

Hearth " supplies a gap in the bookshelves of our Christian homes, and the time of its publication is peculiarly opportune. These are days of stress and hurry, when all that concerns the materialistic side of life-money, business, amusement-threatens to monopolise the time and thought of parents and children alike.

Homes for many are little more than lodgings, places convenient to sleep and eat in, but serving no higher purpose than to supply the physical needs of the human body.

We are losing sight of the great truth that home is the training ground for character; and that pure, noble, unselfish characters are the product of homes where first things come first. It is because this little book strives to uplift the everyday life of home and family towards a definitely spiritual

plane that I welcome most heartily its advent.

While the spirit of this book is essentially devotional, and there is much that is poetical and very beautiful in its language, there is no vague sentimentalism, for the writer gives meditation and prayer an intensely practical value, and helps us to realise that Christianity is a life before it is a doctrine.

I hope this book will find its way into many of our homes, for I am convinced that it is fraught with fruitfulness, and, under God's blessing, will bring to those who read and study it fresh inspiration and help.

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Prelude.

BE of good cheer I

What but the glory of the Light of Light
Could cast such shadows on a world forlorn?

If our hearts whispered not the hope of

morn

Would we so hate the horror of this night?
What is it else than desperate bitter fear
That drives the troops of evil, who know well
Their hour is come, to vent their dying rage
Upon the people of this heaven-lit age
And seek by every means they may to sell
Their lost dominion dear?

Be of good cheer !

The very depth of our perplexity
Amid this whirling world of strife and care
Where disillusion beckons to despair
Is of itself a call for help, a cry
That angels' hearts will not be slow to hear.
For it is ever in such a time as ours,
When man has ransacked sea and land
for rest
And never sought the heaven in his own
breast,
That God reveals once more His hidden
powers
And in His might draws near.

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Be of good cheer I

Though all things change, Truth's kingdom
is secure.
The forms of faith come, go, and are
forgot,
But that which they enshrine can perish
not.
Altars may crumble, worship will endure.
Those holy things that God bids man revere
Reign on unchecked by man's satanic will;
Wisdom and love are of a higher birth
Than these frail phantom forces of the
earth
And take their deathless power from Him
Whose will
Above all change stands clear.

Be of good cheer !

What kings desired in vain God gives to you
And in this wondrous day before our eyes
Unseals His ancient book of mysteries
Making all things in earth and heaven new.
Truth hath come down from some far flaming sphere;

Lo, in our midst her sa~red fires burn!
And see-trace back these countless rays
of light
To the One Point wherein they all unite,
And bow your forehead in the dust to know
That God Himself is here !

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Of Religion, of Happiness, and
of the Modern Home.

THE purpose of this book is to bear
witness to the truth that the power of
God is now abroad among men in its
fulness, and that happiness in the
home (and elsewhere) is to be attained
only through conscious communion
with that power.

Home-life in Christendom to-day is
by common report not so harmonious
nor so happy as it ought to be, nor a~
it used to be. The saQctity of its ties
has been called in question; the old
loyalties have been weakened; authority, discipline and order are held
in less esteem than formerly. Since
the family is the foundation on which
the fabric of the nation rests, the instability of the home threatens the
well-being of the whole structure of
society.

In the age of transition such as ours,
a degree of uncertainty in the life of
the home is doubtless inevitable. Old
ideas, old sentiments, old methods
have ceased to satisfy, and have been
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suddenly challenged by new knowledge
and by new conceptions in almost
every phase of human activity. The
home reacts to the general confusion.
In many ways it suffers as much as the
rest of society, but in one way it
suffers more. It is more directly and
more deeply affected than anyá other
human institution by the demand for
a change in the relationship between
the two sexes. Here in the family
(unless a hopeless attempt be made to

preserve the sex-tradition of medirealism) the whole of the old order and the old discipline has at once to be modified. A new balance of power has to be worked out in detail, and established not only between husband and wife, but between father and mother, father and daughter, mother and son, brother and sister. The adjustment is a complex matter, and one of much delicacy. Even with the best intentions on all sides, judgment and tact are indispensable, and a little humour is not amiss. A just solution of the problem enriches, sweetens and uplifts the life and the ideals of the family. But none will wonder that in such a world as we have to-day the process of experiment and change produces in

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the home many difficulties and some disasters.

Behind, however, all other reasons for domestic unrest, there is in reality one which predominates, and indeed includes, all others. This is the enfeeblement of our belief in religion and in God. Spiritual sloth, covert or open faithlessness have spread like a black death throughout Christendom, and far beyond its borders. The infection has passed from study and council chamber, from street and market into the home itself. It has reached the minds of young and middle-aged, of women and of men. It saturates the mental atmosphere which we all must breathe.

Such a condition of heart invariably brings upon mankind definite penalties. Nor is the reason for this just and terrible retribution far to seek.

Religion is not one of the aspects of life, but a spirit informing all aspects.

It is an attitude of soul towards Truth and God, and only through its energy is man guided to make his intelligence serve his higher nature instead of serving those desires which come to him from below. So long as he remains without religion, and shuts himself

from communion with the spiritual realm, man is no better than a human animal. He lives on the animal plane, and is subject to all the limitations and defects of animal nature. His mind is engrossed in purely material things, and he regards the struggle to survive as the highest of all laws: he can see nothing beyond it. Selfinterest rules his life, and he esteems leadership and power as the greatest success. Hence come fear and pride, hatred and jealousy, filling the world with every form of injustice, with oppression, strife, war and misery. True religion is indeed man's sole protection against the evil forces of his own nature. When he abandons this protection, he quickly finds that the lesser constructive forces of life lose their vitality and power. Authority of every kind is weakened. The old bonds and loyalties that helped to hold society together are challenged and rejected. Indiscipline becomes a habit of thought. A general disintegration of home life, and of the body politic sets in, and there ensues such a disruption of the entire social organism as occurred in the early centuries of our era, and as we see

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recurring on a larger scale before our eyes to-day. Nowhere in the wide earth is help to be found. Ingenuity can devise no remedy. Violence cannot cut a path through to safety, nor hold at bay the inevitable doom. Progress in material civilisation, however great, is not of the least avail. The affectation of religion breeds exclusiveness and bigotry, and by introducing into the community another cause of dissension only aggravates the disease.

As there exists but one preventive, so there exists but one cure: the reattainment of spirituality and the return to a pure and practical religion. Religion is in truth the most effective instrument for the promotion of order and harmony in the world. No other known force will unite human hearts (in the home or in the outer world) so

closely or so firmly as will religion. A community of interest may join together a group of men for a time; but such a combination is weak, and will endure no longer than common advantage dictates. Genuine faith penetrates to the inmost being of men, and makes them truly one in heart and will. The power of a common faith is

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like that of fire that will fuse a dozen bars of iron into one single piece. The power of material interest is like that of a rope which will tie together the iron bars, but will leave them always separate and ready to fall asunder when the bond is removed.

So soon as ever a man turns his heart to God he finds himself among conditions which are the exact opposite of those to which he has been used in the lower world of self-centred nature.

Here in the spiritual realm the influences that play upon his heart move him to goodwill, concord and amity.

The voices of fear and pride are no longer heard. Sweetness and peace and love are breathed upon his soul.

He has indeed entered a new mental world, higher and immeasurably vaster and more powerful than that of matter. From the first he knows that he belongs to this more exalted realm, and under its influence he begins to recognise that his own real self and essence is not physical but spiritual, and that all men being the spiritual offspring of one Father are in truth one, members of one family, one soul in many bodies. The narrow confines of birth and death no longer

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limit his understanding, and he begins to descry something of the eternity of God and of His creation. By degrees he is delivered from the tyranny of the Old Adam. He learns that the emotions and desires which once he served—ambition, anxiety, greed, jealousy, hatred—are born of illusion,

based on a misunderstanding of his own real nature, and of the infinite universe in which his soul and spirit dwell. His character changes and is transmuted. Endowed with a wider knowledge of life he no longer seeks self-expression in acts of egoism and usurpation, but proves the reality of his faith by the exercise of justice, and by deeds of compassion, fellowship and charity towards all. Thus does religion annihilate the first causes of disunion and ill-will, and break up the foundations on which all private and public strife are based. A group of people bound together by a common spirituality are proof against the estranging influences of the material world. Whether it be a family, or a nation, or a scattered body of believers representing a cross-section of humanity, like the early Christians, those whom a common
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love for God has joined, men cannot put asunder. When Jesus promised (in effect) that if men would seek first the kingdom of God material well-being would follow, the practical wisdom of His assurance is evident. Ultimately, it is religion that stabilises society. Without it prosperity is never secure, and order can never be complete nor be long maintained. In the great world, therefore, the most vital of all reforms to-day is the reattainment of a pure religion. And as in the nation, so in its microcosm, the household. They who seek to build a happy home can in no wise succeed unless a mutual human love is strengthened by a common love for Him who is the source and cause of all love. The task should not be hard. For in the home there are tendencies which draw man's heart towards higher things. Spirituality is less difficult to attain here than it is in the countinghouse or camp. And until religion calms and ennobles the inner life of the family and its members, there is little hope that it will penetrate the

outer world of politics, letters and commerce. Marriage is based on love, and begins at the altar of the Most

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High. It evokes in the hearts of lovers the fairest hopes and the most beautiful ideals. Instinct and custom unite to surround" it with both rejoicing and solemnity. Its earthly blessing of children calls through the years for self-sacrifice and forethought, and confers on even thoughtless parents a deep sense of responsibility. Few do not strive to protect, to guide and train their children to the best of their knowledge and power, and to prepare them against the moral difficulties and dangers which for themselves perhaps have proved too strong. Nor is there any school in life more important than the home. The heart and the soul of the child are impressionable almost beyond belief. The little one who seems to be learning no more than how to hold a spoon or pencil, and how to put on its clothes, is in fact absorbing knowledge more quickly than it ever after will from any book or teacher. The acts, the words, the very character of its elders and companions, with all that makes up its environment, are imprinted on the infant mind. And what is thus acquired is never forgotten. As the sapling is bent, the tree will grow. "What you teach a

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child," says the Arab proverb, "you cut in stone. It will never be erased." Father and mother may-if it be their wish-learn only less than their children. Spirituality is gained from life as well as from books. The simple affections of the home call into action one's better nature; and as every deed has its originating thought, so the ceaseless material demands of every day have their ideal side, and may be used to transform moral weakness into strength, callousness to sensitiveness. If all the members of the family, young and old, unite in a common

faith and a common effort there is created a new spiritual power-greater than the aggregate of their individual powers-and this may become the means of God's descent upon the home.

While the thoughts and sentiments conveyed in these pages are one and all sincerely the author's own-a transcript from experience, they are not intended to be original in the sense of being singular or even unusual. On the contrary, the author's effort has been to catch and to reflect some of the nobler ideals and aspirations current in this extraordinary age, and to
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express these in a form suited for the devotional purposes of the modern family and its several members.

The prayers deal in some measure with the private experiences of the inner religious life, but more particularly and in more detail with the various relationships to be found in the family group. They treat of the central and vital problems which confront husband and wife, father, mother and child. They deal more especially with those earlier years of married life which are the time of experience and adjustment, and are therefore most critical. They come out of actual life, and (except 'in a few instances) have been composed for the use of one particular family or of special friends. In one or two places there is a local reference-the description of a scene or the narration of an incident-but the meaning and the emotion which make the essence of the piece are, it is hoped, the natural property of every parent and child everywhere.

The underlying purpose from beginning to end has been to bear witness in the sphere of home life to the truth that the spiritual is the real, and to offer to those who dwell in homes a
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means of expressing the belief that the power of God in its fulness is with us now.

Prayers and Meditations.

FOR 'BRID€ & G'l(OOM.

For Bride and Groom.

I

O GOD, look upon us, Thy servants,
who have set forth upon this enterprise of married life; and hear our
common prayer.

Courtship and wedding- are over, and
now we kneel alone to Thee upon that
hearth which is to be henceforth the
centre of our lives.

O Thou Whose presence we sought
to pledge our marriage vows- Thou
Whose blessing we invoked, and in
Whose Name we made our two lives
one:

Grant that we may continue according to this beginning.

Help us to found in truth an altar
on this hearth, and sacrifice ourselves
and our lives to Thee and to Thy
cause. Amen.

O GOD, look upon us who have undertaken to create a home, and wish to
build it in Thy Name, and to shape it
according to Thy Desire.

Help us from this beginning to the
very end to turn our hearts to Thee,
and to seek wisdom and courage and
strength from Thee,

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Grant that our love, our happiness,
our delight in each other may increase
and strengthen, and become more
deep and sweet continually.

Grant that our hearts may grow
ever more warm, more tender, more
rich in love, and in love's joy.

Grant that our love may be the lig-ht
of our life; that it may fill our dwelling
with its rays, making our home a place
of sweetness and delight, or rest and
spiritual peace.

Help us to be just to each other; and
to know ourselves as equal before
Thee in rights and in importance.

Help us to find and to preserve that

poise and mutual helpfulness which
Thou hast appointed for wedded men
and women.

Help us to combine the diverse
spiritual gifts of manhood and of
womanhood, that with a twofold
strength and a single will we may the
better seek Thee in Thy heaven and
serve Thee on Thy earth.

Teach us who have promised to
share our earthly things, to share with
one another heavenly things.

Let our comradeship be not outward
only but inward likewise: the hidden
union of two hearts who share in joy

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a common faith and heavenly knowledge.

Make Thou this home of ours as
happy as a home may be, and all our
sister homes throughout the world as
happy as our own. Amen.

O THOU Whose name is Love, and
from Whom alone true love proceeds,
let this love-bond which in Thy name
we bind about our lives be a sign and
proof of Thy Presence. Let it be born
of Thee; let it be maintained by Thee;
and let it lead us ever onward together
into closer communion with Thee,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

GRANT unto us, who with a common
aspiration strive to do only Thy will
and to walk only in Thy way, that we
may animate, encourage and sustain
each other, and so through united
effort may obtain what each unaided
and alone might never reach nor know.

For Jesus' sake. Amen.

O GOD of pity, Who knowest that
human love is of itself frail and
mutable, lift up our hearts to Thy
heaven, and make us one in Thee that

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-Our love for one another may partake
of Thine own love's immutability and
might; through the power of Jesus

Christ, our Lord. Amen.

GRANT, O God, that we preferring
each the other's good may share in
harmony all worldly things, and not
content with this may seek and share
together the hidden treasures of Thy
inner worlds, finding continually new
fields for search, new ranges of
spiritual fellowship and love. Through
Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

BIND our souls together, O God, with
cords of affection and bonds of comradeship, and make us one in heart
and spirit, that Thou Who enterest
none but lovers' hearts mayst lodge
with us and bless our home and
neighbourhood with the sweet radiance of Thy Presence. Amen.

GRANT unto us, O God, the perfect
spirit of comradeship that each may
have at call in time of spiritual trial
an understanding heart, a helping
hand, a cheering voice, a sweetening
smile. And let the assurance of this

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dear support and sympathy be our
married strength to win together the
Goal of Thy good pleasure and Thy
love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen. •

O SELF-REVEALING Lord, Who hast
commanded marriage and ordained the
Home, reveal Thy will for wedded
lovers such as we, and guide us upward on this new path of happiness
and love. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

IO

O God Who hast constituted all things
for a spiritual purpose, reveal to us
more and more clearly Thy spiritual
purpose in a human marriage.

Grant that by our lives together we
may prove our marriage was indeed
made in heaven, that we were wedded
in Thy name and to Thy glory.

Train our minds and hearts that
we may attain more and more fully
the blessings Thou hast prepared for
lovers knit in true marriage.

Let our marriage strike its roots

deep within our hearts, and grow in spiritual strength and beauty till it fulfil Thy spiritual purpose and desire.

Amen.

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A Husband's Prayer in Absence from Home.

II

CUT me not off, O God, from communion with her I love, but let me still guard and protect her though she be far away.

Let my homing thoughts be as birds that fly to her and sing in her listening heart songs of my love. Let them be as strong sentinels keeping watch and ward that no evil may come near her.

Let them be as suppliants to Thee calling to her aid the angels of Thy presence.

Make my love more strong and stedfast, and remove the limits which beset it now that I may have power from Thee to help those I love though I be far away. In Jesus' name.

Amen.

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FOR FATHER & MOTHER.

A Morning Prayer.

O WATCHFUL and loving Lord! Keep our little ones this day under Thy protection. Permit no evil influence to reach or to come near them. Preserve them from illness, from accident, and from all mishap. And in the evening bring them home to their rest in safety and happiness. For Jesus' sake.

Amen.

An Evening Prayer.

PRAISE be to Thee, O God, Who hast given to these children another day of happiness, and brought them free from harm through the dangers of their waking hours. Grant to them now sweet rest and healthful sleep. And through the night, O Thou that sleepest not, keep them in safety

beneath the shelter of Thy power and Thy love; for Jesus' sake. Amen.

PRAISE be to Thee, O God, Who hast given to these children the boon of earthly life, and brought them thus far upon the road that leads to life eternal!

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O Thou of many gifts, vouchsafe these little ones the mortal boon of health, prosperity and happiness; and since these blessings soon must pass away and be no more, admit them to Thy boundless worlds of love, endow them wi'th imperishable wealth, and baptise them with the spirit of Thine own immortal life; through Christ, our Lord.

THIS home is a garden, O Lord, which Thy hand has planted in the world, and the hearts of these children are Thy flowers. Do Thou tend them and nourish them.

Pour down the rays of Thy truth upon them. Breathe on them with Thy Holy Spirit. Let Thy mercy descend on them like refreshmg rain.

So shall these flowers of Thine mature, and bloom in beauty, and shed afar the fragrance of Thy love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAISE be to Thee, dear Lord, Who grantest to Thy servants bounty upon bounty. Thou bestowest on us the marriage-blessing of children bringing

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with them a thousand delights; and in this very gift Thou openest to us of Thy grace a new world of setvice to Thee, a new road to Thy good pleasure and favour.

Help us, in love and gratitude to Thee, so to direct and train these little ones that they may become men and women after Thine own heart, and may take their place in the world as teachers and exemplars of Thy truth:

through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

O THOU, the Lover, the Creator and the Lord of these children, help us their parents to guard and train them not through human love alone, but as an act of love for Thee, and of obedience to Thy command.

Grant us selflessness and devotion, that we may be able in our hearts to hear Thy bidding, and understand Thy will for these little ones.

Help us to do for them our utmost in Thy name, and in calm trust to leave the rest to Thee, the All-wise Who lovest these Thy children better yet far better than any human parent may love his child.

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LET Reverence towards Thee, dear Lord, and kindness towards all that lives be graven deep into these children's hearts.

Give to us, their parents, wisdom and steadfastness, that we may unfold to them, little by little, at the right time and in the right way, the knowledge of Thy Truth, and by the example of our lives may amend whatever is amiss in our teaching.

Let them increase day by day in spiritual strength that they may learn of Thee the mystery of prayer, and may attain the reward of conscious communion with Thy Spirit; through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

O FATHER in heaven, Who givest to a parents' intercession a special privilege, hear Thou our prayer for these children whom Thou hast entrusted to our care.

Protect them, we beseech Thee, against the evil that arises in their own hearts, against the contagion of their parents' frailties and imperfections, against the power of those whose hearts are turned from Thee.

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Help us to pray for our children with concentration and humility of spirit, and by force of prayer to keep back, far from them, the evil influences that seek their destruction. In

Jesus' name. Amen.

O THOU Who hast blessed us with
Thy gift of children, let not the wonder
and the happiness of these days of
their infancy ever pass wholly from
our hearts!

Grant us a strong undying memory
of whatever is most precious in these
fleeting days, that in the aftertime
when our little ones are no longer
little we may still keep in our hearts
countless images and echoes of their
babyhood, may see again their open
innocent faces, may hear their voices
striving to imitate their elders' speech
and recall these tireless infant feats
of growing knowledge and gathering
strength.

So shall the unworldly beauty of
these childhood days abide with us
forever, and not be wholly lost in the
ripe happiness of the later time.

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" Of such is the Kingdom of Heaven."

GRANT to these little ones, O Lord,
that the gifts and qualities which now
are theirs through weakness they may
make their own by strength. Let them
through all the years retain this childlike heart, continuing humble and
receptive as now, full of wonder, eager
to learn. Increase day by day and
year by year their faith that as the
children of a Higher Home than •this
they may inherit the promise of their
Heavenly Father, and even here on
earth partake of His Life, His Joy,
His •Universal Love. Amen.

HERE, O Lord, within the precincts
of Thy protection, Love is king and
Faith and Hope are the lords of
thought. But in the world without,
Faith and Hope wander in a wilderness and a stranger sits upon Love's
throne.

Be Thou, O Lord, the strength and
shield of these little ones from their

life's beginning to its very end.

Grant that their love and faith and

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hope may prevail against every enemy

and put to shame all doubt and disbelief. Give them fortitude and power

that through childhood and _manhood,

in prosperity and in adversity, they

may' continue that journey toward

Thee which here they have begun, and

may to their lives' end bear witness to

Thy truth; through Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

O GOD, look on us who with ceaseless care keep watch and ward over

these children, and suffer not our

anxiety for them to become a sign of

lack of trust in Thee.

We acknowledge that they are in

Thy safe keeping. It is for Thee to

appoint unto them their tasks in life,

and Thou wilt bestow on them ample

strength and means to perform all

that Thou requir~st.

Help us to pass on to them Thy

message, to give to them the best we

have to give, and doing this, to leave

their souls to Thee in perfect trust.

Amen.

PRAISE be to Thee, O God, for Thy

bounty to the weak, the youn_g, the

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humble, and for Thy power whereby

Thou doest whatsoever Thou wiliest,

unhelped, unhindered, uncomprehended by the thoughts of men !

Thou puttest down the mighty, and

dost exalt them of low estate.

Thou hidest Thy mystery from the

wise and learned, and revealest it to

them who are as babes.

The scholar and philosopher see and

perceive not, read and understand

not; the child beholding Thy beauty

steps into Thy Kingdom.

O Loving Lord, Who hast never

turned away from a longing heart,

nor an appealing cry, hear Thou a

parent's prayer and deal with these

little ones-these tender branches of

the tree of life-according to Thy all perfect knowledge and desire. Amen.

O LORD, look upon these little ones, children of Thy covenant born beneath the shadow of Thy mercy. Keep them from the first unto the last under Thy protection and suffer them not to follow any desire save what beseems a seeker after Thy truth, and a servant of Thy love.

HEAR Thou, O God, our prayer for the children of this Age throughout the world!

Look with pity on those whose parents have not turned their hearts to Thee nor humbled themselves before Thy deity. By Thy boundless mercy and Thy prevailing will, deliver them out of the darkness that surrounds them, and draw them toward Thy light. Create in their souls a hunger and thirst for righteousness, a longing for reality and truth; and prepare their minds to listen for and welcome Thy glad tidings.

And now, O God, we beg Thee for these our children and for all others born beneath Thy covenant that Thou wilt endow them with power to recognise and to use to the utmost the blessing Thou hast given them. Grant them strength to stand fast by Thy truth, to uphold Thy cause, and in their time to spread far and near the knowledge of Thy glory and dominion. Amen.

FATHER of mine, and of my little son who kneels at my side and lifts his
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voice to Thee, hear Thou his prayer and mine. Protect those whom he loves and prays for. Lead him onward and ever onward in Thy way till he shall understand that within his weak and mortal body is hidden the light of Thine imperishable Presence; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

A Father's Prayer.

O TRANSCENDENT and Incomparable
Lord!

Thou hast bidden us look to Thee
as to our Father in heaven; teach me
to keep in my heart this chosen Name
of Thine, that I may discern the true
ideal of fatherhood, and learn what
Thou wouldst have an earthly father
be. Strengthená me with Thy Spirit
that I may deserve the trust, the
obedience and the love of my little
ones. Make me remember that they
will learn the meaning of fatherhood
from their earthly father, and forbid,
O Lord, that I by my unworthiness
should lead Thy children astray in
their first thoughts of Thee. In Jesus'
riame. Amen.

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A Confession.

THERE was one who, being crossed,
spoke to his son in anger, and saw the
child's face change in fear.

Thereafter, praying in penitence, he
heard the Voice of the Spirit speak to
him:

" Think not to number this weak
one among thy possessions, nor
imagine him to be thy creation. Thou
callest him thy son. Yet within his
infant soul lies hidden that which is
deeper than thy knowing. In heaven
his spirit stands now among the angels
of My presence, and here on earth the
sword of My justice protects and
avenges him against all, and especially
against thee. Love thou thy son, and
love thyself in him. Teach him My
way, and walk in it thyself that thou
mayest be his guide. He is not thine,
but Mine. Therefore, in all thou dost
with him keep Me in remembrance, and
fear Me. This is thy duty. See that
thou fulfil it always, and slack not
therein,"

A Baby's Kiss.

O LOVING Lord!

• To the mountain-stream Thou hast given its bubbles that dance and tremble and break in light.

To the forest depths Thou hast given the fresh flowerbuds that burst and open and unfold their tender petals in perfect beauty.

To me Thou hast given the first baby-kiss of this little one who presses her tiny lips upon my lips in love
LITTLE one, little one of my heart, I am thy first love and the first to give thee a heart in love. •

When I come near, thou smilest and stretchest out thy little hands. And when I lift thee to me, thou foldest thine arms about my neck, and pressest thy smooth cheek to mine, calling me love names in thy babytalk. What is there so sweet as love! and what love is so sweet as love at its dawning, new love, first love!

Yet night by night I kneel, and beg of Him Who answers every prayer that

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through the coming years He will make ever more deep and sweet this early love of ours.

To a Little Girl on Her Third Birthday.

O LITTLE one, my Una, April's child, thou breath of the spring wind embodied!

The bluebells cluster about thy knees; overhead the giant beech-trees spread their half-unfolded leaves; across the meadow the cuckoo calls, and from the distant bog comes the curlew's lonely cry.

How happy art thou, leading the revel of the woods, their native queen, for whom a thousand springs have

come and gone to weave thy flowerbeauty, and to find their meaning and perfection in these fresh lips and laughing eyes of thine.

O little one, joys more rare than these await thy wakening heart! A

richer spring has cast its bounty at thy feet, a greater glory shines from another Heaven, And never morning

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breaks nor evening falls but lovers' prayers go forth to beg the early vision of God's Golden Age for thee who playest here thinking all happiness is already thine!

A Father's Charge.

CHILD of my heart, call not me your Father; and this dear wife of mine that gave you birth, call not her your mother. Think not the home we make for you is your True Home. The life that is bestowed on you through us will soon pass away and perish; but you, my son, you will not perish. This life is a steed to bear you to the Kingdom of Eternity, of which you are born a Prince. The Ruler of that Kingdom is your Father. His Palace is your Home. You are heir to a mighty principedom because you are born His son.

Ride straight and fast to take your heritage. Fear no danger. Stop not for flood nor foe. Look not to right nor left. Your Father waits for you. Ride on. Rest not. Remember you are the son of a King.

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To a Boy on His Fourth Birthday.

GOODBYE, ill)" baby boy, goodbye; you are gone from us for ever!

What love did you bring with you into the world!

What love did you stir and quicken in your father's heart.

With what love have I watched

you, played with you, tended you in
all conditions, at all hours, by day and
by night; and who was happier than I!
How many scenes made beautiful
by love, and filled with joy unroll
before my eyes. Again I see our
child of longing, the first born in his
first sleep: the young adventurer
voyaging from chair to chair: the blueclad boy among the buttercups seeking
to make playmates of the eluding
lambs But all this is past. You
are gone from us, my baby-boy, and
have no being now save in the close
warm strong embrace of your mother's
memory and mine.

So must it be.

The bud perishes that the blossom
may shed its fragrance, and babyhood

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yields its place to the larger life of
the boy.

And have not you, my little newcomer, my little four-year-old-son,
have not you all that the baby who
brought you to me had-and how much
more. What was all that babysweetness of yours which is now gone
by save the light you cast before you
on your way to me! You too, in your
turn, will pass away from me, and the
years will ever bring to you change
upon change. Deepening happiness
awaits you. You will pass from knowledge to knowledge, from strength to
strength. And through all the years,
you and I, please God, will be the
closer friends and comrades because
we have loved each other so dearly in
the baby-days gone by.

Mark X., 13.

O MY SAVIOUR !

When I read of the children who
were brought to Thee, and of Thy
taking them in Thine arms and blessing
them, I wish that I had seen Thee in
Thy days on earth, and been permitted

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to bring to Thee these little ones of
mine.

Alas! that age closed long ago, and
that Holy Land lies far away from this.
Yet, my beloved Lord, of a certamty
Thou lovest this land of mine. Thou
knowest the scene that stretches before my eyes: these fragrant fields,
the shining stream, the deep still
woods.

Here, O Merciful Lord, Beloved One,
Thy voice has come to me, the touch
of Thy hand has opened my eyes, and
Thy finger has pointed me to the
hidden pathway of Thy Kingdom. Had
I beheld Thy person on earth, I could
not have known nor loved Thee better
than I can now, nor could the sweetness and the glory of Thy presence
have been to me more precious or more
near.

Alas, alas! it is not distance of time
nor of space that separates me from
Thee, but only my own unworthiness.
O Merciful Lord, suffer us who have
wandered far from Thee to approach
Thy courts, to attain Thy presence,
and to bring our little ones to kneel
at our side before Thy Mercy-Seat.
Amen.

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A Father's Reflection.

WHILE they are at your side, love
these little ones to the uttermost.
Forget yourself. Serve them; care for
them; lavish all your tenderness on
them. Value your good fortune while
it is with you, and let nothing of the
sweetness of their babyhood go unprized. Not for long will you keep the
happiness that now lies within your
reach. You will not always walk in
the sunshine with a little warm, soft
hand nestling in each of yours, nor
hear little feet pattering beside you,
and eager baby voices questioning and
prattling of a thousand things with
ceaseless excitement. Not always will
you see that trusting face upturned to
yours, feel those little arms about your
neck, and those tender lips pressed
upon your cheek,á nor will you have

that tiny form to kneel beside you, and murmur baby prayers into your ear. Love them and win their love, and shower on them all the treasures of your heart. Fill up their days with happiness, and share with them their mirth and innocent delights.

Childhood is but for a day. Ere

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you are aware it will be gone with all its gifts for _ever.

The First Lesson.

WE are thy teachers because God has appointed -us. You are to hear us because God wishes you to do so. He made us your father and mother, because He chose that you should be taught by us.

We provide you with food and clothing and warmth. This is good; but the good of it will not last forever.

The truth we teach you is the greatest of all the gifts we have to give you. Nothing else is important compared with this. Truth and the effects of truth last for ever: not only for a little time. The teaching which God has told us to give you will make you more happy than clothes or houses or pleasure or money. People cannot be happy without truth, even on this earth: in the next world we shall be very unhappy without it.

Remember, these teachings are of more value than all else we have to give you. We teach you because we wish to obey God. We teach you not

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only because we love you very much, but for God's sake.

To teach you as God would have you taught is not easy. We are not so wise nor so good as we should like to be; nor even so wise and good as we hope soon to become. God himself alone is a perfect teacher. We pray God constantly to help us; and because

we so truly wish and strive to please Him He strengthens us with the power and wisdom of His Spirit. Whatever is true in our teaching, and whatever is good and right in It comes not from us, but from God.

The Greatest Gift.

THE greatest benefit which we have to confer on you is: Guidance to God. When God chose us to be your parents He commanded us to offer you this guidance. Therefore, it is by His will that we give you His Holy Teaching. We speak to you of Him and of His prophets, we surround you continually with thoughts of faith and worship, and we never cease to pray for you.

We cannot compel you to learn the lessons which we teach; we would not

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compel you if we could, for God intends our wills to be free. You must choose for yourself. Your mother and I are trying-as best we may-to follow the leading of that Guidance, and it is our hope and prayer that you will travel with us. We should be very lonely if we had to take one step without you. For this teaching which God has given us to pass on to you is the most precious thing we have to give you: more precious far than food, or clothes or schooling, or even life itself --for this knowledge is ETERNAL life.

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FOR CHILDREN.

O CHRIST! Thou art the Good Shepherd, and we are Thy little lambs.

Thou art strong, and we are weak.

Thou art wise, and we are unwise.

Guard us and guide us, and keep us safe in Thy care and in Thy fold.

Amen.

O THOU good Shepherd of the sheep!

Take us to be Thy own, and number us among those who know Thy voice and follow Thee. Keep us who are such little lambs near to Thee that we may

not stray nor be lost. Lead us in the path of Thy choosing that we may drink at the Fountain of Truth, and feed in 'the pastures of happiness. Amen.

I WHO am but a little child turn to Thee, O God, and beg Thee to be my Guardian and my Guide from the beginning that I may grow up as Thy child and Thy servant, obeying Thy will, seeking Thy approval, hoping for Thy heaven: through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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O GOD, I am little and weak; I cannot help in the work of mankind; I am of no account in the world of men. But I am Thy child. I am created by Thee. My heart is a flower in Thy Garden. My hope and my home is Thy heaven.

Strengthen me that I may become Thy true servant. Shine on me with Thy truth that I may grow and develop and bear fruit. Breathe the breath of spiritual life into me that I may attain immortality; and admit me to Thy Kingdom and Thy Presence. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Now in the beginning, O God, I commit myself to Thee, giving up my will to Thy will, my desire to thy desire, and all I have and am to Thee. Accept the life I cast at Thy feet, my Lord. Enter my heart, and live in me for ever. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

HELP me, O God, always to speak the truth, and to be faithful in a trust.

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Fill my heart with goodwill towards all men, and let me cause unhappiness to no one. Teach me to look for the good in áeveryone, and to be humble. Let me fear nothing save Thy displeasure, and let my highest hope be to attain Thy favour. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

O CHRIST who broughtest heaven down

to earth for us, help us to love Thy children of the East and of the West, and to show kindness to all our neighbours that we may find Thy way to heaven and kneel at Thy feet to beg forgiveness for all others and ourselves.

O GOD, teach me and guide me that I may play the part which Thou hast assigned me in this home. Help me to be reverent before Thee, to honour my father and mother, to be unselfish with my brothers and sisters, to be thoughtful and helpful towards all. O Heavenly Father, bring me up in fear of Thee that I may attain true wisdom, •and in love of Thee that I may attain enduring wealth.

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O GOD, teach me, Thy servant, to look to Thee for guidance, for strength, and for the reward of my work. Grant that I may do my utmost in whatever I undertake, seeking always to worship Thee by my actions, and to benefit my fellow-men as well as myself. Thine, O God, is all power and glory and happiness and dominion. Amen.

PRAISE be to Thee, O God, by whose bounty I am born into a family where Thy Revelation is acknowledged, and Thy Name is hallowed. I beg Thee to number my father, my mother and myself among those true servants who love Thy law and live according to Thy commandments: through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

O GOD, help me to share the faith of my father and my mother; to search for and find the Truth for myself, as they have done before me. Awaken the spirit that lies within me that I may behold Thy Glory for myself and may hear Thy Word with my own ears. Teach me to be grateful to those who

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have pointed me to Thy light, and who

have begged for me Thy guidance on my path. Make me one with them in knowledge and love of Thee: through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

TRAIN and strengthen me now, O God, in heart and mind and body that I may be able to play my part manfully in the world of men, and may do my full duty as a soldier in Thy army. of light. Thou broughtest me into this life with a soul spotless and unstained. Awaken in me now such resolution and force of character as will preserve my birthright of virtue in all trials and temptations. Make my faith stedfast, my courage proof, my patience infinite, my devotion to Thee absolute. And in the pursuit of my work and calling let me ever hold fast to Thee in Whose hands lies my destiny.

O God, pity our perplexity, and grant that amid this great multitude of guides pointing such diverse paths to heaven we may trust those only who love the truth for truth's own sake,

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and listening to none other, may find Thy grace find our way home to Thee; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

O God, help us to pay heed to the teaching which in Thy name and for Thy sake our father and mother give us, to be grateful for it to Thee and also to them, and to make the utmost use of the blessings Thou hast showered on us from our baby-days. Grant that we may learn now what afterwards will not be so easy to learn; and that we may here become so certain in our knowledge of Thee, and so strong in our love for Thee, that our faith shall remain all through our lives immoveable.

O GOD, grant to me now as a child such assurance of faith that it shall never be removed nor weakened, even

for a moment.

Fill my mind with thoughts of goodwill, kindness, and compassion; teach me to love Thee, to love my fellowmen, and to love my own better self; and help me ever to be content with that

Pace (>o

poverty which is the need of Thee, and to seek that wealth which is to have in my heart no need of anything save of Thee alone.

O God, I beg Thee to lead me even in childhood toward the true knowledge of myself-that I am a breath of Thy spirit, and have for a time this body as my servant. Through the understanding of what I am and whence I came, bring me to an ever deepening knowledge of Thyself, O God, and of Thy Son our Lord, in Whose name I make this prayer. Amen.

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FOR THEE Fu/MILT.

A Morning Prayer.

O THOU Who standest now among Thy servants at their prayers, let not Thy Presence fade from us in the day's tasks or pleasures, but bring us home to meet again to-night with Thy peace unbroken in our hearts. Amen.

FILL Thou, O God, our home with harmony and happiness, with laughter and delight, with radiant kindness and overflowing joy, that in the union of our hearts Thy love may find a lodging place, and Thou Thyself mayst make this home of ours Thine Own ! Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

UNTO Thee, O God, we dedicate this home. Cleanse it from all that is alien to Thee that it may become fit for Thy acceptance, and may be to friend and stranger as to ourselves a place of peace, a refuge from materialism, a herald of Thy Kingdom; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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O GOD, make Thou this home of ours
the garden of affection, a ripening
place of love, where the hidden powers
of our hearts may unfold, expand and
bear the fruit of an abiding joy;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

O GOD, we who apart have made our
several supplications to Thee now kneel
together before Thy mercy-seat, that
with the greater power of united
prayer we may beg of Thee a special
blessing on us each and all and Thy
protection in the tasks and trials of
the day; through Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

MAKE our religion, O God, sincere and
unobtrusive, a power that quietly shall
leaven our whole life, showing itself
in simple happiness, and in deeds of
goodwill towards all; through Christ,
our Lord. Amen.

O God, teach us to wonder at Thy
creation, at the visible worlds of Time
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and Space and the hidden worlds of
the mind, and let thought follow in
wonder's steps that with uplifted heart
we may seek the One behind the many,
the All-Beautiful behind His Beauty,
the Giver behind His gifts, and within
the soul of man may behold the living
presence of Thine own boundless and
eternal Spirit. Amen.

O GOD, vouchsafe to us who are born
into this enlightened age an understanding heart that we may perceive
the real purpose and value of religion,
may give our minds to the mysteries of
spirit and of the divine nature not less
than to the mysteries of matter and
of human nature, and may render
ready and complete obedience to the
laws ordained by Thee, our Creator,
for Thy creation. Amen.

GRANT unto us who live in this great
Age so clear and strong a sense, O

God, of Thy universal Fatherhood, that
we may know all men of every race
and every class as our spiritual
brethren; and when we pray here for
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our home let us not be unmindful of
those other homes throughout Thy
earth which in Thy sight are as dear
and precious as our own. Amen.

O GOD, Who hast given to us the
personal knowledge of so many people
and has permitted us access to so
many homes, grant that into whatever
life we may have the privilege of
entering we shall come as true and
loyal friends, bringing gifts from Thee
of hope and harmony and happiness.
Amen.

An Intercession.

O GOD of mercy Who hast overcome
the World, show Thy compassion on
Thy children who have turned away
from Thee, and who wander in darkness trusting to the guidance of blind
guides.

Let Thy mercy seek them out, dear
God. Deliver them from their spiritual
captivity. Grant to them vision and
insight that they may themselves
discern truth from error, glory from
dishonour, the true shepherd from the
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hireling, the prophet from the dissembler. Guide Thou their feet to the
highway of Thy kingdom. Open their
ears that they may hear the music
which Thy voice breathes in the world.
Number them in the company of those
righteous ones who love Thee before
all things. Make them as lamps
shedding Thy light among men and
vouchsafe them all that befits Thy
mercy and compassion. Amen.

BE Thou, O God, our guide, that in all
relationships towards Thee and towards our fellow men, we may perceive and do
that which is pleasing in
Thy sight.
Teach us to combine worldly wisdom

with unworldliness, and to join a spirit of confidence and enterprise to a radiant acquiescence in Thy will. Help us to sweeten thrift with generosity, and if we err to err by giving, not by withholding. Vouchsafe us judgment and intuition that amid the divided duties of every day we may preserve at all times the just and narrow mean of righteousness; through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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O THOU Who wast a wayfarer on earth!

Kindle in our hearts sympathy and love that no servant of Thine may ever feel a stranger in this home. Let the fires of hospitality burn brightly in this hearthstone, and a ready welcome wait on every guest.

A Morning Prayer.

HELP us this day, O Lord, not to let our thoughts wander beyond the borders of the day, but to take each task as it comes, and do it with our whole might. Then in the evening let us render back to Thee an account of one day's duty faithfully done as an act of praise to Thee; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

An Evening Prayer.

GRANT that when we lie down to rest to-night we may carry into our sleep the thought of Thy protecting power; and that the first return of consciousness may bring before all else the

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sweet remembrance of Thy nearness and Thy love; through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

O God, let no unhappy nor unlovely thought find birth within these walls, nor any influence pass out into the world from hence, save that which will promote concord and happiness and hope.

Make us one at heart, that through

our unity of purpose and desire we
may become a single spiritual force,
and may shew forth to other homes the
knowledge of Thy comfort and Thy
peace; through Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

O THOU Who dwellest in the midst of
Truth!

Increase in our hearts the love of
Truth for Truth's own sake. Let this
desire become so strong that it shall
consume every earthly desire, and that
no human affection or aversion, no
prejudice nor habit nor tradition, nor
any worldly lure, may weaken this
passionate longing, or lead us by one
step astray.

Thou art the Sun of Truth and the
path to Thee is light!

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DIVEST us of self-interest, O Lord, and
disengage our minds from all desires
that would distort or dull our understanding. Vouchsafe us insight to
know things as they truly are, and
man as Thou hast made him; and
enable us to behold amid the growth
and war of creeds one imperishable
faith and one self-manifesting God;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

IN the moral emergencies of this day,
in the little trials that tease and weary
us, it is our desire, O God, to remain
perfectly true to Thee. But since our
nature is unstable and weak, we beg
of Thee, in Jesus' name, the aid of
that infinite near world of Peace from
which Thou keepest watch and ward
over those who seek Thee. Amen.

A Creed.

THOU art the One God, animating all
things yet self-existent, . absolute.

Thine is the Command which calleth
all things from nothingness into being.

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Thine is the Power that upholdeth all
things, controlleth all things, and from

the beginning ordaineth all that is, and
is to be.

Thou art the Boundless, containing
all existence, and contained of none.
No want was found in Thy perfection
nor was any constraint put upon Thy
will. For love's sake Thou didst create
the worlds, and all that Thou hast
made bears witness to Thy love.

No pathway is there that man has
trodden, or may tread, but the pathway of Thy love. Thou hast created
him to know and to adore Thee, and
to dwell evermore in the joy of union
with Thee, the One Beloved.

Thou art exalted above all attributes and hallowed from the comprehension of
men. That which Thy
prophets proclaim of Thy nature is
according to the measure of our
ignorance not of Thy true nature and
condition.

No man nor angel nor any created
being can worthily extol or glorify Thy
Power. None save Thyself alone can
perceive or imagine Thy Might, Thy
Dominion or Thy Majesty. Amen.

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A Morning Prayer.

O BELOVED Lord, knit our hearts fast
to Thee, and through the trials and
mischances of the day let us keep
Thee ever in remembrance, and remain
unsevered from Thy love. Amen.

BESET from day to day by the practical
problems of this busy world, we beg
of Thee, O God, two especial gifts.

Help us to set our hearts in a right
relation towards all with whom we
deal, regarding them as verily our own
kith and kin, as father or mother,
brother or sister, son or daughter; and
grant us a clearness of mind and judgment likewise that amid all difficulties
we may walk in the path of wisdom,
justice and understanding.

Vouchsafe us this bounty, O Lord,
according to the measure of our need
that we may give at all times to Thy

affairs the best service of our minds
and hearts; through Jesus Christ, our
Lord.

PROTECT us, O God, from misuse of
the privilege of prayer. Enable us to

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use it rightly, and to the full extent
of its power.

Let us not seek to gain from Thee
by prayer alone what we ought to gain
by daily effort, nor to evade the duty
of helping others by asking Thee to
help them. •

Enable us more and more to submit
ourselves to Thy good pleasure, and
to abandon our desires for Thy Desire.
Teach us so to live and so to pray,
dear Lord, that Thou mayest accept
both our lives and our prayers among
the spiritual forces whereby Thy Cause
is furthered among men and Thy Will
done on earth as it is in heaven;
through Jesus Christ. Amen.

WE come before Thee, O Lord, to
confess our forgetfulness, and to crave
Thy pardon and forgiveness.

Save what Thou hast bestowed on
us, we possess nothing.

Save what Thou hast taught us, we
I now nothing.

Save for what Thou hast in store
for us we shall always find ourselves
utterly destitute.

Yet we lightly accept all from Thee
us though it were nothing, and we look
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on life as though it were our own, and
we ourselves its creator.

Deliver us, O merciful Saviour, from
this ingratitude, this arrogance, this
isolating selfishness. Help us to appreciate and to remember Thy bounty,
to make confession continually of our
dependence on Thee, and by happy
thoughts and kindly deeds among Thy
people to offer Thee our thanks for the
ceaseless profusion of gifts which Thou
showerest on mankind. Amen.

LIGHT of the world, Whose beams are shed on all Thy creatures throughout all Thy earth, kindle in our hearts the fire of Thine own Universal love that we may become conscious of our unity with all mankind, may pray for all without regard of race or kin, and seek the common good of all who share with us the bounty of Thy light. Amen.

INTO Thy hands, O Lord, we commit our future and ourselves. Thou art mighty and canst ordain whatever Thou wilt. Thou art merciful, and wilt guide to Thy Kingdom everyone who seeks Thee. • Thou art kind, and
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wilt give us more than we know how to seek or to desire for ourselves. We will never be sad nor anxious again, for Thou art our Friend. We will have no more fears, for Thou art our Defender. We will never be lonely, for Thou art always our Companion. Strengthen in each of us the power of love. Teach us to forbear and to forgive. Grant us serenity, and let our hearts be filled with warm goodwill towards all mankind.

So by Thy help shall our home bear to other homes a message of peace and of the guidance of God. Amen.

LORD, Thou knowest we believe; save us from deeds which deny that belief.

Thou knowest that we desire Thee; save us from every alien desire .

. Thou knowest that we seek Thy righteousness; save us from sins which though we hate we yet commit. Amen.

IN our better moments, O God, we seek Thee with longing and gladness Help us to remember Thee in our worse moments.

We are weak and unmindful and
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need Thy special aid in all the distractions of every day. Be Thou our strength, O God, that no passing desire may blot even for a moment

from our sight the fixed ideal of our lives; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Oh God, save us from unhappy thoughts, from idle regrets, from brooding on wrongs, from impatience for change. Kindle in our hearts a love that will burn up these vain and wasting imaginings, and will light us to the blessedness of heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

A Litany.

O CHRIST!

Deliver us from the evil that lies entrenched in our hearts.

Defend us from the evil promptings of those whose hearts are given to the world.

Protect us from the perils, bodily and spiritual, that throng about us, from Thy displeasure and rejection.

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Save us

from bondage to the past, from ancestor worship, from the idols of custom and tradition.

Save us

from the persistence of past sins and former habits that still with dead hands cling about our souls.

Save us

from ignorance of our true selves lest we end our days without understanding either of man or of God.

Save us

from covetousness, from ill-will, from every trace of envy, lest we burn in the fires of spiritual torment.

Save us

in weak moments, in moments of forgetfulness, in moments of waywardness.

Save us

from vacillation and inconstancy lest having followed Thy guidance a little while we turn away and perish.

Save us

from blindness of heart lest we exalt ourselves before Thee, and walking in

ignorance of Thee amidst Thy words
we come to our death in utter loss
and misery.

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Save us
from the sin that knows no repentance,
lest having beheld Thee in Thy Glory
we turn back to the darkness, and
enter the night whereon there breaks
no dawn.

O Christ, save us!

An Intercession.

O GOD, look on these Thy servants
who labour and are heavy laden, bearing the grievous yoke and burden of
the world. Deliver them, we beseech
Thee, that they may hear instead only
the easy yoke and the light burden of
servitude to Thee. Amen.

O THOU of Whose Will it cometh that
a home is founded in love, sustained
by love, and moves from love to further
love, give ear to the supplication of
us Thy servants who have turned to
the Dayspring of Thy Mercy, and who
in their weakness seek strength from
Thee.

Protect us from any sense of
opposing interests, from the harbouring of any selfish thought, or the
Page So

utterance of any unfitting word by
which our home might be riven to its
base.

Burn and consume out of our hearts
every cause of difference in the fires
of our common love for Thee; and
through Thy bounty pour down on us
that divine high power of love which
Thou dost keep for those alone who
with sincere and lowly hearts give
themselves up to Thee; through Jesus
Christ, our Lord.

O GOD, keep us ever mindful that in
Thy kingdom which we fain would
enter no home can be happy unless all
homes are happy. Protect us for
Jesus' sake from a narrow affection

or a selfish loyalty, and let our sympathy and goodwill reach far beyond these enclosing walls to other homes and other lands.

Thou art the Father of all people, and the wide world is one home for Thy children. Amen.

A Morning Prayer.

PROTECT us this day, O God, against the unhappy influence of those who
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have turned away from Thee. Help us to give back good in return for evil; if we meet a thought of anger, to overcome it with a stronger thought of peace, and if we meet with hate to transform it by the power of a stronger love.

Grant unto all who have sought Thee such harmony and faith as shall quicken faith in the hearts of the unbelieving, and show forth to all the peace and sweetness of Thy Kingdom; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

VOUCHSAFE to this home, O God, the protection of Thy mercy and Thy presence.

Let whatever is harsh or unhappy in the world find no echo within these walls. Pour upon us who have turned toward Thy Kingdom the spirit of peace and unity and joyfulness. Keep us, each and all, mindful of our several rights and duties, and help us to make this a well ordered and harmonious household. Let each of us ever be ready to bear a full share in common burdens, and without self-regard to seek comfort, honour and blessing for the rest; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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O LORD of Glory!

When we look at the lowliness of our dwelling, and see our garments bearing the mark of much work, and our hands roughened by toil, we are ashamed to

ask Thee to enter our home, or to be a guest at our poor table. The best our house can hold were too mean a gift to offer to our Beloved; and it is not in such a place as this one would entertain a king.

Yet, we remember that of old in Palestine Thou didst choose for Thyself poverty, and didst not despise the poor. It was not the great and mighty whose homes Thou didst frequent, nor was it in halls of idleness and splendour that Thou wast made a guest. Simple and lowly folk who knew hardship and labour were among Thy friends, and in their homes Thou didst find that which was to Thee more precious than ease and luxury.

We, too, will try to make this home of ours fit to welcome Thee. We will hang our walls with kindly thoughts and generous deeds, and will weave coverings of thankfulness and praise to spread before Thy feet. Content
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and happiness shall be our servants to wait on Thee; and Love will go forth as our messenger to beg Thee to enter our dwelling.

A Morning Prayer.

gr

To us who now leave our devotions, O God, to engage in our daily tasks, grant Thy especial help that we may not become lost amid the frets and cares that beset us, but may be able at any moment by an act of will to recapture the inward peace and sweet content which now are ours through the power of prayer. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

LORD of the New Covenant I

Make Thy covenant to be our strength, our glory and our heart's true wealth;
the home wherein we find Thy rest;
the castle to which we flee for succour;
the temple wherein we worship;

the altar whereon we offer in
sacrifice to Thee our hopes,
our desires, and our lives.

Amen.

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An Evening Prayer.

THE sun has set; the day is gone; the
light dies in the east. Night bids us
take our rest in sleep.

Open, O God, our spiritual eyes and
reveal to our inner vision the Day
that never fades, the Sun that never
sets, the Light which is God. Pour
down on us now the radiance of that
heaven where there is neither night
nor weariness; and breathe upon us
now the Peace of Thy eternity;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

An Evening Prayer.

(For use before other prayers.)

O GOD, Who has sent evening to bear
to us her precious gift of peace, let
not Thy peace be far from us. Heal
in our hearts the fever of the world,
and allay every unquiet or distracting
thought that we may approach Thy
presence and hold communion with
Thee; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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On Reading Scripture.

O THOU Who hast not spoken openly
of heavenly things, but hast veiled
them in symbol ;;i.ndallegory, in figure
and in parable; create in us the eye
to see, the ear to hear, and give us
understanding of the mysteries of Thy
Bible. We know, O Lord, that nothing is hidden, save that it may be
disclosed. Grant us spiritual strength
to bear revelation and new knowledge.
We beg Thee, of Thy mercy and Thy
grace, to uplift and enlighten our
minds, and to draw our hearts to that
spiritual condition from which we may
behold the inner significance of Holy
Writ, and may discern Truth from
error, essence from form, the eternal

from the temporal. Amen.

DELIVER us, O Lord, from all that would cause us to be ungenerous from lack of love for others and lack of love for Thee.

Help us to combine simple living with bountiful hospitality. Let us give after Thy command, without hope of return; let us give in Thy name that
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the outward gift may be a token of spiritual goodwill; and let us give for Thy sake that for our gifts men may glorify Thee; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

For Content.

HELP us if our means be narrow yet to be content, and if they are ample yet not to be proud.

Help us to seek our life's work in the service of Thy cause on earth, and to be assured that our ability is sufficient for our appointed task.

Help us to seek, above all lesser forms of wealth, continual gains of spirit and of heart, and to count him truly rich who is independent of all save God; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

HEAR, O God, our prayer for World-Peace. We beg Thee, by Thy promise of old, now to establish among men abiding peace. Destroy our hatreds and blot from our memory our ancient quarrels. Help us to work for peace, and to promote among men the will for peace. Let our own lives be filled
Page 87

with the spirit of peace, and make our home reflect on earth the peace of Thy Kingdom; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

THOU Who hast revealed Thy proofs to our minds, reclaim and convert our hearts.

Thou Whose hand we have descried in the changes of history and the fate of nations, reveal Thyself to us in the

work of the passing day.

Thou Whose presence we have sought in the Temple, do not depart from us in our home.

If we seek Thee not everywhere, we shall not find Thee anywhere. If we obey Thee not in little things, if we pursue Thee not through the trivial and the commonplace, we shall never know Thy love, nor behold the open vision of Thy beauty.

Help us day after day by kindly deeds and courtesies, by loving comradeship and thoughts of peace, to cleanse our hearts for Thy descent, and to prepare our home to welcome Thee as our guest and our Lord. Amen.

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A Morning Prayer.

O God, pour down on us Thy especial grace that to-day we may serve Thee' better than we have ever served Thee yet.

It is our hope and prayer that we shall not linger nor pause upon our journey toward Thee, nor neglect any of the opportunities Thou dost design for us.

Give us strength and constancy that we may press ever forward with increasing eagerness upon Thy way; and grant that now and evermore today may draw us nearer to Thee than yesterday, to-morrow nearer than to-day; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

IOI

O CHRIST, seeking for Thee we turn to Thy Sacred Book. Be Thou our Guide," that spiritual insight may enlighten human reason, and through the power of both combined we may gain an understanding of Thy Truth. Thine it is to seal the Scripture, or to unseal, and to Thy good pleasure we resign our will. Amen.

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SAVE us from worry, O God. Teach us to take life as it comes from Thee one day at a time, and to do each task

in its turn with our whole might that
we may make the simplest deed an
act of worship to Thee, and of service
to our fellowmen; through Jesus Christ,
our Lord.

An Intercession.

O LIGHT that lightest every man who
cometh into the world: Kindle again
in our midst a vital and a burning faith
that shall run like fire through the
hearts of men, and show its power on
every hand in deeds of equity, compassion and goodwill. Pour down Thy
rays upon the souls of all men everywhere that they may put justice and
honour in the first place before any
claim of self or kin or friend or
country, and let all nations and all
homes reflect at last the open glory of
Thy promised Reign! Amen.

IO4

GIVE us in our need more light, O
God, and greater strength of soul to
bear Thy light. Thou Who of old didst
find Thy servants too weak to endure
all truth, grant now to this maturer
age the knowledge which then Thou
didst withhold.

Thou Whose symbol is the Sun that
giveth to all things light and life, send
down from heaven fire that will consume all error and light to guide us
unto all Thy Truth.

Thou Who with the finger of might
bringest fragrant flowers out of the
black soil and fire out of the hard rock,
touch now our hearts, and draw forth
thence contrition, faith and love.

Thou Who changest all things, and
sufferest nothing in Thy creation to
remain unchanged, change now our
sorrow into joy, our warfare into
peace. Amen.

FOR what blessing shall we ask, or
what felicity shall we desire?
What hope shall light our path, and
in what strength shall we go upon our
way?

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What knowledge shall open to us
the gate of truth, and what attainment bring us to Thy peace?

Leave us not, O Lord, our Beloved,
in a world where none behold Thy
presence, nor adore Thy beauty. But
into a world where light is endless, and
the glory of Thy heaven is unrolled,
where freedom and obedience are at
one and life's power is ever at its full,
where the desire of all desires is
attained, where joy overflows and the
bounty of God's love is complete-into
that world, O Lord, draw us, and
there make us immortal.

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GLORY and honour, praise and thanksgiving- be unto Thee for ever from us,
and from all mankind !

Thou art the One God, the Boundless, the Eternal, Who in Thy creation
hast unveiled Thy Majesty and revealed Thy love.

For our sakes Thou hast called from
infinitude this realm of space and
moulded it to serve the uses of the
soul.

For our sakes Thou hast laid upon
eternity the semblance of bonds, and
measured Time to us with fingers of
gold and silver light.

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For our sakes Thou hast brought us
forth from the void of nothingness,
and on the mirror of our being cast the
beauty of Thy Own similitude.

An Ascription of Praise.

PRAISE be to Thee Who hast called
into being Thy worlds of Time and of
Eternity to give utterance to Thy love.
Thou hast made all things for man
and man for his own glory and
blessedness (not for Thine!) In his
being Thou hast hidden Thy light; on
his heart Thou hast printed Thy image.
Thou hast placed the knowledge of
Thyself and of Thy heaven before his
face, and laid the way thereto plain
and open at his feet.

Thou hast commanded from the beginning Thy covenant with man to deliver him from mortality and to grant him the freedom of Thy eternal Kingdom.

Age after age Thou hast sent Thy prophets to renew the same, to bear Thy children love-messages from Thee, and to bestow on them new and ever richer gifts.

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Praise be to Thee, O God, from us who remember our benefits, who recount our blessings, and Who from our hearts give thanks unto Thee, the Beloved.

Praise be to Thee Who hast granted us birth in this time of wonder, this great age of breaking light!

We have walked in pride before Thee, but Thou hast overcome us by Thy humility.

We have turned from Thy presence, but Thy love has overtaken us, and drawn us home to Thee.

We have earned the wages of sin, but Thou hast brought to us Eternal Life.

Praise be to Thee Whose compassion has overshadowed us, whose forgiveness has descended upon us, Whose mercy has given us life, Whose hand has guided us to the highway of Thy Kingdom, Who chose the path of suffering that Thou mightest redeem us.

O Thou Whose holiness and might are above Thy creatures' praise, accept from us who love and worship Thee this praise we offer. Amen.

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FOR THE ,AGE'D.

O THOU Whose forgiveness is my hope and Whose presence is my home, draw my thoughts from earth to heaven, from the past to the future, from dear ones lost and happiness long gone by, to the sweet vision of that eternal

world where there is no parting nor
sorrow nor infirmity, but the fulfilment of all love's prayers and dreams.

THE noon of my life is past. Evening
has come. Soon night will fall, and
darkness gather me to itself. Grant
to my heart, O Lord, the peace of
eventide. Help me, though I be so
weak, to honour Thy cause, and to
serve Thy will to the end that I may
make myself ready for the inevitable
hour. When night is come, and from
my soul earth and the things of earth
fall away for ever, be Thou, O Lord,
my light; and let Thy mercy on its
angel-wings bear me far hence to Thy
realm of love and ever-living peace;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

I IO

PRAISE be to Thee, O God of mercy,
Who while I was young brought me to
Page 97

the knowledge of Thee and guided my
footsteps to Thy kingdom.

Hear now the prayer of an old man,
?nd grant me in my age Thy crownmg mercy.

Lighten my soul with some glimpse
of that hidden world into which I soon
shall pass, and let some gleam of the
sunshine of Thy face float down to me;
that with a sweeter faith and clearer
hope I may make ready to obey Thy
summons and to change my darkness
for Thy light; through Jesus Christ,
our Lord. III

GRANT, O Lord, that to the last
moment of this fleeting life I may grow
more rich in divine true love and
spiritual strength. And as I look onward to that great assize where soon
I must give an account in the spirit
of deeds done here in the body, teach
me to hope for no reward save that of
serving Thee in Thy eternal worlds,
and fear no punishment save that ol
being shut from Thy light in the prison
of my own lovelessness; through the
merits of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

II2

FORGIVE me, O God of mercy, for the
errors of my past; for wrong things

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done, and right things left undone.

Grant me so to serve Thee in the year.;

remaining that when my eyes close to

the light of the sun they may awake

on the light of paradise; when my ears

are shut to the sounds of earth, they

may open to the songs of Thy kingdom; when my body returns to water

and clay I may soar on my soul's

wings to Thy deathless worlds of love;

through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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S'PeCie./!L

PRAYERS & I:J(T€'1(C€SSIONS

For an Artist or Craftsman.

GRANT me Thy aid, O God, that in

my working I may worship Thee. Let

me not regard the praise of men, nor

seek my own pleasure. Keep ever in

my sight the Beauty and the Truth of

Heaven, and let the sole motive of my

art be to create in joy a love-offering

which I may spread beneath Thy feet.

Amen.

For a Teacher of Religion.

I I4

O GOD! Write Thy glad tidings in my

eyes, and engrave Thy glory on my

heart.

Let my thoughts be drawn from

Thy deep well of joy, and my desires

stop not short of heaven.

Let love keep the door of my lips,

and in my words let spirit call unto

spirit.

So may I be made Thy messenger,

and both in silence and in speech proclaim Thy Truth among Thy people,

Amen. •

Page IOJ

For a Preacher.

II5

WITH my whole heart, O God, I turn

to Thee seeking only to serve Thee.

Endue me now with radiancy of faith
and love and ecstasy. Help me to
speak in perfect humility, to remember only Thee, to be as a leaf blown
by the breath of Thy Spirit; that I
may summon to Thy Kingdom those
whom Thou dost call, and that Thy
Glad tidings may quicken every listening heart; through Jesus Christ, our
Lord.

A Churchman's Prayer.

JI6

O GOD, Who hast set us in so tumultuous an age, give us a wisdom equal
to the time that we may discover what
are in truth these forces that now stir
the minds of men, and through this
knowledge may under Thee do for the
world a work to answer its grievous
need; through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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A Churchman's Litany.

II7

O THOU Who art the same for ever!
Save us from the pride of an age
that honours man so much and God so
little.
Save us from qualifying Thy claims,
or making light of Thy power.
Save us from paying court to the
opinions of the sceptic or the doubter,
lest we debase Thy teaching to suit
the thoughts of men.
Save us from the contagion of the
indifferent, and from tempering our
faith to the half-beliefs of a wayward
age.
Help us to have no standard of
truth but Thy word, and to honour
the knowledge of Thee as the ultimate
goal of all learning and all attainment.
Help us to humble ourselves before
Thy deity, and to submit our wills to
Thy command.
Help us to win back the simplicity
and lowliness, the sweetness and
fellowship, the wisdom and confidence
that marked Thy faithful ones of old,

that we like them may bear Thee

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II

witness in deeds and words that none
may gainsay nor resist; through Jesus
Christ, our Lord. Amen.

II8

O CHRIST! Amid the vastness of our
tradition help me to remember the •
simplicity of Thy teaching and the
significance of Thy daily life in rural
places and in modest homes. Let me
seek Thee now not in the dust of ages,
nor in idle discussions, but where all
Thy saints have found Thee: in my own
heart.

Teach me to hold inward communion
with Thee, and through the power of
a life lived in Thy presence, let me find
the peace of those who loved Thee
when Thy Faith was young; through
Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Of Christendom.

I 19

O FATHER in heaven! Leave us not
alone in our divisions, but open to us
now that untried path which shall lead
us all out of our difficulties, and guide
us to concord and to common knowledge of all truth.

Page io6

Let not one single soul among us
rest content with this bewilderment
and weakness, but kindle in every mine!
a hunger for that inward peace and
glory, that abounding happiness and
radiant power which marked Thy
saints of old.

Make every soul a truth-seeking
soul, and create in each and in all of
us that yearning and aspiration after
reality which shall bring us to the
Land of Divine Knowledge, and make
us one with all our fellows and with
Thee; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

An Irish Churchman's Prayer.

IN Thy mercy, O Christ, look upon us
who inherit the ages, and make us not
unworthy of those saints of old in
whose place we stand.

Deliver us, as Thou didst deliver
them, from trust in worldly things,
that we may be able to attain their
trust in heavenly things.

Help us by Thy light to see and learn
the secret of their spiritual power
which has won for them fame on earth
and glory in Thy presence that we in
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this later day may take up the mantle
of their prophethood, and shew forth
Thy truth in deeds and lives which
even they might not disown.

For Ireland.

LOOK Thou, O Lord, upon this land
where once Thy name set hearts on
fire, and Thy light shone in lonely
splendour across the darkness of the
west.

Renew that ancient zeal, that
spiritual passion for the truth.
Let not that effort of a bygone day
be without fruition in this great age of
crises! Use once again the spiritual
gifts Thou hast vouchsafed this people,
and lead them all as one in the path
of heavenly knowledge.

Let all our thoughts have one
master-thought, all our hopes one
master-hope, that in the common
service of one divine ideal we may find
inward peace and outward concord,
and amidst the nations of an enlightened world stand as a pattern of
humility and of service to our fellowmen and God; through Jesus Christ,
our Lord. Amen.

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O God, hear my prayer for old friends
far away!

We are sundered far and long, and
the changes of many years divide us
now. Yet Thou knowest my friendship is as warm and tender as in the
days gone by, and my heart's longing

and goodwill flows out towards them
always.

Grant that through Thy grace my
affection may in truth reach them and
envelop them, and their hearts may be
conscious of my abiding remembrance.

O Maker and Preserver of friendship, accept my loving thoughts of
them as a prayer offered on their
behalf to Thee. Be thou their friend
and their companion; protect them
from evil, lead them in the way of light
and happiness, and teach both them
and me to know Thee as the Perfect
Friend, the Cause, the Hope, the Stay
of human friendship; through Jesus
Christ, our Lord.

Intercession for Healing.

O God, Whose mercy is from everlasting, and Whose Word makes all
Page 109

things new! Withhold not Thy compassion and Thy healing from this sick
and suffering servant of Thine.

Cleanse him from all that makes for
weakness, illness and affliction. Grant
him throughout his whole being
harmony and health. Lord of Destiny,
give to him now in Thy wisdom according to his need, and bestow on him
that which will bring him here. and
hereafter abiding vigour and life and
happiness; through Jesus Christ, our
Lord.

Thou canst change whatever Thou
willest, and all Thy creatures are engulfed in the ocean of Thy mercy.

An Intercession for an Unbeliever.

O MERCIFUL Lord, Thou Lover of Thy
creatures, Thou Answerer of prayer,
hear me when I plead with thee for
this Thy servant.

Let Thy forgiveness descend upon
him and engulf him. Cleanse him from
those sins that stand between him and
Thy bounty and shut from him the
tides of Thy beneficence.

Have compassion upon him, O God,

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pardon him, deliver him. Take away
his weakness. Bestow on him spiritual

strength. Reveal to him the mysteries of Thy kingdom. Let him be one of those who hear Thy call and follow Thee. Make him Thy devoted servant, a radiant humble messenger on earth of Thy truth, Thy power and Thy love.

LOOK, O God, upon this unhappy struggling child of Thine, who now by devious ways seeks for that content and peace which she can never find, save in submission to Thy Truth. Grant her light and strength that she may heed Thy message and turn to Thee. Draw her from all blind paths into the one true path that leads direct to Thee. Unstop her ears that she may hear Thy voice. Open her eyes that she may behold the light of Thy Beauty. Number her among those faithful ones who seek only Thy will. Grant that she may find healing in Thy word, comfort in Thy love, the end of all uncertainty and sorrow in the attainment of Thy kingdom and in the service of Thy truth; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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REMEMBER for good, O Lord, the countless deeds of kindness done to me by those who now are far away, and whom I can never requite save in gratitude and prayer If I have suffered personal wrong or unkindness from any man, lay it not to his charge, O God, but forgive him. And for whatever unhappiness I have caused to others, and for the unjust deeds I have committed, do Thou in Thy mercy forgive me.

A Guest's Intercession.

MAY Thy peace, O Christ, descend upon this house, and fill all hearts within it.

Thou Who didst command hospitality, look upon these Thy servants who obey Thy will. Guide them ever onward in Thy way.

Make me an appreciative and a

grateful friend; and help me to
remember this and all other kindnesses
both in the world and before Thee.

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FOR INDJJ/IDUAL USF,.

Recognition

HAIL to Thee, Scion of Glory, Whose
utterance poureth abroad

The joy of the heavenly knowledge and
the light of the greatest of days!

Poet of mysteries chanting in rapture
the beauty of God,

Unto Thee be thanksgiving and
praise!

Child of the darkness that wandered
in gloom but dreamed of the light,
Lo! I have seen Thy splendour ablaze
in the heavens afar

Showering gladness and glory and
shattering the shadows of night,
And seen no other star.

Thy words are to me as fragrances
borne from the garden of heaven,
Beams of a lamp that is hid in the
height of a holier world,
Arrows of fire that pierce and destroy
with the might of the levin
Into our midmght hurled.

Page us

Sword of the Father! none other can
rend the dark veil from my eyes,
None other can beat from my limbs
with the shearing blad:!! of God's
might

The sins I am fettered withal and giYe
me the power to rise
And come forth to the fulness of
light.

Lo! Thou hast breathed on my sorrow
the sweetness of faith and of
hope,

Thou hast chanted high paeans of joy
that my heart's echoes ever repeat
And the path to the knowledge of God
begins to glimmer and ope
Before my faltering feet.

Weak and unworthy my praise. Yet,
as from its throbbing throat
Some lone bird pours its song to the
flaming infinite sky,
So unto Thee in the zenith I lift from
a depth remote
This broken human cry.

page II6

A Prayer at Dawn.

ALONE in the darkness before the
dawn I repair to Thy shrine, and bow
before Thy sacred threshold. In the
rapture of communion with Thee, self
and the world momentarily fall away.
The veil of Thy Beauty is lifted, and
the sweetness of Thy Mercy enfolds
me

On the far horizon darkness breaks
and flees, and through the tracery of
leafless boughs I watch the brightening sky. Day calls me hence, and I
must leave Thy sanctuary for the
roaring city and the busy mart. Grant
me, O Lord, Thy continuing presence
and protection, that when night brings
me back to Thy temple I may not
come to Thee in estrangement nor in
shame. Vouchsafe me, all the day
through, Thy help and strength.
Above the babel let me hear Thy
Voice. In the turmoil let Thy Peace
reclaim possession of my heart. When I
walk among the idols that once I
worshipped, let me not heed them nor
remember them, being enrapt with
utter love of Thee.

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A Morning Prayer.

To Thee now, O Beloved One, the
Merciful, I bring my weakness, my
consciousness of failure-to Thee I
pour out my griefs-to Thee I confide
my disappointments; and from my
knees I rise leaving behind me all my
burdens, freed from every sadness,
strengthened by Thy strength, arrayed
in faith, seeing Thy sunshine everywhere and desiring to find throughout

the day opportunities of proving my
gratitude to Thee for Thy abundant
gifts.

I 3I

IN the growing light of self-knowledge,
O God, I stand revealed to myself, and
conscience-stricken I come to Thee in
horror and contrition. Till now I never
recognised the baseness of my state
nor suspected the depth of my guilt in
Thy eyes.

Fill my heart so full of love that
there shall be no room for anger; so
full of hope that there shall be no room
for fear; so full of radiant joy that
sadness may not enter nor approach.

Deprive me, O God, of all the world
Page u8

holds dear, and of all that men may
offer unto men; bestow on me pain,
penury and humiliation if by this
means I may be purified of my sin, and
freed from these anarchic passions.

Spare me not. But grant me in the
end attainment to my Goal: the knowledge of Thy Truth, the blessing of
Thy Love.

OUT of the dark depths of my being
there well up continually hateful
desires. The Enemy of my life has his
stronghold in the dim mysterious background of my consciousness which lies
beyond the reach of my will.

Horrid thoughts and impulses assail
me unawares, and in weak moments.

I struggle, and I will not yield; but I
cannot conquer. Legion succeeds
legion, and the tumult is endless.

I long for Thee, O my God: for Thy
Truth, Thy Glory and Thy Peace. But
how can I win my goal while I lie thus
open to my foes, and the Evil

Principle has its seat within my heart!

In desperate need, in conscious
impotence I turn to Thee. Make me
anew, O Lord! Leave me not to this
monster who harbours within me,

Page ng

Deliver me from this satanic self.

Cleanse my whole being, and light
within me such a flame of love as will
burn darkness and its brood out of my
heart for ever.

O MY Lord, how can I ask to be
delivered from these tests and trials
that bring me so much suffering and
anguish! They come from Thee,
awakening me from self-delusion, and
revealing my weakness. I stand before
Thy Judgment Seat, uncloaked, dishonoured. Horror overwhelms me and
abases me. Then at last shame stings
me to life, and remorse spurs me to
escape from the cause of this misery.
My Lord, I do not shun pain in Thy
path. Whatever it cost me, do not
permit me to delay on my journey to
Thee, nor to turn aside from Thy way.
Send me whatever difficulties or
suffering my soul shall need to cleanse
and purify it utterly of all that is false
and wicked. Help me to grow in selfknowledge and wisdom, and to put
into practice what I learn, till each
weakness is turned into strength, and
I pass into the realm of Thy might
through the gates of victory.

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O LORD!

Thy mercy is endless and Thy love
cannot be compassed by gratitude or
praise or knowledge. I adore Thee
ever more and more; I am overwhelmed
with wonder and drawn to Thee in
longing and rapture. Yet, this lesser
self, this narrow I with whom I am
involved turns from Thee again and
again and breaks away, flouting Thy
law in open rebellion. Ashamed and in
utter misery I turn back. I do not dare
to approach Thee, but kneel far away
in a wretched place, an alien. I cannot understand why I fall away from
what I truly desire; and I despair of
myself. The desolation of loneliness
overwhelms me.

But Thou dost not despair of me.

Thy forgiveness descends and touches

me ere I raise my eyes to look towards
Thee. Thy mercy enlightens me. Thy
love pours warm hope again into my
heart, and Thou leadest me back to
walk in the courts of Thy Spiritual
Palace.

Yet, of my own strength I cannot
make myself an abiding place close to
Thee. There lingers in me the foreboding that again I shall stumble and
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(D658) I
fall away from the sweetness of this
communion with Thy love.
O compassionate almighty God, I
commit myself in utter humility to Thy
boundless mercy, begging Thee to
save me (I know not how) from this
Horror, and to vouchsafe me that
which is my true, my only desire-to
attain to Thy Presence, to know and
to obey Thy Truth.

To Assailing Doubts.

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I WILL have God or nothing.

I will not accept that which you
offer.

I will not seek help from the world,
for it passes and has no strength; nor
from ambition, for it cannot satisfy;
nor from money, for no man has that
to sell which I desire.

I have beheld the Truth, and I will
not forget it.

I have heard the promise of my
Lord, and I will trust my all to it.

You afflict me, but you will not
capture my heart.

You are many now, but you will
become few. You seem strong, but
your strength is already passing away.

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You are God's enemies, liars against
the Truth, and I am girded with God's
strength to master and subdue you.

I will not cease from this battle till I
have so used you that you will never

raise your heads from the dust to
threaten me again.

O God!

Help me to give battle to the Enemy,
and cease not; but ever to keep my
heart in peace.

Help me to be the servant of my
fellow servants, and to find in this
servitude infinite freedom.

Help me to turn away from the
semblance of beauty which lies about
me, and to seek in my heart the
eternal beauty.

Help me to pass beyond love and
hate that in self-abandonment I may
cast myself at the feet of the Lord of
Joy. Amen.

KEEP Thou, O God, the door of my
heart that no evil thought proceed
from it; and guard my lips that they
utter no uncharitable word.

Pate 12,3

Teach me to look for the good in
others that I may rejoice in it; and for
the evil in myself that I may amend
it.

Watch over my actions that I do no
injustice, nor cause unhappiness to any
one.

Divest me of pride that I may count
myself less than any other, and may
become the servant of all for love of
Thee, my Lord.

DEAR God of Splendour, Whose light
is greater than my darkness, and
Whose love is stronger than my loneliness, end forever with one shaft
from the Bow of Thy Glory this night
of error wherein I wander and am lost.

Light in my heart the fires of love,
O God, that being delivered from all
self-centred desire I may love Thee
for Thine own sole sake without hope
of reward here or hereafter, or
thought of any heaven save this enraptured abandonment of love for
Thee.

MAKE my heart, O God, as this unshadowed mountain lake that sets its

face forever toward heaven, and in

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its calm depths reflects the peace of
Thy remote vast worlds of light.

O MY Lord!

I have sought Thee all my life, yet
I still wander in a chequered world of
light and shadow. Oh, lift me at last
into the pure splendour of Thy Truth
beyond the reach of any darkness that
I may behold Thee as Thou art, and
live in Thy continual presence evermore.

THE darkness changes and pales, but
no light breaks. Error grows intolerable, but Truth still is hidden out of
sight. I rest not, but I never reach my
goal.

Yet, do I not ask anything, but to
journey onward and onward. My path
is of Thy making, and Thou leadest
me on the way. I ask no more, and I
desire no more.

I HAVE left behind me impatience and
discontent. I will chafe no more at my
lot. I commit myself wholly into Thy
hands, for Thou art my guide in the
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desert, the teacher of my ignorance,
the physician of my sickness.

I am a soldier in my King's Army;
I have given up my will to Him, and
my life is His to dispose of as He may
please.

I know not what fate Thou
designest for me, nor what work Thou
hast ordained for me, nor will I enquire
nor seek to know. The task of the
day suffices for me, and all the future
is Thine.

Little by little Thou trainest me.

Little by little Thou changest weakness to strength, doubt to faith,
perplexity to understanding. When I
am fit to bear the burden Thou wilt lay
it on my shoulders. When I am prepared to take the field Thou wilt assign
me a place in Thy army of Light. Now
I have no other duty than to equip
myself for Thy service.

With eagerness and patience, with
hope and gratitude I bend to the task
of the hour lest when Thy call to battle
comes I be found unready.

THE task is hard. But I know it has
come from Thy hand; therefore it shall
be the choice of my mind, and the

,Cage 126

delight of my heart. I will utter no
word of complaint, nor admit a thought
of grief. I will follow in the footprints
of all those who have sought Thee for
love of Thee. I will find in effort my
rest and my peace, and out of pain I
will wring a hidden joy.

Thus, O Beloved, Whose sweet voice
I hear calling me, and still calling me,
I will draw near to Thy abode bearing
Thee the only gift Thou wilt accept,
the only gift I have to offer: the gift
of my heart.

In Trouble.

FOR every void there is a filling, and
to every prayer there is an answer.
All tribulation has its ending, and
to every seeking there is a finding.
For the weary, rest is waiting, and
for the lonely, love.

Therefore will I be content, and
will keep a heart at peace. My faith
is founded upon Truth, and I will bear
witness through every trial to the
goodness and mercy of God.

SWEETNESS shall be my medicine, and
kindly deeds my remedy.

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Serenity shall bring me health, and
a joyful spirit endow me with new
strength.

Trust in Thy will shall assure me of
victory, and firmness in Thy Covenant
shall draw to me eternal life and
power.

I HAVE set forth as Thy pilgrim, my
Lord; but there are many lands and
unknown seas to travel before I approach the threshold of Thy Sacred
Shrine.

At every step I am admitted into a new realm, and at the end of each day's wayfaring I pitch my tent in a fresh El Dorado.

What earthly journey could be like this Journey: What adventure like this Adventure: What were the possession of the whole world compared with the joy of this Quest for Thee!

My longing for Thee ever increases.

Wonder uplifts me. My heart leaps with exultation, and trembles in awe.

This gift of Thine is beyond all my hopes and my imagining. I do not dream now of the shining domes of Thy far distant sanctuary. I am no longer restless nor impatient. It is

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enough for me to seek Thee and to seek Thee, day after day.

O my God, my Beloved: Grant me at Thy hand a draught of the Wine of Immortality that I may seek Thee through this world and all Thy hidden worlds for ever and for ever.

The Great Pilgrimage.

LORD, I have launched out upon the vast ocean of Search in the barque of Faith. I know that I shall never find Thee unless Thy hand direct me, and the breath of Thy mercy bear me on the way.

I am weak, and the source of strength lies not in me.

Error perpetually wells up in my soul, estranging me from Thee.

Yet, do I seek Thee for ever!

Everywhere I find traces of Thee, and I cannot refrain from my seeking. Thy voice echoes in the still recesses of my heart, and my longing for Thee gives me no rest.

O beloved One; my heart is emptied of all save Thee. Leave me not to my loneliness. Breathe Thy Holy Spirit upon me, that I may be borne far away

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from the world, and reach the haven
of Thy Inner World!

O LORD of love, Giver of Knowledge!

The twilight of Thy dawn breaks
upon my soul, and the shadows of
illusion flee before the white arrows of
Thy Truth.

Slowly knowledge widens. Unfamiliar meanings gleam from familiar
things. Hidden chambers of treasure
open before the outstretched hand of
thought. I feel like a child carried by
magic into a far strange land. Breathless with astonishment, I behold
wonders leap into being everywhere in
endless variety. But always the way
of Truth is love, the key of Truth is
love, and Truth's own self is love.

A Vision of God's Triumph.

OUT of the depths I greet the sunlit
heights. Out of gross darkness I sing
hymns of light.

Thy Glory has spread across the
heavens, Thy Beauty has kissed the
mountain tops, and Thy Love beats
upon the hearts of men.

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The doom of the Night has sounded.
The troops of darkness gather in the
valleys. The stars have fallen. The
skies are cleft asunder, and far in the
empyrean from the Fountain of Knowledge pours the river of life, and the
hosts of heaven chant the Glory and
the Victory. of God.

The peoples tremble in their sleep.
The nations are shaken to their base .
. The gates of Hell pour forth the last
of their legions.

Where can the Night flee, or the
armies of Satan take refuge? Death
descends upon them. Despair hardens
their hearts. Breathing destruction
they are themselves destroyed.

For the Glory of God has encircled
the world. His love has filled the
earth. The treasure chambers of
heaven are thrown wide, and the gifts

of the Most High are showered upon
Mankind.

There shall be no more death nor
oppression nor tears. God has
ascended His throne. He has taken
possession of the hearts of men.
Therefore from the darkness with
hymns of light I greet the Source of
Light, and from the depths give
answer to the heights.

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A Vision of the Day of Judgment.

ONE touched my eyes. I looked and
saw above the Mountain of Holiness
the light break. And a Voice above the
Mountain called to me and said:

" That thou seest is the Dawning
of the Judgment. Therefore, repent,
lest thou be found among the workers
of iniquity.

"Woe to them that have thought
to hide their evil deeds in the gloom of
their mis belief, and to keep their
wickedness secret from their Lord.

" Woe to them who through My long
forbearance have imagined Me forgetful, and ignorant of their guilt.

" Woe to the oppressors, and to
them that wrong the poor, though it
be in ever so little.

" Woe to them that have made My
Holy Name a cloak for injustice, and
have stamped on My Truth the image
of their own base desire.

" Woe to them that misguide My
people, reviling My Messengers and
trading My Gifts.

" Woe to them that lift their
strength against My strength, and
utter blasphemy against My Word.

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" Woe to them that turn away from
My Light, and seek the shelter of the
darkness.

" Their hour is come, and the Seal
of My Covenant is set upon their
doom."

The Voice ceased. I watched the

dawn grow clear, and the risen Sun
pour its beams from the east to the
uttermost west, paling the last lone
star of morning. The glory of the light
ran burning through the sky. At its
caress the hidden beauty of the world
came forth unveiled. The air instinct
with fire trembled in ecstasy. The
winds, the seas joining in nature's
hymeneal joy chanted the bridal song
of Earth and Heaven.

But man, afar, alone, lay unaware,
dreaming of vanities, drugged in sleep.

I 5I

JOY is from Eternity!

Joy is more ancient than Timevast as infinitude!

Out of joy doth all proceed, and in
the arms of joy is Creation upheld!

Joy is in the Beginning, Joy is before
the founding of the worlds !

Joy is the mighty, the impregnable,
the everlasting.

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Joy is the life and light of all; and
nought exists that is not filled with
the breath of joy.

The voice of joy breaks forth on
every hand in water, in wind, in rustling leaf and singing bird; and listening
night lays her hand upon the earth's
wild heart to hear the universal chant
of joy float from the fiery stars.

O God, O God, the dawn of joy is
broken!

The flood gates of light are open,
and joy descends in torrents on the
earth.

The frosts of life melt in the sunshine of Thy joy. Thy kiss of joy has
touched all, sweetened all!

Thy joy triumphant conquers the
heart of man, and in the depth of our
being joy awakes.

There is no room for sadness, for
doubt. Within, without, joy fills all
space, all time, all thought.

The prophet's voice, the lover's
heart, proclaim the victory of joy.

Far and wide, in every clime, in every
land, the soul of man wakens to join
at last that triumph song of praise
which for long ages Truth, unheard of
men, has sung to God in solitude.

faie 134

L'E:J{,VOI.

Consecration.

ONLY Beloved! With a heart on fire
And all my longings set in one desire
To make my soul a many-stringed lyre
For Thy dear hand to play,
I bend beneath Thy mercy-seat and
pray
That in the strength of perfect love I
may
Tread with firm feet the red and mystic
way
Whereto my hopes aspire.

I have forgotten all for love of Thee
And ask no other joy from destiny
Than to be rapt within Thy unity
And-whatso'er befall-
To hear no voice on earth but Thy
sweet call,
To walk among Thy people as Thy
thrall
And see Thy beauty breathing throughout all
Eternal ecstasy.

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Lead me forth, Lord, amid the wide
world's ways
To bear to Thee my witness and to
raise
The dawn song of the breaking day
of days.
Make my whole life one flame
Of sacrificial deeds that shall proclaim
The new-born glory of Thy ancient
name;
And let my death lift higher yet the
same
Triumphal chant of praise!

FINIS.

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— The Altar on the Hearth (Used by permission of the curator)