

A

Prayer Book,

FOR

FAMILIES AND PRIVATE PERSONS,

Upon various Subjects and Occasions ;

IN WHICH

All the Prayers are so arranged, that when any one is too long to be used without inconvenience, it may be shortened by leaving out some of the paragraphs:—and this may be done without injury to the connection,



KILMARNOCK:

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PRAYER BOOK.

The following ADMONITION, read occasionally before Family-worship, is very proper to produce seriousness of mind, and to keep up a godly jealousy, lest hypocrisy and formality should render this important duty of no use.

My Friends and Fellow-Christians :

WE, dust and ashes, are assembled to speak unto the holy Lord God of heaven and earth, our Maker and our Judge, who deserves from us all possible reverence whenever we presume to call upon him. We are going to pray to that God who strictly charges us to take heed that we draw not nigh to him with our lips whilst our hearts are far from him—to that God who is of purer eyes than to regard our services without the mediation of the Holy One and the Just, who died for our sins, but hath promised to give us whatever we shall ask of him in his name, and to perform all our petitions.

Now therefore let us lift up our hearts to him that he may fill us with reverence and godly fear, with sincerity and lowliness of mind, with lively faith in the blood and prevailing intercession of Jesus, and with assurance that we shall receive whatever we ask according to his will. With these holy dispositions we should desire always to bow down our knees before God.

A FAMILY MORNING PRAYER.

O THOU Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and
 of glory, who hast so loved the world as to
 be thy only-begotten Son, to the end that all who
 believe in him should not perish but have everlast-
 ing life, mercifully regard us miserable sinners.
 Thou seest how slow of heart we are to believe the
 word thou hast given of thy Son. Though we
 speak of his glory, how little does it affect us!
 Though he has a name which is above every name
 in heaven or earth, how little assurance do we feel
 in him! or consolation from all that he hath done
 and suffered!

Have compassion upon us, O Lord, and help us.
 Give us what thou hast most graciously promised,
 the Spirit of truth, to open our understanding, that
 we may understand the things which are spoken of
 thy Son in the scriptures. O give us the Spirit of
 wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him;
 of his person and his office; of his love and power
 towards all that hear his voice and follow him;
 that so we may abound in clear, magnificent, and
 adoring thoughts of Christ Jesus the Lord: that
 he may be no less precious to us than he was to
 be in the glorious company of the apostles, and the noble
 army of martyrs. Thou, O God, hast declared
 that thy Son shall be exalted and extolled, and
 shall be very high. Help us, we earnestly pray
 thee, to give him this honour day by day, more
 perfectly. Enable us to comprehend with all saints
 the immeasurable extent of his love; the breadth
 and length, the height and depth thereof.

We beg this of thee, O our God, in order that
 we may have our affections raised up to heaven,
 where Christ sitteth on thy right hand: that we

may grow more dead to the world, and walk more becoming our Christian character; that we may be enriched as much as possible with light and grace, joy and peace in this present life; and so show forth the praises of him who hath called us out of darkness into marvellous light.

We beseech thee that the excellency of the knowledge of Christ may be evidenced to others by our adding day by day to our faith a noble Christian courage, in defence of his truth, honour and government; by a constant victory over corrupt affections; by a moderate use of all lawful comforts; by a meek and quiet spirit under all trials, and by resignation to the will of our heavenly Father.

Grant, O Lord, that our knowledge of the redemption that is in Jesus, may work effectually to-day upon our hearts. Let the Saviour's love to us be the pattern of ours to all that are round about us: let it make us zealous to embrace all opportunities of ministering to the happiness of one another. If we cannot assist the needy by our alms, or protect the oppressed by our power, O let us diligently exercise love, in abstaining from all uncharitableness of speech, from all frowardness and evil tempers: let us look upon the failings of others with pity, as if they were our own: make us kind and tender hearted, forbearing and forgiving as thou, for Christ's sake, hast forgiven us. Banish from our dwelling all variance, whisperings, heatings, burnings, and evil surmisings. Let peace and gentleness, meekness and goodness be exercised by all of us one towards another, and the only contention in our family be this, who shall conform most to the will of God, by abounding in brotherly kindness and fervent charity. Thou, O God, that ma

est men to be of one mind that dwell together, inspire us with a spirit of concord, and harmonise all our naturally selfish tempers. O let this benefit at least be found from our family-devotion, that we agree better together, and live more in peace and quietness, than those who call not upon thee; who lie down and rise up like the herd of the stall, never saying, Where is God their Maker?

Continue, we beseech thee, if it seemeth good to thee, the voice of health and strength amongst us, and the favour of thy prosperous providence; but give us grace to expect and to be ready for a change. And, as in a day, nay, in an hour, our prosperity may be turned by thee into deep affliction, our health into pining sickness, our ease into tormenting pain, and our life into death. O Lord God, establish us in Christ Jesus, and give the earnest of thy spirit in our hearts, that, whatever we are called to suffer, we may not be afraid with any amazement, but bear our cross cheerfully, to the edification of those around us.

Comfort and protect continually all our near relations and dear friends. Sanctify to them their present circumstances whatever they are. May they mind the things of the Spirit, and never be deluded by the things of time and sense. Be their guide through life, and at death give them admission into thy kingdom and glory.

Promote, O God, the peace and welfare of this our country. Let thy servant, our most gracious King, be continually guided by thy counsel, and reign over us in righteousness. May he and his Ministers with unwearied labour seek to promote thy glory and his people's good.

Visit and relieve all who are distressed or oppressed: regard their tears, hear their sighs, give

them to see their sin in their suffering, to humble themselves under thy hand, and find that it is good for them to be afflicted. Bless our enemies; do good to them that hate us; and ever enable us to return good-will for evil.

Accept our praises for our continued preservation by thy goodness, who has first brought us into being; for sleep upon our beds, for the return of the day after the shades of darkness, for the use of our reason, the comfort of this opportunity of worshipping thy name, and, above all, for the light of life, the Sun of righteousness, Christ Jesus; for whom with all that is within us we should bless thy name; in whom we commend ourselves and our services to thee; and to whom, with thyself and the Holy Ghost, one God over all, be all honour and praise, love and obedience, for evermore.

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

A FAMILY EVENING PRAYER.

BLESSED and holy Lord God, who didst make all things by thy power, who rulest all things by thy providence, and fillest all places with thy presence, we thy unworthy creatures beseech thee to fill our hearts with an awful sense of thee, and with humility, sincerity, and faith in Christ in our approaches to thee.

We thankfully acknowledge our absolute de-

dependence upon thee : for our lives, and all the comforts of them, we are indebted to thy bounty. Thy hands hast fashioned us in the womb, brought us to this world, and ever since we saw the light led us with variety of good. We adore thy sparing mercy. Justly mightest thou have brought upon us all the curses written in the book of thy law against our transgressions : and had thy ways been as our ways, and thy thoughts like our thoughts towards our enemies, we had long since been past the power of offering to thee our thanks and praise, beyond the benefit of prayer, or the hope of pardon.

We confess, O Lord, we have been transgressors of thy law, in thought, word, and deed. We are chargeable with the workings and defilements of pride, and hypocrisy, of uncharitableness and sensuality, of self-love, and worldliness of heart, notwithstanding all the methods thou hast taken to heal these diseases of our souls. We have sinned against the clear revelation of thy will, and the strongest obligations binding us to comply with it. We have sinned against thy most inviting promises, and thy most dreadful threatenings; against the frequent warnings of thy word, the renewed motions and powerful convictions of thy Spirit, and the precious blood of Christ. We have sinned against the light of our understanding, against promises and purposes of obedience, and against the strongest remonstrances of our own consciences.

O God, we cannot recount the number of our sins, nor fully set in order all their aggravations. We should not therefore presume to ask for thy pardoning mercy, if we did not trust that thy spirit hast created within us a holy mourning for

all our wickedness, and for that corruption of our nature, from whence, as their fountain, all these poisonous streams have flowed. O humble us effectually, and place before us all the detestable qualities which meet together in every act of sin; that injustice and contempt towards thee; that rebellion and ingratitude which prevail in it. And oh! most merciful Father, speak peace to our soul weary and heavy laden with guilt, through the death and sufferings of thy dear Son, and for the sake of his precious sacrifice avert the punishment from us. Increase in us that faith whereby only we can be justified, and have peace with thee through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Accompany thy pardoning mercy with thy purifying grace. Help us, O Father, thou God of all power and might, to put off the old man, which is corrupt, according to the deceitful lusts, and to put on the new man which is created after thine own image, in righteousness and true holiness. Give us a new heart, and put within us a new spirit. O grant us a mind weaned from the pomps and pleasures; the profits and honours, and all the transitory enjoyments of the flesh; but hungering and thirsting after righteousness. Prevent us by thy grace, that we may never more commit sin with the deceitful hope of gaining advantage by it. Impress us continually with the conviction, that the gaining of the whole world can be no recompence for the loss of the soul.

O let that solemn account we must ere long give, when the throne shall be set, the books be opened, and the dead, small and great, stand before God, influence the whole course of our lives. O let us so believe and so obey, that when Christ shall come in the clouds with power and great

ry, we may then cry out in holy rapture, Lo,
 is our God, we have waited for him, and he
 al save us! This is the Lord, we will be glad
 and rejoice in his salvation!

To thy merciful protection, O God, we humbly
 submit ourselves, our dear friends, and relations
 this night. The darkness is no darkness with thee,
 at the night is as clear as the day. Defend, we
 beseech thee, our persons, our dwellings, and our
 possessions. Refresh us with sweet sleep; and
 with the health and strength of our bodies, and the
 vigour of our minds, let us serve thee all our days,
 and through the gate of death we enter into that
 blessed kingdom, where there is no night; where
 we shall receive the end of our faith, even the sal-
 vation of our souls, through Jesus Christ; in de-
 pendence upon whose righteousness and interces-
 sion we further pray; Our Father, &c.

FOR THE LORD'S-DAY MORNING.

THANKS be unto thee, O most merciful and gra-
 cious God, for having devoted this day to thy ser-
 vice. Never can we sufficiently express the obli-
 gations we owe thee for this stated season of rest
 from labour; for this delightful opportunity afford-
 ed us of imitating the heavenly host, whilst we as-
 semble ourselves with one heart and voice to glorify
 thee, O God, our heavenly Father; and thee, O
 Christ, our Advocate, Righteousness, and Life;
 and thee, O eternal Spirit, the Comforter and Sanc-
 tifier of the church of God.

We praise thee, who instead of loathing our pecc-
 ations for our sinful pride and stubborn forgetfulness
 of thee, hast taken the most effectual methods to
 teach us the knowledge and plant in us the love of

thy name. We praise thee that thou hast commanded us to make on this day public confession of our guilt, and of thy hatred of sin; of our disobedience and the riches of thy forbearance towards us; of our weakness, depravity, and need of thy perpetual grace to help us. We praise thee for commanding us to make public intercession for the sorts and conditions of men, in order that our hearts might be the more enlarged towards them and our hands the more ready to minister to their necessities. We praise thee for this opportunity of hearing thy holy scripture, which is profitable for our reproof, for our correction, for our instruction in righteousness.

We bless thee, that we have our habitation fixed in the land of liberty, under the bright beams of thy glorious gospel: that we can worship thee according to our conscience, no one making us afraid that we are not required to pay adoration to those who by nature are not gods, nor compelled to bow down at the altar of idols. We praise thee that we are in health and strength to use the sacred opportunity of going with the multitude that keep thy holy-day, into the house where thou hast recorded thy name, and promised to meet and bless us. How amiable are thy dwellings, O Lord! hosts! one day employed in them is better than a thousand engrossed by the business of the world.

We praise thee also for passing by all the provocations and insults which we have offered unto thee by abusing and profaning this holy day, by our detestable presumption in compassing thee about with deceit and lies. O how often have we rushed into the courts of thy house without meditation, without prayer, without any desire to worship thee with an holy worship! how often have we dissembled

and pretended to give thee glory, when we were yet living in our sins, making thee angry with us every day, and casting thy law behind us!

O, our God, let the time past suffice for us to have entered into thy courts thoughtless and unpunished, self-satisfied and self-sufficient. Now teach us effectually to reverence thy sanctuary; make us feel awful conceptions of the God with whom we have to do, and of the infinite importance of the holy exercises in which we are going to engage. Thou knowest our souls cleave to the very dust of the ground. O send thy quickening Spirit to raise our thoughts and desires up to thee in every part of thy holy worship. Shield us on every side from the flesh, the world, and the devil, that they may have no power to fill us with sinful distractions, and make us absent in spirit while we are presenting our bodies in thy temple.

While we confess our guilt, open thou our understanding, we beseech thee, that we may understand all the aggravations of our wickedness. Call back to our remembrance whatever at any time has made us appear most vile in our own eyes, that we may now feel a godly sorrow, and be really ashamed and confounded at the sight of our iniquity.— Accompany, we beseech thee, the reading of thy most holy word with the power of thy own Spirit, that so the practice of thy saints, and thy peculiar favour towards them, may stir us up to be diligent followers of their examples: that we may receive the strong consolation from thy promises, which in Christ Jesus are all sure and infallibly certain, and, by hearing the gospel proclaimed, attain to clearer views of thy great salvation. When we are offering up our intercession to thee, give us to feel tenderness of heart, melting pity towards all our fel-

low-creatures in distress, and very fervent desire that thou wouldst immediately appear for their relief. When we ask for mercy and forgiveness, strength and holiness of heart, may we ask with an earnestness suited to the value of these gifts and with a strong conviction of our unavoidable misery if our suit is rejected.

When we join in giving thanks unto thy name, O make all thy goodness to pass before us. Excite in us such a lively remembrance of the multitude of thy mercies towards us, as shall fill our souls as it were with marrow and fatness, whilst our mouths are praising thee with joyful lips — From the beginning to the conclusion of the service of thy sanctuary, by the perpetual influence of thy free Spirit, do thou uphold us, that we may be satisfied with the pleasures of thy house, and offer to thee a pure offering in righteousness.

And, as thou, O Lord, hast ordained that the people should seek thy law at the mouth of thy ministers, do thou fill them with knowledge and sound doctrine; that they may preach not themselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord. Under their instructions, delivered according to thy will, may our ignorance be dispelled, our slothful hearts quickened, our fears removed, our hope encouraged and our souls established in grace.

Finally, we beseech thee, O God, to incline our hearts to sanctify this whole day. Make it our delight to employ our time in reading thy word, in meditation and privacy, not yielding to the sinfulness of our hearts, or the custom of the world, in speaking our own words, in thinking our own thoughts, and finding our own pleasure on thy holy day. And grant us grace so to use this day of rest and of public worship in this life, that we may

none of us fail of having a part in the everlasting adoration, praise, and love of thy name in the life to come, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A FAMILY PRAYER ON THE EVENING OF THE LORD'S DAY.

O LORD, thou art great, wonderful, and holy. Thou art exalted far above all blessing and praise which can ever be offered to thee by the angels of light: yet such is thy condescending mercy, that the doors of thy house have been open this day to us; vile dust and miserable sinners. We have been waiting on thee in the ordinances of thy own appointment; and as we implored the comfort and help of thy Spirit, before we presented ourselves in thy courts, so now as becometh us in bounden duty, we desire to return thee our most hearty thanks and praise, if we have found any deliverance from the hardness, unbelief, distraction, and deceitfulness of our depraved hearts, whilst we were offering our vows unto thee.

Not unto us, not unto us, but to the influence of thy Spirit be the praise, if we have confessed our sins this day with any self loathing, and been melted into contrition for our offences; if the forbearance thou hast shewn towards us, and thy tender pity in sparing us, though so richly deserving damnation, have been sensible to our hearts, whilst we were accusing ourselves before thee. We praise thee if we have sanctified this day, and our holy services in it, to the honour of our Lord Jesus Christ, by looking only to the virtue of his atonement for the remission of our sins. We bless thee if we have found thy word sweet unto us, and the increasing discovery of thy love delightful to our

hearts; if we have been filled with faith, and experienced in our hearts the Spirit of grace, of prayer and supplication; so that instead of saying, When will the sabbath be gone, that we may buy and sell and get gain? we have found the spiritual provisions of thy house a feast indeed to our souls. We thank thee if thy word preached hath searched us, making manifest any hidden corruption; if it has been for our edification, exhortation, and comfort in Christ Jesus. We thank thee, if it has been a pleasant and joyful thing to us to be thankful, to speak good of thy name, and to declare thy goodness towards the children of men.

Lord, increase and stir up within us evermore devout affections when we call upon thee; and in whatsoever we have displeased thee this day, O do thou pardon us. Overlook what has been wanting, forgive what has been amiss, though we are too blind ourselves to perceive it. There is iniquity in our most holy offerings. Purge away, we beseech thee, the defilement of them in the fountain opened for sin and for uncleanness. Accept our devotions at the hands of our faithful and merciful High-priest, and may our sacrifices be perfumed with the sweet incense of his merits.

For his sake fulfil all the requests we have this day made known unto thee. O give us strength and power to live more according to thy will, in all righteousness and holiness. Let the benefit and success of our public worship be manifested in our whole deportment; and the influence of the good impressions made upon us in thy house, appear in our sincere love both to God and man, in our abhorring all that is evil, and cleaving to that which is good. Let every heavenly and Christian emblem we have this day requested shine in our con-

versation, and our lives be a transcript of the graces we ask in our prayers. May we return again to our respective employments armed with the whole armour of God, and determined in nothing wilfully to offend thee. May thy praise and love, thy power and glory, and the mightiness of thy kingdom, be much in our thoughts, till at length we are brought to that everlasting sabbath where we shall no more need the use of these means: no more behold thee our God at a distance, and thro' ordinances darkly, but see thee face to face, and know thee even as we are known.

We desire now particularly to recommend to thy mercy all who are united to us by the ties of kindred or special friendship. Let none of them slightly esteem this holy day, or blindly think it enough to be merely present at the assemblies of thy people. May they ever worship thee in spirit and truth, and esteem this day their delight.

We beg thy mercy upon all those nations which yet sit in darkness and the shadow of death, that the Sun of righteousness may arise upon them to guide their feet into the way of peace. O hasten the time, when all thou hast promised concerning thy church in the last days shall be accomplished: bring in the fulness of the Gentiles, and let all Israel be saved. Revive and cause to flourish in all places upon earth pure and undefiled religion. Let the power of godliness prevail, and daily obtain victory over the formality and hypocrisy of mere nominal Christians.

Particularly we recommend to thy protection and tenderest care, the kingdom in which we dwell. We entreat thee to direct, sanctify, and govern the heart of our Sovereign Lord the king. Prosper all his counsels for the good of his subjects. May

he live dear to thee, beloved of his people, and receive at thy hands, after death, a crown of glory. Bless the Royal Family, and all that are in authority over us.

Take us this night, O our God, under thy protection. Watch over us whilst we sleep; if we wake in the night season, may our meditation of thee be sweet, and our souls be glad in the Lord. If we are spared to see the light of the returning day, may we rise from our beds to give all diligence to walk before thee to all well-pleasing.— And whether we wake or sleep, live or die, may we be the Lord's. To him, with thee, O Father, and the Holy Ghost, be ascribed, as is most due, everlasting praise, might, majesty, and dominion. Amen.

A PRAYER TO BE USED WHEN ANY MEMBER OF THE FAMILY IS SICK;

Either entire as a Morning or Evening Prayer for the Family, or occasionally with some of the Family, or in part, paragraphs selected from it being added to the usual family devotions.

O THOU infinitely great and glorious God, thou killest and makest alive. Thou woundest, and thy hands make whole. Thou bringest down to the grave, and bringest back again. Thou dost according to thy will in the armies of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay thine hand, or say unto thee, What dost thou? yet righteous art thou in all thy ways, and holy in all thy works. Even when thou afflictest, and causest trouble and heaviness to fall upon us, it is that we may learn righteousness from thy judgments, and receive profit from thy correction.

Wherefore, though thou hast now visited our house with sickness, and art calling us to humiliation for our sins, yet we would still speak good of thy name, and love and bless thee. We desire at this season to remember all the past mercies with which thou hast been pleased to bless us and our household. God forbid that our present grief should make us unmindful of the constant benefits we have enjoyed. How long has each of our family laid down and risen up, gone out and come in in health, strength and peace? How long has the candle of the Lord shone upon us without intermission? For these multiplied favours, blessed, O Lord, be thy good and holy name; since the smallest of benefits is more than we deserve, and the sharpest affliction less.

To us, on account of our transgressions, is most justly due indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish. Wherefore then should living men complain, men and transgressors, for the punishment of their sins? Shall we receive so much good at the hand of the Lord, and shall we not receive evil? patiently and contentedly receive evil also; this temper we know, O Lord, is our bounden duty; O form it in us. And as in great compassion to us, thou hast opened a way of relief for us under every trouble, by directing, commanding, and encouraging us in all our afflictions to pour out our complaints unto thee, and tell thee of all we fear and feel; to thee, O Father of mercies, do we make our supplication at this time. O Lord be not far from us.

In entire submission to thy most wise and holy will, we do now earnestly pray for that person whose sickness fills us with so much concern. O look upon him (*or her*) in his low estate; suffer not,

we beseech thee, his disorder to proceed, and let not this sickness be unto death, but be for the manifestation of thy grace towards us all. Thou knowest, Lord, his frame; lay no more upon him than thou wilt enable him to bear with patience and quietness of mind. And O, thou great Physician, without whom all others are of no value, do thou direct to the most proper medicines, and bless the art of healing to his body, and our great comfort. In thy due time restore thy servant to health and strength again, that he may have a longer day of grace and salvation, prove more useful, and do more good in his generation.

In the mean time, however thou shalt think fit to dispose of him, O sanctify unto him this affliction; work in him deep humiliation for his sin; bless him with repentance unto life: enable him by faith to behold the Lamb of God, and to trust in the fountain opened in his blood for the remission of sins, that, being justified through faith, he may have peace with God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Make all his bed in his sickness, and let patience have its perfect work in his soul. Raise him up to praise thy name, to pay those vows he makes in trouble before the assembly of thy saints, and to walk in newness of life. But if thou dost not see fit to spare thy servant, whom we are now remembering before thee, O prepare every one of this family according to our several relations, for the awful stroke. With respect to himself, if the time of his departure draweth nigh, O let his heart be comforted by thy promises in Christ, and taste that thou art gracious unto him. May his soul be safe and happy at the hour of death; and in the great day of the Lord Jesus Christ may he be found amongst those who died in him.

And help us all, who are now in health, to improve this loud and solemn call to prepare for our own sickness and decease. Let us not abuse our bodily strength to encourage ourselves in sinful security and impenitence. Grant that we may always be ready, by performing the will of our Lord, that whensoever he shall come, we may be found of him in peace and enter into his joy; that whenever our health is turned into sickness, and our strength into weakness, and our ease into sharp pain, we may not be cast down or perplexed, but feel in our souls those supports and consolations, which the world cannot give; nor death itself take away.

Hear us, O Lord our God, in these our humble requests: forgive us our sins; and accept our persons and our services through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A THANKSGIVING FOR THE RECOVERY OF A SICK MEMBER.

MOST gracious and holy, good and merciful God! we have heard, we have seen, we have experienced thy love. Blessed, for ever blessed be thy name, that instead of being known to us by the judgments our sins have deserved, thou art manifested to us as the God willing to forgive all our iniquities. Thou hast delivered our eyes from tears, and our hearts from anguish. Thy servant, whom thou hast lately afflicted, is now a monument of thy sparing mercy. Thou hast chastened and corrected him (or her) but thou hast not delivered him over unto death. Thou hast turned our mourning into joy, and our fears into songs of praise.

O may this thy servant have been spared in or-

der to live hereafter to the glory of thy name.— We beseech thee perfect all that concerns his recovery; and grant that this gracious interposition may properly affect both him and every one of us in this family. From henceforth may we all more entirely depend upon thee for the continuance and preservation of our dearest earthly comforts: may we consider them as thy free gifts, O Lord, and know that they alone makest every earthly blessing be to us what it is.

And give us grace so to use and enjoy all our temporal comforts, as those who know that the fashion of this world passeth away. Grant we may learn from this late affliction in our family to live more like persons who are soon to be separated by death, and to give all diligence to grow rich towards God, that we may be better prepared for a breach in our family whenever it shall come. And whensoever, O God, thou shalt be pleased to call any of us away, though for a season our family may thus be separated, may we all be united again in heaven, and be for ever with the Lord and with one another.

That we may none of us fall short of so glorious an end, O give us a clear knowledge of the excellency of our God, and a firmer dependance upon the word of thy grace. Grant us a stronger love to the Lord Jesus Christ, and a greater resemblance of him; that each of us in our particular station may be zealous for God, full of mercy and justice towards men, and possess every temper whereby God can be glorified in us.

Fill our minds with a more cheerful and lively sense of our obligations to thee, especially for this late additional mercy; write it, we beseech thee, on our hearts, so that no temptation from without,

or corruption from within, may make us ever act as if we forgot it.

And now, O Lord, we again present both ourselves and family, all we have and all we are, a lively sacrifice unto thee for all our remaining days. Be with us when we are passing through the valley of the shadow of death; may we then fear no evil, nor have cause to fear any. Guard us through the gloomy passage, and bring us safe to thine eternal kingdom and glory. We humbly ask all these blessings, though utterly unworthy ourselves of any notice, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who ever liveth to make intercession for us. Amen.

FOR THE DUE DISCHARGE OF DOMESTIC DUTIES.

O LORD and heavenly Father, who hast commanded us conscientiously to discharge each duty we owe one to another, take away, we beseech thee, from us all stubbornness, pride, and self-conceit; all envy, hatred, and ill-will, which would lead us to despise thy gracious restraints, and destroy that harmony which thou wouldest have to reign in every family. From the least to the greatest member of each house, give them grace to walk before thee unto all well-pleasing.

Teach and incline servants to do their work with singleness of eye, as unto Christ; to be ambitious of serving their masters with all fidelity, and of preventing all just cause of anger or rebuke from them for obstinacy, sloth, or carelessness. Grant them wisdom to consider their station not as any hardship, much less any disgrace to them, but as the post which thy fatherly love hath appointed them to fill. Give them to understand, to their

great peace and strong consolation, that by doing their work from a principle of faith and love to Christ Jesus, they may stand as high in thy favour, and grow as rich towards God, as if their condition entitled them to all respect from the world. And may they never imagine they are religious and Christians altogether, any longer than they abstain from all those frauds and deceits, which they are tempted to use for filthy lucre's sake.

Be merciful and gracious, O God, to all heads and governors of families. Save them from haughtiness of carriage, from passionate reproaches, and every kind of unchristian treatment of their inferiours and dependants. O! convince the rich that it is not their merit, but thy providence alone that makes the difference of station, and appoints the subordination: not that they should be as tyrants in their houses, and imperious to their servants, but that they should add to the comfort of those who are under them. Enable them therefore carefully to avoid hurting those who labour for them, by their frowardness, and behaving towards them with such rudeness, as they would be ashamed to shew to any equal. Imprint upon their minds a lively remembrance that they have a master in heaven, who is no respecter of the persons of men, before whom both masters and servants must give a strict and solemn account of their behaviour to each other. Inspire all who preside in families not only with justice, but with mercy and pity towards their servants. Like the good centurion, whose praise is in the gospel, may they sympathise with them in all their afflictions, be glad to alleviate their burden, when sickness and old age oppress them, and to sweeten the bitter cup that is appointed them to drink. Give them grace to teach their servants

the fear of the Lord by their own example, and to let their light so shine before them, that they may be led to glorify God also, in whose hands is their breath, and whose are all their ways.

Dispose, O Lord, the hearts of all parents to receive and obey thy commands addressed in a peculiar manner to them. Teach them always to regard their children as immortal souls intrusted to their care, and for whose nurture and admonition in the fear of the Lord they are strictly answerable; and may they esteem it their greatest pleasure, and their highest honour, to be teaching their children thy sacred truths, when they sit with them in the house, and when they walk by the way, when they lie down, and when they rise up. Give them to observe, with hearts sensibly affected, the natural depravity too apparent in every one of their offspring, and to be solicitous to bring them by early discipline and instruction to him who alone can deliver from it. Make them vigilant to check the first sallies of their vile affections, to furnish them with the means of knowing God and Jesus Christ whom he hath sent, and to habituate them from their childhood to some profitable employment of their time, and their understanding, as they are able to bear it. Keep all parents from setting a bad example before the eyes of their children, and so teaching them an evil lesson against themselves. And may they dread nothing more than the insupportable doom of being condemned as accessaries to the damnation of their own children by their worldliness, sensuality, and neglect of their souls. And as thou knowest that no parents are of themselves sufficient to educate their children according to thy will, O! do thou fill them with wisdom and discretion. Guide them continually with thine eye, between the extremes of shewing a false indul-

gence or an irksome severity to the fruit of their own bodies. Bless altogether the relation thou hast established between them, so that parents may have the joy of seeing their children growing up as pleasant plants before thee, and children have reason to rise up and call their parents blessed, and to praise God for them in time and in eternity.

And do thou, O God, so influence and form the minds of all children, and turn their hearts towards their parents, that they may behave towards them with all reverence, obedience, and love; not stubborn when corrected for their faults, not heedless when instructed, not ungrateful to forget how much they are bound to administer to the comfort of their parents, and to requite them.

In an especial manner we beg of thee, O God, that we of this family, who are now kneeling before thee, may be forgiven for Christ's sake, all the instances in which we have been guilty of irreverence, unkindness, and passion one towards another. Make us sensible of our transgression, heartily sorry for it, and more vigilant for the future. O give unto us, and every family, more of thy grace and power, that we may be of one mind, who dwell together in one house on earth; that at the last day, when we appear to take our trial at the bar of God, we may not be accusers of each other, for exercising any malevolence of temper, but witnesses of the grace of our common Lord in making us dwell together in perfect amity and Christian love. Grant, O God, these our petitions, and let us all perceive the accomplishment of them by the increase of harmony, peace, and love amongst ourselves. We ask it for the sake, and through the intercession of our only Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

FINIS.