latter shall fall into decay, and the body return to the dust from whence it was taken, the soul, prepared for the high beatitudes of Thy kingdom, freed from the trammels of mortality, shall mount up to Thee, the Father of light and glory. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

SATURDAY EVENING.

THOU all-sufficient God, Thou hearest, Thou answerest, Thou fulfillest the entreaties of countless millions of beings. When Thou didst give utterance to the words, "Men ought always to pray and not to faint," Thou hadst already pre-determined to accept the prayers of all the countless multitudes of Thy children, who petitioned Thee in obedience to Thy commands, and in accordance with Thy instructions. No humble and pious heart can ask of Thee in vain. No enlightened and uplifted eye can seek Thee without being found of Thee. No earnest desires can be offered without the door of Thy kingdom being opened. Blessed be

Thy name ! every one that asketh receiveth, and he that seeketh findeth, and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. O Lord, continue to Thy servants, unworthy though they are—O continue unto us Thy goodness this evening, and watch Thou over us, O Lord God of our salvation. Thy support has upheld us during the past day ; continue it, O Lord, we entreat Thee, through the night, and let Thy children rest under the shadow of Thy wings, and feel the protection of Thy fatherly love ; and let the nations feel Thy goodness also ; open their eyes, Lord, that they may see all Thy loving-kindness. Those who are grievously attacked and persecuted, O release them from their enemies ; let them taste Thy love. Those who are in poverty, O dispose the hearts of the rich to assist them. Let them, the rich and poor, rejoice together ; O let them taste Thy love. Those who are in sickness, or in the extremity of death, O be near them ; let them taste Thy love. Bring all men near Thee ; let them taste and see that Thou art good. Blessed be Thy Name for ever and ever. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

END OF THE MORNING AND EVENING PRAYERS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

Prayers for Various Occasions.

THE DIVINE PERSON AND CHARACTER OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, ACKNOWLEDGED IN THE DIVINE UNITY.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Lord God and Saviour, we would approach Thy divine majesty; we would adore Thee as our Creator, Redeemer and Saviour; and we would with humble confidence repose ourselves on Thy mercy, as the rock of our salvation, our God in whom we will trust, our high tower, and our deliverer.

We rejoice that we are permitted and encouraged to make known our wants unto Thee, and while we are richly supplied with all temporal benefits, we desire to acknowledge Thy goodness in blessing us with spiritual privileges. But the greatest of all privileges is the knowledge Thou hast vouchsafed us in these last days of Thine own divine person. We behold Thee, not as an "unknown God," but as personally manifested before us, as "JESUS CHRIST, in whom dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily." We can approach Thee without distraction; and in the multitude of Thy divine perfections, whatsoever name Thou revealest Thyself by, whether Creator, Redeemer, or Saviour, we still see the same glorious Person, the same beneficent Parent, the same all-powerful Deliverer,—Jesus Christ in His divine and glorified humanity!

Having wrought our redemption, and conquered all our spiritual enemies, Thou didst command the early disciples to go forth into the world and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Then didst Thou confirm, by this divine injunction, the existence of the glorious Trinity. Then, while the promise of the Comforter, the Spirit of truth, was given, Thou didst identify Thyself with the promise that THOU wouldst be with Thy faithful disciples even unto the consummation of the age. Thus Thou not only revealedst Thyself as our Creator, Redeemer, and Saviour, but as the Comforter, the Holy Spirit. O Lord, we adore Thee as the only wise God our Saviour.

Lord, teach us ever to know the ONENESS of Thy glory. In GOODNESS, in WISDOM, in POWER, in PROVIDENCE, in REDEMPTION, in SALVATION, in Thy WORD, in Thy KINGDOM, as THE LIFE OF HEAVEN, and AS THE LIFE OF THE WORLD. Thou, THE ESSENTIAL LOVE, ART ONE,—the DIVINE ONE, the ONLY ONE TRUE GOD, AND JESUS CHRIST THY HIGH AND HOLY NAME. May that Name be magnified throughout the world. O hasten the accomplishment of the prophecy, we beseech Thee, when mankind shall universally acknowledge "ONE GOD AND HIS NAME ONE."

O God of our salvation, enable us at all times to repose under the shadow of Thy wings, and to know no other source of safety. Our spiritual enemies watch over us; but it is for the purpose of securing an opportunity of injuring us; and without Thy watchfulness, vain would be our own efforts; for we feel and know that "unless the Lord keep the

house, they labour in vain who keep it. Unless the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain."

Hold Thou us up, we beseech Thee, and we shall be safe. With this petition, O Lord, we commit ourselves to Thy gracious keeping. We trust in Thee, O Lord; shield Thou us this night, we beseech Thee. We have opened our hearts before Thee; we have acknowledged our evils; O forgive us. Grant us grace to help in every time of need, and now enable us to repose in safety under the guardianship of Thy good providence. We would be at peace with all men,—we would feel no enmity towards any. Let Thy blessing be with us, and with all the families of the earth. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FOR THE NEW YEAR.

O MERCIFUL and redeeming Lord, it is through Thy goodness that we are again permitted to behold the commencement of another year. Still on this earth, we are the subjects of Thy mercy; still is opportunity afforded us for preparing for the habitation of Thy kingdom in the heavens; still is there a season for repentance; O may we at once lay hold of it, and so improve it, that when the call for our removal shall come, we may be enabled, with humble confidence, to respond to it, and at once enter into Thy presence; and with humility, yet with a grateful sense of Thy mercy, await Thy decision upon our eternal state.

The days that are passed are gone for ever. The seasons of improvement which they presented cannot now be laid hold of. They are of the past, and the evils in which we have indulged are with them. Written on our books, our evils can only be blotted out by increased diligence, labour, and watchfulness, and by an abandonment of everything evil in heart, and false in understanding.

But still we feel it our duty to reflect upon the past; not with regret that the days which are past can be no more enjoyed as time with us, but with regret that we have so lamentably mis-spent it, and with determination for the future, and with Thy assistance, to redeem it.

How many hours, and days, and years of the season of our probation have we mis-spent, or dissipated, or spent in idleness, or even in culpable pleasure. We cannot look back upon our squandered time without bitter anguish and remorse. We cannot look back upon Thy many calls, so unattended to, without mourning over our hardness of heart. O help us, heavenly Father, to redeem the time: and as an earnest of our desire help us to return unto Thee, that Thou mayest have mercy upon us, and grant us time to recover our strength before we go hence.

On this first morning of the year we humbly devote ourselves to Thee and to Thy service.

Thou knowest what is best for us, and our humble petition shall be,—Go Thou before us, O Lord! Let Thy righteous dispensations be so arranged, that we may follow in the order of Thy providence; not only without repining, but with cheerful spirits.

Let our employments be such as shall best conduce to promote our own regeneration, while they tend to the good of our own fellow-creatures,

and the glory of Thy holy name. Be Thou our help in time of trouble; our guide in the hour of danger; our shield to protect us from the assaults of our spiritual adversaries; our friend in life, and our stay in death.

Lord Jesus Christ, our only God and Saviour, to Thy supreme wisdom we commit ourselves. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

PRAYER FOR ASSISTANCE, THAT THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS MAY BE FIRST SOUGHT BY US.

ADORABLE Lord God and Saviour, whose divine instruction has been communicated unto us, with the view of eternally blessing us in Thy kingdom; help us so to profit by it that every state and condition in this life may be rendered subservient to Thy divine counsel.

While we are upon earth, and its duties claim our attention, O assist us so to give effect to our duties by the influences of Thy Spirit, that everything in which we engage may speak of Thee and of Thy righteousness.

Honour and riches, health and happiness, are the possessions for the acquirement of which the whole world seems labouring. The first thoughts of the morning, the last anxieties of the evening, are, in many, perhaps in most of us, but the literal expression of the words,—“Who will show us any good?” And these thoughts, these anxieties, are only evil when they usurp the supreme region of the soul, instead of sitting in the lowest place. We therefore humbly pray to Thee, most merciful Saviour, for assistance to keep these desires in their proper place. Give us a right spirit; fill our hearts with holy influence, that godliness, which is profitable for all things, may bear rule, and direct every affection, and sway every thought, and act as the soul of every desire to prepare us for our future existence. Teach us to walk uprightly before Thee; so to exercise our thoughts and the powers of our understandings, that Thy truth may be the constant light to guide our steps. In everything we propose to accomplish, assist us first to seek counsel at Thy Word, and judge how far it is in harmony therewith, and in this inquiry help us to guard against self-deception; suffer us not to impose upon our conscience by the cry of peace, when there is none; but so bring us under the guiding influence of Thy providence, that we may, in whatever employment we may engage, gain the true, the imperishable riches of Thy kingdom. And what Thou bestowest as the reward of our labour, aid us judiciously to use, that we may be equally blessed in its acquisition and distribution. Lord, help us to be godly, virtuous, and charitable; to love and serve Thee with singleness of purpose; to live under the exercise of constant watchfulness in our thoughts, in our desires, and in the purposes of our lives: and whether in prosperity or adversity, in sickness or in health, still may our desire be to “seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness,” under the conviction that “all things needful will be added unto us.” Amen.

Our Father, etc.

A PRAYER FOR MINISTERS.

WE bless Thee, O Lord Jesus Christ, that Thou hast instituted a ministry, whose duty it shall be "to hear the Word from Thy mouth and give the people warning from Thee." O how great is their responsibility! how awful their charge! how solemn and portentous the language in which they are addressed in Thy Word! If they fail to admonish the wicked, so that the wicked die in their iniquity,—“I will,” says Thy Word, O Lord, “require their blood at the watchman’s hand.” They indeed stand between the living and the dead, to stay the plague. O awful consideration!—their own souls to save, and hundreds of others of whom they take the charge, dependent, in a great measure, upon them for instruction in doctrine, for reproof, for correction, that they may be furnished unto all good works. They have, indeed, need of all Thine aid, O Lord; for what man could bear their burden unassisted? They have need of sympathy and assistance from all: of the prayers of their people, and of the co-operation of the elders of their church.

And yet how unmindful are Christian worshippers of all this! how little of sympathy frequently exists between a minister and his flock? How cold and lifeless are the responses of the people!—so that the soul of the pastor sickens within him, and he views his duty with dread anxiety and alarm. And even in those most regular in external worship, how is a spirit of superciliousness and self-righteousness displayed, rather than the humility and simplicity of the gospel!

O Lord, make us all more fervent in spirit, we beseech Thee. Stir up, in both minister and people, the uniting affections of holy charity and use. May the minister admonish and set a good example by holiness of life and activity of spirit; and may the people with humility respond—all that the Lord commands, and which thou hast placed before us, we will, with His assistance, hearken unto and do.

May we, for the future, refrain from doing our own pleasure on Thy holy day. May we be always found waiting at Thy mercy-seat; may a sphere of love unite us with our minister, and the prayers of both rise up as incense before Thee. Wash us, O Lord, by the regenerating influences of Thy good Spirit, and suffer us not to sleep the sleep of death. Lord, into Thy hands we commend our spirits. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

ADORATION OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST FOR THE DURABILITY OF OUR SPIRITUAL BODIES.

INFINITE and eternal Lord God, we humbly draw near to Thy mercy-seat, we give Thee thanks for all the blessings we have enjoyed; and we crave Thy divine assistance, that we may rightly comprehend Thy divine perfections, and with the deepest reverence worship Thee in spirit and in truth.

Of old Thou hast laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Thy hands. In contemplating them, Thy Word leads us to a contemplation of ourselves; for our spiritual frames are durable as the heavens; and as the earth, so are our natural bodies: they wax old as a garment, decay and perish; but our spirits Thou hast created for

an immortality of bliss; Thou hast designed them to inhabit Thy heavenly kingdom, and hast placed them here as probationers, to prepare for that glorious hereafter.

O Lord, thou knowest our weakness; without Thine aid, our best efforts prove abortive, we can do nothing without Thee. Be Thou near to uphold and support us, and enable us so to advance in the path of the regeneration, that we may ultimately stand before Thee, and join that multitude which no man can number, whose adoring work is to praise and magnify Thy name; to become ministers of Thy will, hearkening to the voice of Thy Word.

In this lower world must we prepare for the glorious inheritance designed for us. Here must our souls be formed so as to be adapted to join the congregation of the heavens. Here must all evil and filthiness of pollution be purged away. O how arduous is the work, and how short the time allotted! How dark and depraved are our thoughts; how steeped in pollution and evil are our hearts; the "two anointed ones, sons of the olive," which stand before Thee, are constantly testifying against us; yea, our own consciences accuse us; and though our sins are continually bringing us into difficulty and suffering, yet we continue in them, and our hearts appear to be set in us to do evil, and that continually. Great and glorious Redeemer, how shall we attain the state which shall enable us to stand before Thee? How shall we ascend to that spiritual elevation which shall firmly establish our souls in Thy presence? As of old, those who were obedient to Thy high behests found their reward, and enjoyed the perfect happiness which Thy presence alone can communicate, so may obedience elevate us. Help us, then, to repent of our sins, and to be obedient to all Thou hast enjoined; to look to Thee as the true God and eternal life, and to love and adore Thee with our whole souls. May no rival to Thy glory be by us set up; no object engross our affection or draw us aside from the great duty we owe to Thee. May Thy name—the embodiment of all Thy divine qualities—be held in the deepest reverence and love, and may we with fixedness and uprightness stand before Thee, and with steady and unwavering affection pursue our duty, until prepared for our great and glorious change. Then shall we pass from a state of vicissitude and trial, and join the assembly of the Church of the first-born, and stand in Thy presence, in the company of the just made perfect, enjoying true happiness for ever and ever. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

ON THE DEPARTURE OF A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY INTO THE ETERNAL WORLD.

O LORD Jesus Christ, the friend and comforter of the afflicted, we resign into Thy hands our sister, [brother, &c.] now departed.

"May her spirit soar away among the faithful blest,
Where the wicked cease from troubling, and the weary are at rest."

O keep us from the guilt of despondency: let us not sorrow as those who have no hope. May we remember that whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth. May we be kept

in humility and lowly-mindedness; and knowing how frequently we have erred from the way of Thy commandments, may we submit to Thy chastisements, and with the patriarch of old be prepared to say, "Wherefore doth a living man complain?"—"The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away, and blessed be the name of the Lord."

O Lord Jesus Christ, in Thy hands are the issues of life and death. In the night watches do Thou keep and defend us; for unless Thou, O Lord, defend us, the watchman waketh but in vain. We will lay us down in peace, and beneath the shadow of Thy wings hope to repose in safety. Thou wilt preserve us, so that no plague come near our dwellings.

Lord, we submit ourselves to Thy divine dispensations with humble fear. Enable us to dismiss from our minds all anxious thoughts and cares of the world, and to cast all our care upon Thee. While we review the mercies of the past day, may we also review our own conduct; may we mourn over our transgressions, be sorry for our sins, and resolve, with Thy aid, to sin no more. Then, committing our souls unto Thee, may we lay ourselves down in peace; be satisfied if we awake in this world, to pursue our duties afresh; and if we awake in the eternal world, enter upon more important duties in Thy heavenly kingdom. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

"HE RAISETH THE STORMY WIND," &c.

[November 24th, 1850.—This day there was a most violent storm of wind and rain; it raged the whole day.]

GRACIOUS and merciful Jehovah, Jesus, we praise Thee; we magnify Thy holy name. Thou hast brought us to a day of rest—a day reminding us of Thy final triumph over the powers of darkness; a day in which death itself was overcome; and a day in which an assurance was given to us, that because Thou livest we should live also. O make us more and more grateful, and help us to perform this first act of our devotion this day with humble and penitent hearts; with spirits bowed by reason of our evils, but still with thankfulness that Thou bearest so mercifully with us. Amidst the convulsions now raging around us, may we reflect upon the untamed passions in which we have so frequently indulged, and look to Thee for help to enable us to contend against and subdue them, praying with increased earnestness.

O Lord, we beseech Thee, deliver our souls from the danger of infernal influences, and keep us safely till the evil time be overpast. Help us, O Lord, to see Thy goodness even in the storms which appear to devastate the earth, but which, in reality, tend to purify it, as well as to subserve some other design or permission of Thy providence. How many pestilential exhalations do the noxious vapours arising from our impurities tend to generate! how destructive of our earthly comfort and bodily health would these prove, were they permitted to accumulate! In this declining season of the year, how much of gloom and darkness seems spread around us! Above and below we are reminded that time, in its ceaseless course, has brought the return of the season which speaks of natural decay and desolation; and bodily disease would carry off more

rapidly the inhabitants of the world were storms not permitted to purify the dull and death-like stillness which so often spreads itself around.

In mercy Thou sendest forth the tempest, and thus disperses the accumulation of noxious vapours which, if suffered to remain, would so certainly and so rapidly consume us. In mercy Thou permittest us to feel the fury of the storm, but by it Thou purifiest our bodies, which otherwise would become foul and corrupt. In mercy Thou agitatest the waters of the ocean, which, were they left in quietude continually, would become corrupt and stagnant, and all who had life therein would perish. In mercy, too, Thou permittest temptation and trial, of which the devastating storms are but symbols, to overtake us, that we may be purified and made perfect by suffering. Therefore, O Lord, we beseech Thee, teach us in patience to possess our souls. When the storm rages, and desolation appears ready to consume all around; when our hearts sink for fear, and our friends are momentarily snatched away from us, dark and inscrutable as the dispensation may appear to us, still bring to our remembrance that Thy goodness and mercy have followed us all the days of our life; and if we trust in Thee, Thy hand will safely conduct us through every physical and spiritual danger. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

A PRAYER THAT WE MAY IMITATE THE DIVINE GOODNESS.

O LORD Jesus Christ! when we do good from a principle of good, and because all good comes from Thee, the source of good; and when we ascribe this power to do good unto Thee, without whom we can do nothing, then are we most like Thee; for Thou, when tabernacling in the flesh, didst go about doing good; and now that Thou art exalted high above all worlds, all the created universe feels the extent of Thy goodness.

O may this love of doing good entirely possess us, so that if we be dealt with treacherously, we may return good for evil, and thus overcome evil with good. But guard us, we beseech Thee, from returning evil for evil, for this would be the sure means of associating us with the spirits of darkness. O grant that we may ever keep in remembrance that Thine infinite goodness makes Thy divine majesty amiable, and that Thy glorious majesty makes Thy goodness wonderful; for Thy love is not abated by Thy greatness, nor Thy greatness by Thy love. Thy holiness hinders Thee not from dwelling with the poor in spirit. O cheering thought! for if we seek for goodness, how poor soever we may be, the Lord has declared we shall find it, and in finding goodness, we shall possess the Lord himself.

O heavenly Father, as we kneel in Thy presence, and think of all Thy mercies; as we ponder upon Thy protecting goodness, and think how little we have deserved it, we are constrained to acknowledge our insensibility under the great things Thou hast done for us. Awake within us, we beseech Thee, new perceptions and new feelings of obligation, so that we may serve Thee in newness of spirit.

Accept our praises and thanksgivings, O Lord, we beseech Thee. Our health, and the pleasures of bodily existence—our food, our raiment, our

comfortable habitation, our reason, our freedom and liberty of thought and action, all proceed from Thee, and unto Thee we render thanks. Keep us in Thy love and fear throughout this day, and every day, and bring us safely to the end of it. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING.

ALmighty God, our Heavenly Father, we approach Thee with humble and grateful hearts.

We cannot sufficiently adore that infinite goodness which has followed us all the days of our life; we can only pray for more grateful hearts to appreciate it, and greater diligence in our duties, that our gratitude may be more distinctly evidenced.

We behold in every direction Thy bounteous hand opened, and a profusion of blessings everywhere scattered around. We see the land teeming with an abundant harvest, and the fruits of the earth yielding their luscious banquet. We see the husbandman intent on housing the treasures of the field, and the labourers, with joyful alacrity, pursuing their honest toil; and in both husbandman and labourers, there is evidenced joyful hearts and cheerful countenances.

Thou, O Lord, hast crowned the year with Thy blessings. Thou didst prepare the earth; awakening it from the torpor and sterility of winter into the life and warmth of the vernal spring. Thou didst pour forth the treasures of the early rain; Thou didst quicken the seed by the fervour of the mid-day sun; Thou didst ripen the grain by the glowing heats of summer. Thou hast made the out-goings of the morning and of the evening to rejoice. Thou hast visited the earth; Thou hast prepared corn for the people. Thou hast crowned the year with Thy goodness, and all Thy paths drop fatness. They have dropped upon the pastures of the wilderness, and the little hills rejoice on every side. The pastures are clothed with flocks, and the valleys are covered with corn. O Lord, how bountifully has Thy hand been opened; how excellent is Thy name in all the earth. Thy majesty is glorious; Thy beneficence is infinite. By Thee alone are we preserved in existence; our life we derive from Thy life; our support is alone the work of Thy bounty. We praise Thee for the fields rich in fertility and beauty: we praise Thee for the corn which supplieth bread to man: we praise Thee for the wine which gladdens man's heart: we praise Thee for the rich odours which exude from the beauteous flowers: we praise Thee for the good which we everywhere behold, because Thou art in everything that is good. O Lord, how excellent is Thy name in all the earth: Thy glory is above the heavens. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

PRAYER ON THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD.

O THOU who art Immanuel, God with us; who, to redeem and save mankind, didst manifest Thyself in the flesh, we gratefully acknowledge Thy boundless mercy and grace. We were lost, and Thou didst come to seek and to save us; we were in bondage to sin and Satan, and

Thou didst come to set us free ; we were enemies, and Thou didst come to reconcile us to God ; we were dead in trespasses and sins, and Thou didst come that we might have life. Give unto us to see in Thee, who wast the child born, and the Son given, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace, that in Thee only have we redemption, even the forgiveness of sins. And while commemorating the greatness of Thy compassion, as revealed in Thy incarnation, and in Thy dwelling among men, help us truly to believe in Thee, to love Thee with all our hearts, and in all our words and deeds to glorify Thy holy name. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

A PRAYER TO BE USED ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE LORD'S CRUCIFIXION.

ALMIGHTY God and Saviour, we approach Thee as the Lord God Omnipotent ; as the Being who, in Thy love and pity, didst visit us and redeem us, and hast become our Saviour. When we were dead in trespasses and sin ; when all Thy righteous commands were set at nought by us ; when our every thought appeared to be how best we might avoid Thy presence, and run our own evil course unmolested unto perdition : then, when most opposed to Thee, Thy love sought us out ; and that we might be more effectually rescued from the deep degradation into which our evils had plunged us, Thou didst lay aside Thy glory, didst envelope it in a body of flesh and blood, didst condescend to be as one of the feeblest of Thy creatures, and with the exception of actual evil, didst become in all respects like unto us. As a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief, Thou didst dwell among us ; but appearing as a servant, never was the divine omnipotence absent, or the divine compassion suspended. By Thy omnipotence, Thou didst overcome the dread phalanx of man's spiritual enemies. In Thee was fulfilled the sacred prophecy, "Thou didst put on righteousness as a breast-plate, and a helmet of salvation upon Thy head : Thou didst put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and wast clad with zeal as a cloak," and thus "Thine own arm brought salvation unto Thee," and Thou hast redeemed us unto Thyself."

We glorify Thee, O Lord, for this wondrous display of omnipotent power, and we would join in the shout of angelic triumph, "Alleluia ! for the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth."

But Thy divine omnipotence is equalled by Thy divine compassion. We were held in captivity by our spiritual enemies, and Thou wast manifested to destroy the works of the devil. We were sick unto death, yea, dead in trespasses and sin, and Thy coming raised us to newness of life. We were blind to the truths of Thy Word, and Thou didst give us sight. The palsy of sin had overtaken us ; the leprosy of the soul had fast hold of us, and most loathsome and vile had we become, but still Thy compassions failed not ! still the eye of Thy love was bent upon us ! and when there was none to help, Thou didst visit and redeem us.

We glorify Thy high and holy name. With humble gratitude we acknowledge in Thee the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace ; and now we worship Thee as God in Christ, reconciling the

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world unto Thyself, and in Thy glorified humanity render unto Thee all honour and glory for ever. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

A GLORIFICATION TO BE USED ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF
THE LORD'S RESURRECTION.

ALMIGHTY Lord God, who hast taken to Thee Thy great power and reigned, with deep and heart-felt gratitude we approach Thee this morning. Not only do we praise Thee for this day, as a day of rest, but as a day of divine memorial; memorial of the greatest of victories, a victory over death and hell, and over all the powers of the enemies of man; a victory by which is assured unto us eternal life and blessedness; a victory which crowns all our hopes of happiness: because Thou livest we shall live also.

THE LORD IS RISEN INDEED!! GLORY BE TO HIS HIGH AND HOLY NAME!!

Great and omnipotent Redeemer, how can we, weak and feeble as we are, express our ideas of the wondrous work of redemption, and of the still more wondrous work of glorification! We can indeed mark Thy progress through the sacred narratives of the gospel; we can read of all the dire temptations which infested Thee; we can behold Thee as a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; we can behold—(O that our eyes were fountains of water, if, by the shedding of tears, we could express our contrition!)—how direful must have been the evil into which we had plunged ourselves, to induce such temptations as were undergone by Thee, the last and most cruel being the passion of the cross; we can bow ourselves in deep humiliation for our sins; we can implore aid in this sickness of the soul, that we may be healed. We can hate ourselves for the bitter selfishness of our character, and can at all times draw near to Thee for grace to help us in our every time of need; but Thy wondrous love in our redemption is past finding out, and the stupendous work of Thy glorification is too high for us, we cannot attain to any exalted knowledge of it.

But still we can exert all our feeble powers to magnify Thee, for Thou art the Saviour of all that believe. Thy unsullied goodness the celestial angels cannot approach. Even to their pure love Thou requirest to accommodate Thyself. Thy countenance is as the sun, shining in his strength, and the spiritual angels behold Thee as, accommodated to their states, Thou clothest Thyself with light as with a garment.

Through the power and glory of Thy Word, Thou revealest Thyself to all as they are able to bear it; but over all Thy glory there is a defence. Thy divine humanity is accommodated to the humblest of Thy creatures. All have now access unto Thee, and every one that feareth Thee and worketh righteousness is accepted of Thee. Unto Thee shall all the ends of the earth look, and shall be saved, for Thou art our God, we will exalt Thee,—our Redeemer, we will magnify Thy name! Thou art the Lord of life and glory! Thy name is Jehovah of hosts! Thou art the wonderful, counsellor, the Father of eternity, the only wise God our Saviour; and to Thee be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THE ASCENSION.

EVER adorable Lord God our Saviour, who, when Thou hadst gotten Thyself the victory over all our enemies, and hadst finished the divine work of man's redemption, didst ascend on high, far above all heavens, that Thou mightest fill all things, we, Thy humble servants, acknowledge Thee as King of kings and Lord of lords. In Thee dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. Thou art the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, the first and the last, the Almighty. Thou hast received a name which is above every name. Angels as well as men adore Thine infinite majesty. In their worship of Thy glorified humanity as the form of the divine essence, the image of the invisible deity, the only medium of access to the Father, Thy Church in heaven and Thy Church on earth are one. Having known the fellowship of Thy sufferings, and been made conformable to Thy death; having known Thee, and the power of Thy resurrection, enable us also in heart and mind to ascend into the heavens, and with Thee continually dwell, who livest and reignest ONE GOD, world without end. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THE MISSION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

ALmighty Lord Jesus, who, when about to leave Thy sorrowing disciples, didst promise to send unto them the Comforter, to abide with them for ever, we bless Thee for the fulfilment of Thy promise to them, and to all who believe in Thee through their Word. Though, as to Thy divine humanity, Thou hast ascended far above all heavens, yet by Thy Holy Spirit Thou art ever present with Thy people—to shed Thy love abroad in their hearts, to enlighten their understandings, to endue them with power from on high. Even as the natural sun sheds its light and heat on the visible creation, so Thou, O Sun of righteousness, dost shine with healing in Thy beams on all who love and fear Thy name. May love and light flow into our souls from Thee; so that Thy Spirit may bear witness with our spirits that we are indeed Thy children. Quicken our souls with life from Thyself, that we may know of a surety that we have passed from death unto life. Implant in us every holy disposition, and daily increase in us Thy manifold gifts of grace—the spirit of wisdom and understanding: the spirit of counsel and strength: the spirit of knowledge and true godliness: and fill us, O Lord, with the spirit of Thy holy fear, now and ever. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FOR HELP TO PROGRESS STEADILY IN THE PATH OF THE REGENERATION.

MOST merciful Lord God, we praise Thee, we give Thee thanks for the refreshment of our bodies by sleep, and for permitting us to approach Thee, that we may renew our covenant with Thee, and receive Thy divine aid to conduct us through the duties of this life.

O Thou who didst lead Thy people from the house of bondage, by working Thy wonders in the land of Egypt and then sustaining them in

their trying passage through the sea and through the wilderness, lead us also, we beseech Thee, and teach us by the significant progress of the Israelites that to become regenerate we must also progress spiritually, and pass through those purifying trials and temptations of which the sufferings of the Israelites were types. O assist us to be obedient to Thy instructions, to be submissive to Thy dispensations, and to walk in the straight and narrow way; for obedience is better than sacrifice. Place before us the solemn exhortations and warnings of Thy Word, and let Thy grace so constantly operate upon and go with us, that we may turn not aside from the path of righteousness. May the solemn warning, "If ye walk contrary to me, and will not hearken unto me, I will also walk contrary to you," be before our eyes continually. May we remember that Thy path is the path of life and of perfection itself, and to walk contrary to Thee is to turn our backs upon the path of life, and perfection, and progress directly opposite in that path which ends in death and eternal misery. O help us to shun the *broad* path, how seductive soever it may be to our natural love, and by Thy providence preserve us in the narrow way, how dangerous or difficult soever it may be to tread. Let the encouraging words of Thy truth be constantly before our eyes, "If ye shall diligently keep all these commandments, which I command you, to love the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways and to cleave unto Him,"—then shall our souls be delivered from death, our eyes from tears, and our feet from falling, and we shall be enabled to walk before Thee, O Lord, in the light of the living.

Assist us, O Lord, to maintain a constant state of spiritual activity and watchfulness. As our path is beset with snares and dangers, O preserve us in the centre of the narrow way, suffer us not to turn aside either to the right hand or to the left, but assist us to keep in our eye the promised land; and that we may possess it, impress on our memories the necessity of going up straight forward to possess it. Preserve us from the sin of the perverse men of old, who would not walk in Thy ways, nor be obedient to Thy laws: and help us to be devoutly submissive to all Thou shalt see fit to order and direct, so that we may walk in the name of Thee, the Lord our God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

GLORIFICATION OF THE LORD FOR PAST BLESSINGS.

"**H**OLY! holy! holy! Lord God Almighty, heaven and earth are full of the majesty of Thy glory."

Lord of life and light, behold Thy children, the members of this family, deeply sensible of Thy goodness and mercy! look into their hearts, and strengthen and purify the affections which now they offer unto Thee,—all they have to offer for the blessings that have been showered down upon them during their past lives. O accept their humble offering, and let Thy blessing descend upon us. For the gift of Thy Holy Word, for the portion that we have this day read, O Lord, we praise Thee, we bless Thy holy name. May its precepts sink deep into our hearts. May its truths be to our souls as water in a thirsty land, and cheer us

onward through that portion of the wilderness which yet we have to traverse.

But, Lord, we praise Thee for the treasures of Thy truth, which impel us to the worship and adoration of Thy divine person, even in this lower world, and give while yet in the body, a foretaste of those divine delights which we shall enjoy in the spirit. Thou art now with us. Thy presence in Thy Word it is which draws us unto Thee. It is Thy presence which fills us with gratitude for our temporal blessings. It is Thy presence which illumines our understandings and warms our hearts, which expands our feelings towards our brethren, and creates new sympathies for all our fellow-creatures. It is Thy presence which has quickened our perceptions to a sense of what we owe to Thee, and has quickened in our hearts a flame of love towards our brethren; and if there be any purity and fervour in our family devotions this night, it is Thy presence which has called them into exercise. Again we would raise the song of praise. Again with our hearts and voices would we exclaim, Glory be to Thee, O Lord Most High.

At the close of this probationary state we call to mind the many mercies Thy infinite goodness has provided for us. From infancy to youth, from youth to mature age, Thou hast been an unchangeable friend. Have we tasted happiness? thou art the source of it. Has the light of the gospel cheered us and gone before us? it originated in Thee: Thou art the light of the world. Has darkness crossed our path, or danger strewed its thorns in our way? Thy providence was near and dispersed the darkness—Thine eye detected and destroyed the snares of evil and delivered us out of all our distress. To Thee, then, do we offer gratitude and praise; O deepen our gratitude! help us to praise Thee with greater fervency! Glory be to Thy name, O Lord Most High. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

GENERAL GLORIFICATION OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.

O LORD Jesus Christ, merciful and beneficent Father, help us while we attempt to glorify Thy name. Assist us to recount the marvellous acts of Thy love, Thou who didst once dwell upon earth among men, as a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief, having contended against and overthrown the powers of darkness; now Thou reignest as the Lord of life and glory; and all the hosts of heaven and all the true and faithful upon earth hail Thee in Thy Divine humanity, and "CROWN THEE LORD OF ALL."

Thou who hast redeemed us, who has sent forth Thy light and Thy truth among us, who hast unfolded the glories of Thy Word, and showed us the wonders contained within the letter, and above all former revelations, hast instructed us plainly of the Father, yea, hast pointed out a medium of access unto the Father, through Thy divine humanity,—we adore Thee as "God manifest in the flesh;" we worship Thee and crown Thee Lord of all. We join the innumerable hosts of heaven in the song of triumph, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing." And may blessing, and honour, and glory, and power be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, even unto the Lamb for ever and ever.

We cannot recount Thy marvellous blessings; they are more than can be numbered. Which side soever we turn we are surrounded by proofs of Thine unbounded goodness. Grant, O most merciful Father, that with upright and cheerful hearts we may enjoy the favours which Thou bestowest; and in all our enjoyments, O may we think upon Thee, the giver of every good and perfect gift; and shouldst Thou, in the inscrutability of Thy wisdom, bring us, or permit us to be brought into straits and difficulties more severe than any through which we have hitherto passed, still may we submit to Thy will and still join in the song of glorification, "The Lord alone be magnified." Amen.

Our Father, etc.

PRAYERS FOR HUSBAND AND WIFE.

O MERCIFUL God, we humbly pray Thee to send Thy blessing upon us; and as Thou hast made us one in the holy estate of matrimony, grant that we may be also of one heart and of one mind, living together in peace and holiness, and being a mutual help, comfort, and support to each other, all the days of our life. Give us grace to train our children in Thy faith and fear. Bless us with health and strength, and whatever else Thou, in Thy good providence, seest to be best for us. Prepare us day by day for our departure hence, that we may together inherit eternal life in Thy heavenly kingdom, through Thy mercy, O Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

FOR THE CHILDREN.

ALMIGHTY God our heavenly Father, we commend to Thy loving kindness and tender mercies, the children whom Thou hast given us. Save them from sin and Satan, and this evil world. Let it be the joy of our hearts to see them walking in the truth, and setting their faces heaven-ward. So far as shall be for their eternal good, favour them with health and other temporal blessings: but above all—give them Thy continual grace, that they may walk worthy of their Christian vocation; and so guide them through this life that in the world to come they may have life everlasting. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

A HUSBAND'S PRAYER.

O LORD our heavenly Father, who didst sanctify marriage in the days of innocence, enable me, by Thy grace, to live agreeably to Thy divine ordinance with the wife whom Thou hast given me. Mortify in me all violence of earthly passion, all selfishness and inconsiderateness, all bitterness and unkindness. Grant that the holy estate of matrimony may not be provocative of evil, by reason of my besetting sins; but a state of holiness and peace, comfort and spiritual help, as Thou didst intend it to be. And give unto us, O Lord, sufficiency of means to maintain ourselves and family according to the station in which Thou hast placed us; that, being free from enslaving pleasures and from distracting

cares, we may serve Thee faithfully in good works, to the glory of Thy holy name. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

A WIFE'S PRAYER.

O GRACIOUS Father, who didst ordain that in the marriage union woman should be a helper unto man, give me grace to live worthy of the holy estate of matrimony to which Thou hast called me; that I may love my husband with all purity, live with him in godly quietness, and obey him cheerfully in all good things. Let no fault of mine aggravate the sins to which he is especially tempted. Enable me to comfort him in trouble, to cheer him in difficulty, to refresh him in weariness, to lighten his burdens, and to be a sharer in his joys. Give me prudence and diligence to manage his household, and grace to fulfil the duty of a Christian mother in the nurture and training of our children. And so enable us to live together in Thy faith and love, that our union here may be the beginning and foretaste of a more blissful union hereafter in Thy heavenly and eternal kingdom. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

Note. By a slight alteration, the two preceding prayers will be suitable to those about to enter into the marriage covenant.

PRAYER FOR A MILD, GENTLE, AND FORGIVING TEMPER.

O LORD God and Saviour, our Creator and Redeemer, who art ever merciful and gracious, we approach Thee with humble and grateful hearts, and we implore Thee to be present with us, and fill our souls with Thy good Spirit.

We feel continually the necessity of making Thee our model, and in all things to learn of Thee. Our evil tempers are perpetually breaking forth, and our passions burn with the fire of evil on the slightest opposition to our corrupt proprium. We cannot but acknowledge that we are too frequently under the dreadful passion of anger, and intemperate language comes forth from us on the slightest provocation; and we even harbour bitter and vindictive feelings in our hearts. O how different was the example set us by Thee when tabernacling in the flesh. Subjected to the fiercest trials, Thou didst overcome evil with good. Maligned and misrepresented, Thou didst yet evince a spirit of gentleness and forbearance; and all this Thou didst for our sakes, leaving us the counsel to learn of Thee.

Now, O Lord, we humbly pray Thee, assist us to acquire a spirit of true gentleness. Impress us with a deep sense of what we owe to Thee. The life with which Thou hast endowed us, the food we receive, the rest we enjoy, the happiness springing from the delight of bodily existence, with the prospect of still greater happiness when our natural life is ended, calls for all our gratitude towards Thee, and for that affection to our neighbours, who are the work of Thy hands, which may best show our gratitude. Our own wants are still supplied by Thy bounty. Our own failings are still forgiven by Thy mercy, and our duty is to have compassion on our brethren, even as Thou hast had compassion on us.

As Thy compassions fail not, notwithstanding all our evils, Lord, help us to feel for those who suffer; and when injury has been done us, suffer us not to harbour bad feeling, but with kind and relenting hearts forgive even as we hope to be forgiven. From the wounds which have been inflicted upon ourselves, and from the sufferings those wounds have induced, may our hearts relent wherever suffering exists: may we be careful never to inflict a wound upon others. While we are watchful over our actions, and prompt to resist the rising evil in our own hearts, may we be very gentle in our dealings with others; affable in our address, mild in our demeanour, ever ready to oblige others, and breathing tenderness towards our friends, courtesy towards strangers, and long suffering towards enemies.

Thou hast instructed us that the great work of charity consists in the faithful discharge of our duties; from sincere love and duty to Thee. Help us, then, O Lord, we beseech Thee, to be diligent in those works of usefulness which devolve upon us, and in all things to regulate our affairs by the temper and spirit of Thee, our God and Saviour. Help us to bear one another's burdens: to rejoice with those who rejoice, and to weep with those who weep; to please our neighbour for his good; to be kind and tender-hearted; to be pitiful and courteous; to support the weak; and to be patient towards all men. Lord, let this spirit be our spirit, and daily may we look up unto Thee for aid to acquire it; for without Thee we can do nothing. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

DEVOTIONS FOR HOLY COMMUNION.

SELF-EXAMINATION.*

SEARCH me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting (Ps. cxxxix. 23, 24). Amen.

1. Do I acknowledge the Lord Jesus Christ as the One True God?
2. Do I believe in Him as my Redeemer from hell, and my only Saviour from sin?
3. Is He the object of my supreme love and adoration? Do I remember that to love anything more than Him, or anything which He forbids, is idolatry?
4. Do I believe that His watchful care is always over me, and that it extends to every thing of my life? Am I assured that He is ready to give me every good thing, both spiritual and natural, that I really need?
5. Do I shun all repining and fretfulness, and undue anxiety about worldly things? Am I always resigned and content under the dispensations of the divine providence?
6. Do I habitually strive against everything that is evil in heart and mind and life, because it is a sin against the Lord?
7. Do I endeavour at all times to do what is right, because it is commanded by the Lord and is pleasing in His sight?
8. Do I take the Lord's name in vain? Do I use it irreverently, or without necessity?
9. Do I quote the Scriptures for purposes of idle wit? Do I treat them, or the holy things of the Church, in any way irreverently, or so as to bring them into contempt?

* These heads for self-examination have been communicated. They have been printed before, I believe, in the form of a tract.

10. Am I sincere in my religious profession? Do I seek to adorn it by a suitable walk in life? Do I avoid everything which would dishonour the Christian name?

11. Do I keep the Lord's day holy, by ceasing from work which is not divinely sanctioned? by due attendance at public worship? by study, meditation, and whatever is conducive to spiritual edification?

12. Do I behave in a becoming way when at church? Do I endeavour to maintain devotional feelings? Do I strive to prevent my mind from wandering, and keep it fixed on the duties of worship?

13. Do I attend worship from sincere and religious motives, or only to be seen of men?

14. Do I receive the holy supper with regularity?

15. DO I ATTEND TO THE DUTY OF PRAYER?

16. Do I diligently read the Holy Scriptures with prayer for grace to know and to do the will of God?

17. Do I seek at all times to preserve a spiritual frame of mind, under a consciousness of the divine presence?

18. Do I contribute according to my means to the cause of religion?

19. Do I love my neighbour as myself? Am I careful to do to others as I would that they should do to me?

20. Do I shun whatever may injure my neighbour's character, interests, and happiness?

21. Am I careful not to speak unnecessarily of the faults of others? Am I sorry to hear and slow to believe injurious reports, even against an enemy?

22. Do I repress all vindictive feelings, and cherish forbearance and forgiveness towards those who have injured me?

23. Do I love my enemies? Do I bless them that curse me, do good to them that hate me, and pray for them that despitefully use and persecute me?

24. Do I commit spiritual murder by saying or doing anything to turn away others from the inner life and duties of religion?

25. Do I shun all uncleanness? Do I stifle lascivious and impure desires? Do I avoid obscene and licentious talk? Do I behave with modesty and propriety?

26. Do I avoid theft? Do I fulfil my promises and engagements? Do I duly discharge my debts? Do I evade taxes, or make false returns?

27. Do I seek gain by artful and fraudulent devices? Do I pursue any gain that is unlawful? Do I shun extortion and imposition of every kind?

28. Do I shun false testimony? Am I careful to speak the truth at all times? Do I avoid exaggeration or false colouring in anything I relate? Do I flatter others?

29. Do I covet anything which belongs to others? Do I envy others their station, wealth, influence, endowments, reputation, or good success?

30. Do I diligently fulfil the duties of my calling; not by constraint, but with a willing mind?

31. Am I active and useful according to my ability and opportunities? Am I kind and helpful to the poor and needy? Do I by personal assistance and pecuniary aid contribute to the support and efficiency of schools of secular and religious teaching; and to other purposes of beneficence and use?

32. Do I do good that I may be seen of men? Do I give grudgingly or of necessity? Am I careful not to regard with self-complacency anything in me which seems to be good? Do I humbly and thankfully ascribe all that is good in me to the Lord alone?

33. Am I vain, proud, or affected in any way? Do I indulge in extravagance and display? Am I fond of praise?

34. Do I pamper my appetite? Do I avoid excess in eating, drinking, and sleeping? Do I spend too much time and money in amusement and recreation?

35. Do I avoid the extremes of penuriousness and prodigality? Am I careful not to immerse my thoughts in worldly concerns?

36. Do I, when in company, shun all frivolous and foolish talking? Do I avoid teasing, ridicule, irony, and sarcasm? Do I abstain from all remarks and allusions that would cause annoyance or pain to others? Am I a tale-bearer, or a lover of idle gossip?

37. Am I patient under neglect, incivility, or provocation? Do I abstain from repartee? Am I candid and conciliatory—willing to be convinced, not ashamed to own myself mistaken, not backward to make apology or reparation for a wrong?

38. Do I hanker after a higher station in society, or indulge in gaiety and enter-

tainments beyond my means? Do I value wealth, position, and influence for their own sakes?

39. Am I careful in the choice of associates? Do I, when the Lord is dishonoured and religion is brought into contempt, confess the Lord before men at the risk of singularity or offence? Do I shun the ways of temptation, and all appearance of sanctioning what is wrong?

40. Am I given to such hospitality as I can afford? Do I sympathise with and strive to promote the happiness of others? Am I cheerful without levity? Do I respect the scruples of others as to that which I myself allow?

41. Am I stern in manner, irritable in temper, harsh in rebuke, impatient, exacting, haughty, or overbearing?

42. Do I avoid affectation, bluntness, or eccentricity? Am I to superiors, respectful without servility; to equals, free without rudeness; to inferiors, affable and kind?

43. Am I [if married] duly impressed with the sanctity of the conjugal covenant? Am I faithful to its obligations? Do I avoid all causes of contention, and behave with kindness and affection towards my partner in life?

44. Do I [if a parent] truly love my children? Do I treat them with tenderness and reasonable indulgence? Do I so train them up that they may grow in goodness, and become worthy members of the Church and of society? Do I set them a good example?

45. Do I [if a master or mistress] behave with kindness and consideration to those under me? Do I punctually pay them the wages which are their due? Do I strive to promote their temporal and spiritual welfare?

46. Am I [if a servant] obedient, trustworthy, orderly, and industrious; with good-will, doing service as unto the Lord and not unto men?

47. Do I—if they are living—give to my parents the love, honour, and obedience which is their due? Do I seek to promote their comfort and happiness? Am I grateful for the benefits they have done me?

48. Do I duly honour and obey those who have authority over me? Do I treat with due respect those who in Church or State fill offices of use? Do I submit myself to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake?

49. Do I attend to the duty of self-examination? Do I labour always to have a conscience void of offence towards God and towards men? Do I so live daily as to be prepared to die?

CONFESSION AND SUPPLICATION.

O Almighty God, our everlasting Father and Redeemer, glorious in holiness, who art of purer eyes than to behold iniquity, and hast declared from heaven Thy just abhorrence at all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, I desire to humble my soul before Thee in a deep sense of my own unworthiness and vileness, by reason of the many sins and transgressions I have been guilty of against Thy divine majesty, in thought, word, and deed.

Where and to whom can I flee for pardon and succour, but to Thee who hast revealed Thyself as the Lord God merciful and gracious, long-suffering and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, and forgiving iniquity, and transgression, and sin? Vouchsafe, therefore, gracious Lord, for Thy name's sake, to look upon me with an eye of pity and compassion, and blot out as a thick cloud my transgressions, and as a cloud my sins; be merciful to my unrighteousness, and my sins and iniquities remember no more. To this end, work in me repentance unto salvation not to be repented of. Impress on my heart so deep an aversion to, and so just a sense of the fearful consequences of sin, that I may flee from it as from the face of a serpent. May I make it the future business of my life to keep Thy commandments always, seeking above all things Thy favour, which is better than life itself.

But, O Lord, I am not able to do these things of myself; my frequent

backslidings make me justly distrust the sincerity of my heart, which is deceitful above all things. I know, O Lord, that the way of man is not in himself; from Thee alone cometh my help. Help, Lord, or I perish. O God of all grace, who hast promised to give Thy holy Spirit to them that ask Thee, be it unto me according to Thy Word. Vouchsafe, I most humbly and earnestly beseech Thee, Thy seasonable and all sufficient grace, to strengthen me in weakness, to succour me in temptations, and to sanctify me wholly, that finally I may be presented faultless before the presence of Thy glory with exceeding joy. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

DAILY PREPARATION.

Blessed Jesus, who art about to come to us Thy unworthy servants in the blessed sacrament of Thy body and blood, prepare our hearts, we beseech Thee, for Thyself. Grant us such repentance of our past sins, such faith in Thy divine mercy and grace, such resolutions of amendments, and such love to Thee and to all men, as shall fit us to receive Thee. And grant that, having received Thee, we may never be separated from Thee by sin, but may continue Thine for ever, till we see Thee face to face in Thy heavenly kingdom, where Thou alone reignest, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

A MEDITATION ON THE HOLY SACRAMENT.

Worthy art Thou, O blessed Jesus, to be obeyed in all things that Thou commandest! Worthy art Thou for whose sake we shall do this! When Thy own bitter agony was just approaching Thou didst not cease to think of us; and in the very night wherein Thou wast betrayed, didst ordain this most powerful means of grace, these sacred pledges of Thy love, for a continual remembrance of Thee, and for the strengthening and refreshing of our souls. O how earnestly were Thy thoughts engaged in this great and important design! And therefore, having waited and wished for that last passover, at which was instituted this blessed ordinance of Thy Holy Supper, Thou didst say to Thy disciples—“*With desire have I desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer.*” And after this, could it have been expected from any of Thy followers, that they should have no desire to partake of this holy Sacrament; that they should in such numbers contrive to make excuse? O let Thy self-sacrificing zeal on our behalf awaken our careless, carnal, worldly hearts to consider our obligations to obey Thy commandment—“*Do this in remembrance of me.*” O blessed Jesus! Thy commandments are not grievous; they bring with them a present recompense; they are the way to everlasting happiness; and this commandment is most delightful in itself, and most apt to enable us to obey the rest. Ah! foolish and unwise! how do we forsake and renounce our own true interest when we refuse thus to remember Thee! “The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master’s crib;” but more stupid and insensible are we who ungratefully forget God our Saviour, and will not in this holy sacrament remember Him, who in His love and pity has redeemed us. O that I may remember Thee at all times, and that my song may be always of the loving-kindness of the Lord, but especially, according to Thy appointment, at Thy holy

table! O let me ever say, from the very inmost of my heart and with all the powers of my soul—Blessed Jesus, Thy love is dearer than life, and stronger than death, and most worthy to be had in everlasting remembrance!

BEFORE RECEIVING THE BREAD.

Lord Jesus, I am not worthy of the crumbs which fall from Thy table, and yet Thou givest unto me the bread of life. Evermore give me this bread, that I may eat thereof and live for ever.

AFTER RECEIVING THE BREAD.

Grant, O merciful Lord, that by Thy precious body my soul may be nourished in all pure love to Thee and to my fellow-creatures; and dwelling thus in Thee, and Thou in me, may I ever bring forth the fruit of good works to Thy praise and glory.

BEFORE RECEIVING THE CUP.

“What shall I render unto the Lord for all His benefits toward me? I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord.”

AFTER RECEIVING THE CUP.

Grant, O merciful Lord, that by Thy precious blood my soul may be nourished in all pure and heavenly wisdom, and thereby have strength to resist and overcome the devil, the world, and the flesh.

A PRAYER IN PRIVATE AFTER RECEIVING THE HOLY SACRAMENT.

O Lord our heavenly Father, how plentiful is Thy goodness which Thou hast laid up for them that fear Thee, which Thou hast prepared for them that put their trust in Thee! I praise and magnify Thy great and glorious name, O Lord, for all those manifold mercies and blessings which Thou hast bestowed upon me ever since I was born. Enable me, O Lord, through Thy continual help to perform the conditions of that sacramental covenant which I have this day so solemnly renewed; and grant that, in the strength of that heavenly food of which I have partaken at Thy table, I may grow in grace and abound in every good word and work. Help me to subdue all those inordinate lusts and corrupt affections which war against the soul. Purify my mind from all evil intentions and vain thoughts; and suffer not pride, self-love, anger, hatred, deceit, injustice, covetousness or any other evil to have dominion over me. Let Thy Holy Spirit continually guard me against those temptations which so strongly beset me. Fix my inconstant mind, that I may not fall from Thee, but that I may continue patient in well-doing even unto the end. What I have not that is good for me, do Thou give me; and what I am not that I ought to be, do Thou make me; and so bring me into the experience of Thy joy while here on earth, that hereafter I may enter into it in fulness in Thy kingdom in heaven. Amen.

THE LORD PRESENT IN THE HOLY SACRAMENT.

O LORD Jesus Christ, as we have been guests at Thy table, and have been honoured by Thy gracious presence, what now are riches and honours unto us ?

The King of kings has deigned to eat and drink with the lowliest of His creatures. How vast is Thy condescension unto us, Lord God Almighty ! Though Thou art high, and inhabitest eternity, yet hast Thou bowed the heavens and come down, and hast invited us to a banquet, and spread for us a table in this our wilderness state. O what a lesson hast Thou given unto us to be meek and lowly !

How many and how brilliant are the precious stones hidden in the earth, which never have or can be seen ! How pellucid are the pearls borne in the bosom of the mighty ocean, which will neither disclose their value nor their beauty unto man ! How many a glorious sun is there in the firmament of immensity, which, on account of its distance, comes not within our feeble vision even as a solitary star ! But what are these, when compared with the spiritual truths, with the precious pearls of price disclosed in Thy Word, and with the glorious Sun of righteousness, which serves but as a veil for Thine own transcendent brightness ? And yet Thou, O amazing love, didst veil Thyself in a body of flesh ; didst hide the glory of Thy deity ; didst lay aside the robes of infinite majesty, and become like unto us, sin only excepted. And these proofs of Thy love have been opened up to our contemplation this day.

O God, we adore Thee ; we magnify Thy holy name, for Thou alone art holy. O aid us to carry out, in lives of practical holiness, the instructions we have this day received ; and may the meat and drink of Thy Word impart unto us the necessary strength for the trials that are further necessary for our purification, until, perfected by suffering, we may be prepared to enter into the rest which remaineth for the people of God. Amen.

Our Father, etc.

THE END.

THE PSALMS AND THE LORD'S SERMON ON THE MOUNT.

I have divided these books into portions; and prior to using the prayers, a portion may be read every morning and evening. At the same time I may say that I have indicated, in a foot-note to the first prayer, that the person conducting the worship should always read a portion of the divine Word, before offering worship by prayer.

When the work was nearly through the press, a friend suggested that I should make a table of portions of the divine Word, so that the person conducting the worship might at once read the part selected.

I at once commenced this work, but found, as I proceeded, it would take too much time, and very materially exceed the limits I had marked out, besides greatly adding to the cost. But should another edition be called for, and I am spared to accomplish the labour, I will take care that, before each prayer, a portion of Holy Scripture shall be selected. In the meantime, the Psalms, which in their internal sense relate to the Lord, and the divine sermon on the mount, will furnish the reader with abundant themes for meditation and comment.

THE PSALMS.	THE PSALMS.	THE PSALMS.
i. Read the whole Psalm	xxix. Read whole Psalm	liv. Read the whole Psalm
ii. " "	xxx. " "	lv. Read to v. 11
iii. " "	xxxi. Read to v. 14 "	lv. v. 12 to the end
iv. " "	xxxii. v. 15 to the end	lvi. Read the whole Psalm
v. " "	xxxiii. Read whole Psalm	lvii. " "
vi. " "	xxxiiii. Read to v. 9	lviii. " "
vii. Read to v. 8	xxxv. v. 10 to the end	lix. " "
viii. v. 9 to the end	xxxvi. Read to v. 8	lx. " "
viii. Read the whole Psalm	xxxvii. v. 9 to the end	lxi. " "
ix. Read to v. 10	xxxviii. Read to v. 12	lxii. " "
ix. v. 11 to the end	xxxviii. v. 13 to the end	lxiii. " "
x. Read to v. 11	xxxviii. Read whole Psalm	lxiv. " "
x. v. 12 to the end	xxxviii. Read to v. 8	lxv. " "
xi. Read the whole Psalm	xxxviii. v. 9 to 18	lxvi. " "
xii. " "	xxxviii. v. 19 to 28	lxvii. " "
xiii. " "	xxxviii. v. 29 to the end	lxviii. Read to v. 8
xiv. " "	xxxviii. Read to v. 8	lxviii. v. 9 to 16
xv. " "	xxxviii. v. 9 to 14	lxviii. v. 17 to 26
xvi. " "	xxxviii. v. 15 to the end	lxviii. v. 27 to the end
xvii. " "	xxxix. Read whole Psalm	lxix. Read to v. 8
xviii. Read to v. 8	xl. Read to v. 8	lxix. v. 9 to 16
xviii. v. 9 to 16	xl. v. 9 to the end	lxix. v. 17 to 22
xviii. v. 17 to 24	xli. Read whole Psalm	lxix. v. 23 to the end
xviii. v. 25 to 30	xlii. " "	lxx. Read the whole Psalm
xviii. v. 31 to 39	xliii. " "	lxxi. Read to v. 11
xviii. v. 40 to the end	xliii. Read to v. 8	lxxi. v. 12 to the end
xix. Read the whole Psalm	xliii. v. 9 to 17	lxxii. Read to v. 8
xx. " "	xliii. v. 18 to the end	lxxii. v. 9 to the end
xxi. " "	xliii. Read to v. 8	lxxii. Read the whole Psalm
xxii. Read to v. 8	xliii. Read whole Psalm	lxxiii. v. 13 to the end
xxii. v. 9 to 15	xliii. " "	lxxiv. Read to v. 9
xxii. v. 16 to 24	xliii. " "	lxxiv. v. 10 to the end
xxii. v. 25 to the end	xliii. Read to v. 7	lxxv. Read the whole Psalm
xxiii. Read whole Psalm	xliii. v. 8 to the end	lxxvi. " "
xxiv. " "	l. Read to v. 7	lxxvii. Read to v. 10 "
xxv. Read to v. 8	l. v. 8 to the end	lxxvii. v. 11 to the end
xxv. v. 9 to the end	li. Read to v. 8	lxxviii. Read to v. 11
xxvi. Read whole Psalm	li. v. 9 to the end	lxxviii. v. 12 to 23
xxvii. " "	lii. Read the whole Psalm	lxxviii. v. 24 to 35
xxviii. " "	liii. " "	lxxviii. v. 36 to 51

THE PSALMS.

lxxviii. v. 52 to 59
 lxxviii. v. 60 to the end
 lxxx. Read whole Psalm
 lxxx. " " "
 lxxxi. " " "
 lxxxii. " " "
 lxxxiii. " " "
 lxxxiv. " " "
 lxxxv. " " "
 lxxxvi. " " "
 lxxxvii. " " "
 lxxxviii. " " "
 lxxxix. Read to v. 7
 lxxxix. v. 8 to v. 17
 lxxxix. v. 18 to v. 29
 lxxxix. v. 30 to v. 37
 lxxxix. v. 38 to v. 45
 lxxxix. v. 46 to the end
 xc. Read the whole Psalm
 xci. " " "
 xcii. " " "
 xciii. " " "
 xciv. Read to v. 11
 xciv. v. 12 to the end
 xciv. Read the whole Psalm
 xcvi. " " "
 xcvi. " " "
 xcvi. " " "
 xcvi. " " "
 xcix. " " "
 c. " " "
 ci. " " "
 cii. Read to v. 12
 cii. v. 13 to the end
 ciii. Read to v. 10
 ciii. v. 11 to the end
 civ. Read to v. 9

THE PSALMS.

civ. v. 10 to 19
 civ. v. 20 to the end
 cv. Read to v. 15
 cv. v. 16 to 24
 cv. v. 25 to 35
 cv. v. 36 to the end
 cvi. Read to v. 8
 cvi. v. 9 to 18
 cvi. v. 19 to 28
 cvi. v. 29 to 39
 cvi. v. 40 to the end
 cvii. Read to v. 8
 cvii. v. 9 to 15
 cvii. v. 16 to 21
 cvii. v. 22 to 31
 cvii. v. 32 to the end
 cviii. Read the whole Psalm
 cix. Read to v. 20
 cix. v. 21 to the end.
 cx. Read the whole Psalm
 cx. " " "
 cxii. " " "
 cxiii. " " "
 cxiv. " " "
 cxv. " " "
 cxvi. " " "
 cxvii. " " "
 cxviii. Read to v. 9.
 cxviii. v. 10 to the end
 cxix. This Psalm is index-
 ed after all the letters in
 the Hebrew Alphabet,
 and is divided into por-
 tions of 8 verses each.
 The daily portion will
 be, therefore, 8 verses.

THE PSALMS.

cxix. Read the whole Psalm
 cxxi. " " "
 cxxii. " " "
 cxxiii. " " "
 cxxiv. " " "
 cxxv. " " "
 cxxvi. " " "
 cxxvii. " " "
 cxxviii. " " "
 cxxix. " " "
 cxxx. " " "
 cxxxi. " " "
 cxxxii. " " "
 cxxxiii. " " "
 cxxxiv. Read to v. 9.
 cxxxv. v. 10 to the end
 cxxxvi. Read whole Psalm
 cxxxvii. " " "
 cxxxviii. " " "
 cxxxix. Read to v. 13
 cxxxix. v. 14 to the end
 cxli. Read the whole Psalm
 cxli. " " "
 cxlii. " " "
 cxliii. " " "
 cxliiv. " " "
 cxliv. Read to v. 9
 cxlv. v. 10 to the end
 cxlvi. Read the whole
 Psalm
 cxlvii. Read to v. 10.
 cxlvii. v. 11 to the end
 cxlviii. Read whole Psalm
 cxlix " " "
 cl. " " "

THE DIVINE SERMON ON THE MOUNT.

MATTHEW V.

Read from v. 1 to 12
 " v. 13 to 20
 " v. 21 to 26
 " v. 27 to 32
 " v. 33 to 37
 " v. 38 to 42
 " v. 43 to 48

MATTHEW VI.

Read from v. 1 to 4
 " v. 5 to 15
 " v. 16 to 18
 " v. 19 to 23
 " v. 24 to the end

MATTHEW VII.

Read from v. 1 to 6
 " v. 7 to 14
 " v. 15 to 20
 " v. 21 to 23
 " v. 24 to the end

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