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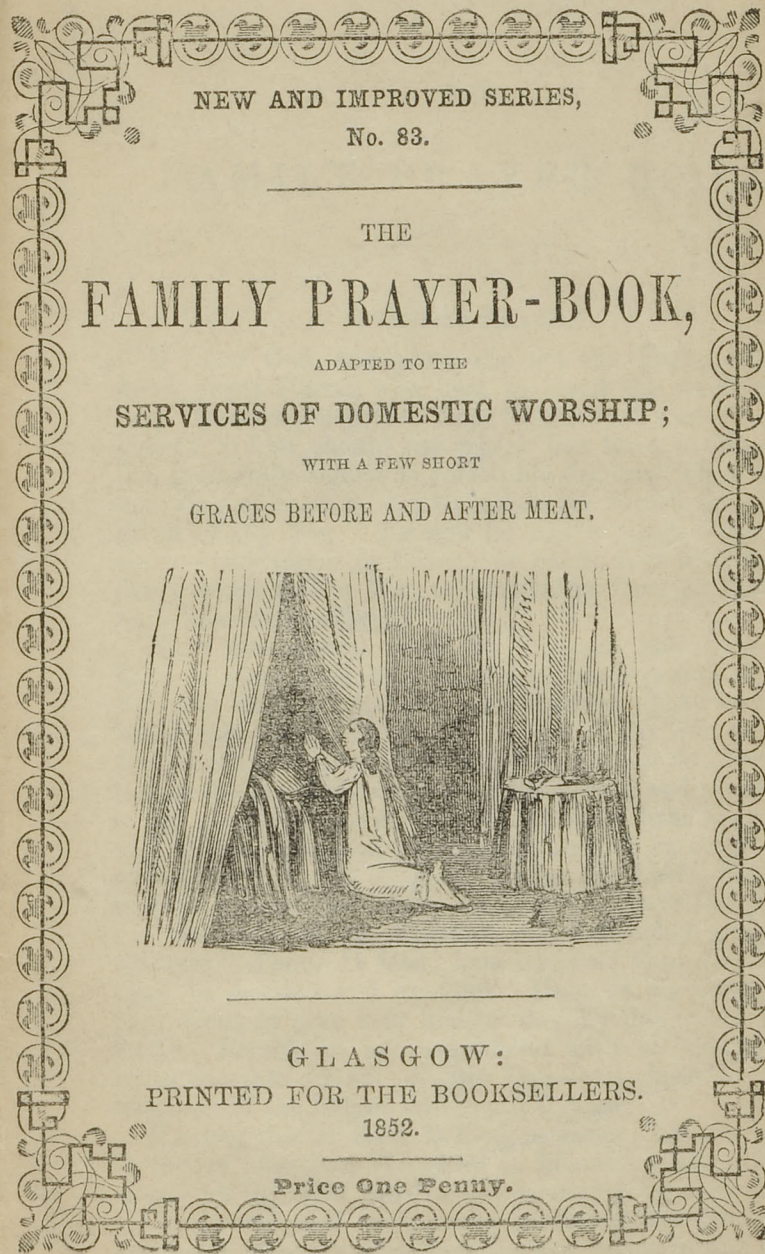
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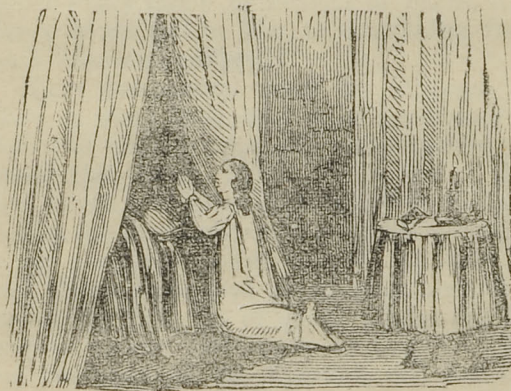
THE FAMILY PRAYER-BOOK,

ADAPTED TO THE

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WITH A FEW SHORT

GRACES BEFORE AND AFTER MEAT.



GLASGOW:

PRINTED FOR THE BOOKSELLERS.

1852.

Price One Penny.

We recommend to thy special protection and tenderest care the kingdom in which we dwell. We entreat thee to direct, sanctify, and govern the heart of our sovereign. Bless the royal family, and all that are in authority over us.

Take us this night, O our God, under thy care. 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 well-pleasing. And unto the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, be ascribed all glory and praise, dominion and power, now and for ever. Amen.

A PRAYER TO BE USED BY A FAMILY WHEN VISITED WITH SICKNESS.

O THOU infinitely great and glorious God, who killest and makest alive. 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 visited us 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 lain down and risen up, gone out and come in, in health, strength, and peace? For these multiplied favours, blessed, O Lord, be thy good and holy name; since the smallest of thy benefits is more than we deserve.

To us, on account of transgressions, thy wrath is most justly due. Wherefore then should living men

complain of punishment for their sin? Shall we receive so much good at the hand of the Lord, and shall we not receive evil? In great compassion thou hast opened a way of relief for us under every trouble, by directing and encouraging us in all our afflictions to pour out our complaints unto thee. We therefore, O Father of mercies, make our supplications to thee, at this time. O Lord, be not far from us.

In entire submission to thy most wise and holy will, we most earnestly pray for that person whose sickness fills us with so much concern. O let not the sickness be unto death, but be for the manifestation of thy grace towards us all. And O, thou great Physician, without whom all others are of no value, do thou direct to the most proper medicines, bless the art of healing, and in due time restore thy servant to health and strength. 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.

And help us all, who are now in health, to improve this loud and solemn call to prepare for our own sickness and death. 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, 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.

PRAYER AFTER RECOVERY FROM SICKNESS.

Most gracious 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

sent life, and show forth the praise of Him who hath called us out of darkness into marvellous light.

We beseech thee, that the excellency of our 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 our corrupt affections—by a meek and quiet spirit under all our 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 this 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; 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 all, as thou, for Christ's sake, hast forgiven us. Banish from our dwellings all variance, whisperings, heart-burnings, and evil surmisings. Let peace and gentleness, meekness and goodness, be exercised by all of us one towards another. Thou, O God! that makest men to be of one mind that dwell together, inspire us with a spirit of concord, and harmonize all our naturally selfish tempers. O let this benefit at least be found from our family-devotion, that we may agree better together, and live more in peace and quietness, than those who call not upon thee.

Continue, we beseech thee, the blessing of health and strength amongst us, and the favour of thy prosperous providence; but give us grace to be ready for a change, 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, 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, but bear

cross cheerfully.

Comfort and protect all our near relations and dear

O Lord, we know not what is in reserve for us in the course of the year on which we have entered. But we wait for thy salvation: and our hope is in thy word. To thee we intrust all our interests. Into thy hand we also commit our spirits, for thou hast redeemed us, O Lord God of truth. Fit us for the duties and trials that may be in reserve for us. And whether it be thy will to call us hence this year, or to prolong our lives beyond it, may we equally be prepared for thy will—steadfast and immoveable, abounding always in the work of the Lord.

Be very gracious to our friends. Enrich them with the bounties of thy providence, and the gifts of thy grace. Let thy cause and people prosper.

And now, O Lord, we leave thy throne trusting in thy mercy, blessing thee for past goodness, and supplicating the continued aid of thy Holy Spirit. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with us all. Amen.

PRAYER IN THE PROSPECT OF DEATH.

O THOU Supreme Ruler of the visible and invisible worlds!—thou Sovereign of life and of death, of earth and of heaven!—blessed be thy name. Once more do I pour out my soul, my departing soul, unto thee. Bow down thy gracious ear, O God, and let my cry come up before thee with acceptance!

The hour is come when thou wilt separate me from this world, with which I have been so long and so familiarly acquainted, and lead me to another, as yet unknown. Enable me, I beseech thee, to make the exchange, as becomes a child of God, who knows, that, through sovereign grace, it is his Father's good pleasure to give him the kingdom.

I acknowledge, O Lord, the justice of that sentence by which I am expiring; and own thy wisdom and goodness, in appointing my journey through this gloomy vale which is now before me. Help me to turn it into the happy occasion of honouring thee, and I will bless the pangs by which thou art glorified, and this mortal and sinful part of my nature is dissolved.

Gracious Father, I would not quit this earth without

temporary interest in the blessings we call our own, and destined, in we know not how short a time, to say to corruption, "thou art my father," and to the worm, "thou art my mother and my sister."

But while oppressed with a sense of our own weakness, we rejoice that we are permitted to lay hold of thy strength. In all generations thou hast been the dwelling-place of thy people. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God. And we rejoice to know that when these monuments of thy power shall be dissolved, when the heavens shall vanish like smoke, and the earth shall wax old like a garment, thy salvation shall be for ever, and thy righteousness shall not be abolished.

Blessed be thy name for Jesus Christ, in whom thy perfections are pledged for the happiness of thy people. Teach us to believe in him and help us to abide in him. Satisfied that the world cannot be our portion, may we avouch thee in him to be our God; may we take thee to be our ruler, our guardian, and our guide; and though other lords may have had dominion over us, by thee henceforward may we make mention of thy name.

We lament, O Lord, that so much of our time and thoughts should have been alienated from thee, or partially devoted to thee.

Let the New Year be a new epoch in our spiritual history. Instead of consuming the season in levity, may we employ it as the occasion of more serious reflection on the shortness, uncertainty, and the value of time—may we turn our thoughts to an eternal world, and apply, with greater earnestness than before, to preparation for the solemn changes that await us. While we enjoy thy goodness, and allow our affections to expand to those who are united to us by the ties of nature or of friendship, may our hearts not be overcharged with the cares and the pleasures of this life. May we grow in grace as we advance in years; and as the last year and day of life approach, may we be progressively attaining to that state in which, with loins girded and lamps burning, we shall be ready to go forth to meet the bridegroom at his coming.

friends. Sanctify to them their present circumstances whatever they may be. 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 sovereign be continually guided by thy counsel, and reign over us in righteousness.

Free and relieve all who are distressed or oppressed; regard their hearts, hear their sighs and make them 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—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; to whom, with thyself and the Holy Ghost, one God over all, be all honour and praise for evermore.

Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our 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.

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 things by thy presence, we, thy unworthy creatures, beseech thee to fill our hearts with humility, sincerity, and faith in Christ in our approaches to thee.

We acknowledge our absolute dependence upon thee; for our lives, and all the comforts we enjoy we are indebted to thy bounty. Thy hands have brought us into this world, and ever since we saw the light, thou hast

commanding us to make public intercession for all sorts and conditions of men, in order that our hearts may 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, and 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 of 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, and 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, and casting thy law behind us!

O God, let the time past suffice for us to have entered into thy courts thoughtless, unhumiliated, and self-sufficient. Now teach us effectually to reverence thy sanctuary: make us feel the importance of the holy exercises in which we are going to engage. 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 understand-

have towards them with all reverence, obedience, and love; not stubborn when corrected for faults, not heedless when instructed, not ungrateful, nor forgetful to administer to their comfort.

In an especial manner we beg of thee, O God, that we who are now before thee may be forgiven, for Christ's sake, all the instances of which we have been guilty, of irreverence, unkindness, and passion one towards another. Make us sensible of our transgressions, heartily sorry for them, 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, but witnesses of the grace of our Lord in making us dwell together in Christian love. Grant, O God, these our petitions, for all that we ask is for the sake, and through the intercession, of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

A PRAYER APPROPRIATE TO THE DEATH OF A
RELATION OR FRIEND.

O LORD, may all the appointments of thy providence be profitable to the souls of thy people. Visit the members of this house of mourning with thy favour, and let them know and feel that thou art an all-sufficient help, in time of trouble. Knowing that we have no continuance in this life, but pass our days as a tale which has been told, may we act a wise and worthy part, that we may find peace to our souls, and have good hopes in the prospect of the world to come.

Be as a Father to the fatherless, the protector of the widow, and the orphan's stay. Bless those who are connected with the present dispensation of thy providence, and, according to the circumstances of their lot, grant them consolation. As the depth and the length of their sorrows have been, so do thou comfort them and wipe away their tears. By the sadness of the countenance may the affections become better, and the conduct improved, that the heart may be spiritually glad. Give

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 also may be led to glorify God, in whose hands is their breath, and whose are all their ways.

Dispose, O Lord, the hearts of parents to receive and obey the 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. May they esteem it their greatest pleasure, and their highest honour, to teach their children the sacred truth, when they sit with them in the house, 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 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 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 the profitable employment of their time and 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. May they dread nothing more than 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 parents are not of themselves sufficient to educate their children according to thy will, do thou fill them with wisdom and discretion. Guide them continually, and guard them from exercising a false indulgence, or an irksome severity to the fruit of their own bodies. Bless 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 that children may have reason to call their parents blessed, and to praise God for them in time and in eternity.

And, O God, form the minds of children, and turn their hearts towards their parents, that they may be-

ing. Call to our remembrance whatever at any time has made us appear most vile in our own eyes, that we may feel a godly sorrow, and be really ashamed of our iniquity. Accompany the reading of thy most holy Word with the power of thine own Spirit, that we may receive consolation from thy promises, and obtain clearer views of thy great salvation. When we are offering up our prayers to thee, give us to feel tenderness of heart, and pity towards all our fellow-creatures in distress, and fervently desire that thou wouldst send them relief. When we ask for mercy and forgiveness, may we do so with an earnestness suited to the value of these gifts; and 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, 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. 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 and meditating on thy Word, without 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 all may have a part in the praise and love of thy name in the life to come, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

filled us with goodness. We adore thy sparing mercy. Justly mightest thou have brought upon us all the curses written in the book of thy law against transgressors: 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, and 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 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 has created within us a holy mourning for all our wickedness, and for that corruption of our nature, from whence 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 souls, 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 the faith whereby we only 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, to put off the old man, which is corrupt, according to the deceitful lusts, and to

Now I have found the way to thy fear, let me find the comforts of thy mercy. My heart is truly contrite—O Lord despise it not; my spirit is broken, and trembleth at thy word—O Lord, receive it: it is heavily laden, and wearied with my sins—O my God, give it ease from the same. Pity me, O Father, as a father pitieth his own children—receive me as the offended father did his returning prodigal. Though I was lost, yet, by the blessing of thy grace, I am now found again. Welcome thy lost sheep when it returns home, and let there be joy in heaven on the repentance of me, a lost sinner.

O let the blood of Jesus cleanse me from all my sins; let his intercession for me in thy presence make my peace, and appease thy wrath. Shut not thine ears against the voice of his blood, nor be deaf to his mediation, but hear him, and let me find the forgiveness of all my sins, that thy trembling servant may have peace, hope of thy grace and pardoning mercy, through Jesus Christ my Lord and only Saviour. Amen.

PRAYER FOR NEW YEAR'S DAY.

O LORD our Creator and Redeemer, on this the morning of a New Year, we desire to approach thy throne, and to renew our covenant with thee, to whom we are indebted for all things. We adore thee as self-existent, eternal, independent, and infinite—comprehending in thyself all perfection, and conferring upon thy creatures all their endowments, their excellence, and their happiness.

We thank thee for all the goodness we have experienced at thy hands. By thy word we were called into existence—by thy providence our wants have been supplied; and now it is on thy power, and wisdom, and goodness, that we depend for future guidance and protection. In ourselves, we are weak and indigent creatures, children of yesterday, exposed to innumerable dangers and calamities, unable to provide for our own happiness, or to support the burdens which it is thy will to lay upon us. We are strangers before thee, and sojourners, on our way to the grave, possessed of but a

them an interest in the blessings of redeeming love, and let the assurance of everlasting life pour joy into their afflicted souls. Forgive, O Lord, the manifold transgressions of those who mourn, and the multiplied sins of all thy children, and accept of us, and thy penitent people every where, according to thy mercies in Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PRAYER IN BEHALF OF A SICK CHILD.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, have compassion upon us in the day of trouble, and let this child live, by whose afflictions we are afflicted. Suffer not the hope of thy servants to be disappointed, but if death be in the cup, sanctify the dispensation, comfort the mourner, and receive the departing spirit into the fellowship of the saints on high. If life shall be prolonged, let gratitude prevail in the hearts of those who are dearly connected, and let all diligence be given to train up the child in the paths of wisdom and piety, and may every endeavour to promote a virtuous and holy life be successful, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER FOR PARDON OF SINS.

O HOLY and most merciful Father, spare me, thy poor, sinful, but repenting creature. Spare me, good Lord, and let me not perish in my sins, but, through thine infinite mercies, may I find pardon and acceptance notwithstanding them all.

I am a sinful person, O Lord; but thou, O blessed Jesus, art the Saviour of sinners. Thou didst come into the world to call sinners to repentance. Lord, I come and repent at thy call, cast not me and my repentance away from thy presence.

I have gone astray, and through the frailty of my flesh, am very defective in my return to thee. But thou, gracious Lord, considerest our frailties, thou knowest our frame, considerest whereof we are made, and rememberest that we are dust. O be not extreme to mark mine offences, but for Christ's sake blot out my transgressions, receive me graciously, and love me freely.

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. 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 of no recompense for the loss of the soul.

O let the remembrance of that solemn account we must ere long give influence the whole course of our lives. Let us so believe and so obey, that when Christ shall come in the clouds with power and great glory, we may cry out in holy raptures “Lo, this is our God, we have waited for him, and he will save us! This is the Lord, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation!”

To thy merciful protection, O God, we humbly commit ourselves, our friends and relations this night. Defend, we beseech thee, our persons, our dwellings, and our possessions. Refresh us with sleep; and with the health and strength of our bodies, and the vigour of our minds, let us serve thee all our days, till we enter into that blessed kingdom, where we shall all receive the end of our faith, even the salvation of our souls, through Jesus Christ; in dependence upon whose righteousness and intercession we farther pray: Our Father, &c.

PRAYER FOR SABBATH MORNING.

THANKS be unto thee, O most merciful and gracious God, for having devoted this day to thy service. Never can we sufficiently express the obligations we owe thee for this stated season of rest from labour; for the opportunity afforded us of imitating the heavenly host, whilst we assemble 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 Sanctifier of the Church of God.

We praise thee that thou hast commanded us to make, on this day, public confession of our guilt, hatred, and disobedience—of our weakness, depravity, and need of thy perpetual grace to help us. We praise thee for

PRAYER FOR SABBATH EVENING.

O LORD, thou art great, and wonderful, and holy. Thou art exalted far above all blessing and praise which can ever be afforded to thee by the angels of light; yet such is thy condescending mercy, that the door of thy house has been open this day to us, miserable sinners.

We have been waiting on thee in the ordinances of thine 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, we desire to return thee our most hearty thanks and praise, if we have found any deliverance from the unbelief, distraction, and deceitfulness of our depraved hearts, whilst we were offering our vows unto thee.

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; if the forbearance thou hast shown to us, and thy tender pity in sparing us 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 experience 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, 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 our 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, and forgive what has been amiss, though we are too blind ourselves to perceive it. There is iniquity in our most holy offerings. Purge we beseech

PRAYER FOR THE PROPER DISCHARGE OF DOMESTIC DUTIES.

O HEAVENLY Father, thou who hast commanded us conscientiously to discharge the duties we owe to each other, we beseech thee, take away 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.

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

Be merciful, O God, to all heads of families. Save them from haughtiness, passionate reproaches, and every kind of unchristian treatment of their inferiors and dependents. O! convince the rich that it is not their merit, but thy providence alone that makes the difference of station, that they should not 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, either by forwardness or rudeness. Imprint upon their minds a lively remembrance that they have a master in heaven, who is no respecter of the persons of men, and 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 piety towards their servants. Like the good centurion, whose praise is in the Gospel, may they sympathize 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

manifested to us as the God willing to forgive all our iniquities. Thou hast delivered our eyes from tears, and our hearts from anguish. Thou hast chastised and corrected us, but thou hast not delivered us over unto death. Thou hast turned our mourning into joy, and our fears into songs of praise.

O Lord, we beseech thee, perfect all that concerns us; and grant that this gracious interposition may so affect us, that henceforth we may all more entirely depend upon thee for the continuance and preservation of our dearest earthly comforts.

Give us grace to use and enjoy all our temporal comforts, as those who know that the fashion of this world passeth away. Grant that we may learn from our late affliction, 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, may we all be united again in heaven, and be for ever with the Lord, and with one another.

That none of us may fall short of so glorious an end, O give us a clear knowledge of the excellency of our God, and a firmer dependence upon the word of thy grace.

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 ourselves, 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, that we may then fear no evil. 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 of them, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with Thee, and the Holy Spirit, we ascribe all glory and praise, now, and for ever, Amen.

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 abhorring all that is evil, and cleaving to that which is good. Let Christian temper shine in our conversation, and may 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 our God at a distance, 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 friendship. Let none of them slightly estimate 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 the 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.

GRACES BEFORE MEAT.

I.

GRACIOUS God, we have sinned against thee, and are unworthy of thy goodness; pardon our sins, and bless these mercies for our use, and help us to eat and drink to thy glory, for Christ's sake. Amen.

II.

O LORD, thou art constantly bestowing abundance upon us. Enable us to receive all thy blessings with becoming affections of mind; and sanctify the present instance of thy bounty through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

III.

THY mercies, O Lord, are renewed unto us day by day, though, by our sinfulness and disobedience, we are unworthy of thy favour. But do thou forgive our manifold transgressions, sanctify us in all our undertakings, and bless the offered mercies, through Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

GRACES AFTER MEAT.

I.

WE thank thee, O Lord, for the continued bounty of thy providence, and while our bodies are strengthened by daily food, cherish our souls by thy heavenly grace. Forgive, we beseech thee, our numerous sins, and accept of our acknowledgments for this and every instance of thy goodness, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

II.

WE give thee praise, O Lord, for all the blessings of this life, and for the hopes of future glory. Accept of our thanks for every mercy we receive, and to thy name, through Christ the Lord be ascribed the praise, now and for ever. Amen.

III.

BLESSED God, in thee we live, move, and have our being; make us thankful for thy mercies; and as we live by thy providence, help us to live to thy praise; looking and waiting for a better life with thyself above, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

my grateful acknowledgments to thee for all that abundant goodness which thou hast caused to pass before me here. With my dying breath, I bear witness to thy faithful care. I have wanted no good thing. I thank thee, O my God, that this guilty and unprofitable life was so long spared; and that it hath still been maintained by such a rich variety of thy bounty. I thank thee, that thou hast made this beginning of my existence so pleasant to me. I thank thee for the mercies of my days and nights, of my months and years, which are now come to an end. I thank thee for the mercies of my infancy, for those of my riper age; for all the agreeable friends whom thou hast given me, for the help I have received from others; and for all the opportunities which thou hast given me of being helpful to the bodies and souls of my brethren of mankind.

I bless thee, O Lord, that I am not dying in an unregenerated and impenitent state; but that thou didst graciously awaken and convince me; that thou didst renew and sanctify my heart, and didst, by thy good Spirit, work in it an unfeigned faith, a real repentance, and the beginning of a divine life. I thank thee for ministers and ordinances: I thank thee for sabbaths and sacrament-days; for the weekly and monthly refreshments which they gave me.

And now, O Lord, let my few remaining moments on earth be spent for thy glory; and let me ascend, with love in my heart, and praise on my faltering tongue, to the world where love and praise shall be complete! Be this my last song on earth, which I am going to tune in heaven—Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth on the throne, and to the Lamb, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER.

OUR Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us day by day our daily bread; forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who have trespassed 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. Amen.

THE

FAMILY PRAYER BOOK.

MORNING PRAYER.

O LORD God Almighty, who art the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hast so loved the world as to give thine only-begotten Son, to the end, that all who believe in him should not perish but have everlasting life, mercifully regard us, miserable sinners. Thou seest how slow of heart we are to believe the record thou hast given of thy Son. Though he has a name which is above every name in heaven or earth, how little confidence 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 know 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 and endearing thoughts of Jesus Christ the Lord—that he may be no less precious to us than he was to 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. Help us, we earnestly pray thee, to give him honour day by day, more perfectly. Enable us to comprehend with all saints the immeasurable extent of his love—the breadth and length, and the height and depth thereof.

We beg this of thee, O 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 have joy and peace in this pre-