

praises unto my God. Oh! that I may show forth my thankfulness, not only with my lips, but in a holy life and conversation!

Before you go a journey. O God, in whom I live, and move, and have my being, let thy providence be my guard, thy grace my defence, and thy blessed self my portion, now and evermore, through *Jesus Christ* our Lord.

Upon your safe return from a journey. All glory be to thee, O God, who hast preserved, and kept me from all the dangers of the way, so that not a bone of me is broken.

When you think upon these words of Christ, No man can serve two masters, say, O Lord, as thou hast given thy whole self to me, how should I dare to offer thee only the half of my heart? Oh! no, I am wholly thine. Here I resign my body, soul, and spirit, again into thy hands for an entire sacrifice. Give me grace to love thee with all my heart, with all my soul, and with all my strength, and to serve thee alone all the days of my life.

When troubled with disorderly and sinful thoughts. Make me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me; burn up all the dross of my affections, and say to my polluted soul, as thou didst to the leper, I will; be thou clean.

When buying, or selling, when in the shop or market. Lord, give me grace to use this world, so as not to abuse it; and grant that I may never go beyond, or defraud my brother in any matter, for thou art the avenger of all such. Make me keep a conscience void of offence toward God and toward man.

When hearing thy neighbour curse or swear. Father, forgive him, for he knoweth not what he doeth, and plant in him a fear for thy holy name, that he may never any more commit this great sin and wickedness.

When you hear any one backbiting, spreading false reports of his neighbour, or using his tongue ill any other way. O Lord as the tongue is full of deadly poison, a world of iniquity, which setteth on fire the course of nature, and is set on fire of hell; and as without thy grace it is an unruly member, and cannot be tamed; so I beseech thee, O Lord, to set a watch before my mouth, and keep the door of my lips, that I offend not with my tongue. Let it not curse, abuse, or speak evil of any one; but let it be employed in praising thee for all thy mercies. O let not mine heart be inclined to any evil thing: let me not be occupied in ungodly works, with the men that work wickedness.

When inclined to be proud of your sense and understanding, of your riches, beauty, strength, or good works. Lord, who and what am I, that I should be proud and self-conceited? I, who am vile earth and sinful dust and ashes! These are thy gifts to me, unworthy of the least of them: Lord, give me grace to use them to thy glory. Make me humble, and lowly in my own eyes, and always remember that thy beloved Son *Jesus* pressed no other duty on his hearers so often as humility of mind and poverty of spirit. "Learn of me," says *Christ*, "for I am meek, and lowly in heart, and you shall find rest for your souls." "Whosoever shall exalt himself, shall be abased,

and he that shall humble himself, shall be exalted." This was hetaaching all his life long. Grant, Lord, that this doctrine may sink into my heart, that I may be poor in spirit, meek, humble, modest, and contented; and that I may place all my glory in Jesus Christ, in deserving nothing but in him, and in deriving from him my power to will and to do. O meek and humble *Jesus*, (who being in the form of God, thought it no robbery to be equal with God, but made thyself of no reputation, and took upon thee the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men; and being found in fashion as a man, humbled thyself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross, for us men, and our salvation,) give me such a measure of thy grace, that I may be enabled to fight against pride of every kind, that great enemy of my soul, and watch and pray without ceasing, that I be not overcome by it.

When hearing good of any one. Lord, let him grow in grace, and make him fruitful in every good word and work.

When thinking upon God's providence. O God, it is my comfort that nothing can happen to me, but by thy permission or direction. Give me grace to fear thee only, and to commit my all into the hands of thee my faithful Creator and Preserver. Let me rejoice that I am thy care, and under the conduct of thy providence, ordering and overruling my whole life, and every circumstance of it.

At giving alms, or doing any good work. To thee, O God, be the glory of all the good I enjoy; for it is from thee I received it. To thee be

the glory of all the good I think, or do; for it is thy grace enables me, it is thy holy Spirit that works in me both to will and to do.

When looking at the light. O enlighten my eyes, that I may see what the riches of thy grace are. My spirit hath no light of its own, but must derive it all from *Christ* and the Holy Spirit. O thou who wast a light to lighten the Gentiles, that sat in darkness; do thou enlighten the natural ignorance of my understanding. Let thy word dwell in me richly in all knowledge, and be a lamp to my feet, and a light to my paths. Let thy grace make me careful to maintain good works; that my light may shine before men, to the glory of my Father who is in heaven. Let me not quench thy Spirit by impure thoughts, and an unholy conversation, lest my lamp be put out in obscure darkness, and my soul, with the foolish virgins, be shut out from thy presence, and reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.

When thinking upon God and religion. Whom have I in heaven but thee, and there is none upon earth that I desire in comparison of thee. This is life eternal, to know thee the only true God, and *Jesus Christ* whom thou hast sent. Lord, increase this knowledge in me every day; guide me with thy counsel; and after that receive me with glory.

Against temptation. O Lord, keep the temple of my body holy, that thy Spirit may always there inhabit, and so no room be left for any unclean spirit to enter into my soul, and tempt me.

When receiving any injury, or ill language. Lord *Jesus*, give me grace to follow thy example,

and tread in thy steps, who being reviled, didst not revile again.

When it rains. Thou, O God, of thy goodness visitest the earth with the former and the latter rain, that it may bring forth fruit; send down the refreshing showers of thy Spirit upon my soul, that I may go from strength to strength, and appear before thee in the heavenly Zion.

When it thunders. God thundereth marvelously with his voice; he directeth the sound of it under the whole heaven, and his lightning unto the ends of the earth. O that the world may take notice of this voice of the glorious God, and the inhabitants of the earth learn righteousness!

When it snows. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean! wash me, O Lord, and I shall be whiter than snow.

When you go to a feast, or entertainment. Lord, grant that I may taste the good things which thou hast given us, with thankfulness and temperance, that I may never be overcharged with surfeiting and drunkenness, and that nothing may proceed out of my mouth, but what is innocent, and becoming a Christian.

When laughed at for going to church, or performing any religious duty. O blessed Jesus, let me rejoice that I am counted worthy to suffer shame and reproach for thy name sake.

When dejected and cast down. Why art thou so heavy, O my soul: and why art thou so disquieted within me? O put thy trust in God, for I will yet give him thanks, which is the help of my countenance, and my God. O cast thy burden upon the Lord and he shall nourish thee.

When you think on your baptismal vow, to

repent, believe, and obey. O Lord, as in baptism I was born again of water and the Spirit, and entered into the covenant of grace in *Christ*, which holy covenant by my transgressions I have often and shamefully broken, so let me now die from sin, and rise again unto righteousness; and always remember that the washing of regeneration will not avail, without the renewing of the Holy Ghost. Let nothing be seen in me but *Christ*; his charity, humility, meekness, and purity, his modesty, patience, and whatever has any relation to the holiness of his manners.

When thinking upon your being a member of an Apostolic Church. O God, I bless thee that thou hast called me into the fold of salvation. May I reverently attend upon the ministry and ordinances of the church; never indulge a vain curiosity for hearing unauthorized teachers, who have not been called by a valid, external commission, as was Aaron; and may I never be guilty of the heinous sin of schism, in separating from the ministrations of Bishops, Priests, and Deacons, whom thou hast constituted by thy providence and Holy Spirit, and in communion with whom I maintain the unity of the Church.

When thinking upon the wise virgins who trimmed their lamps. O Lord, as I know neither the day, nor the hour, when the Son of Man cometh, give me grace therefore to watch, and never, like the foolish virgins, suffer my lamp to go out, but be always trimming it; that my heart may be full of faith and good works; that when the cry is made, "Behold, the Bridegroom cometh," I may be ready with joy to go out to meet him, and enter with him to the marriage.

Consider every night, that possibly you may never see day-light again, till the morning of the resurrection. Consider, that when you are folded in the arms of sleep, perhaps you may never awake, till you hear the voice of the archangel, and the sound of the last trumpet; and that you may never lift up your head, till you see the Saviour of the world coming in the clouds with power, and great glory. Examine, therefore, carefully the thoughts, words, and actions of the past day. Return thanks to God for what you have done well, and be heartily sorry for what you have done ill, and pray for grace that you may do so no more. Learn this safe and easy way of judging yourself, and then you will not be judged of the Lord. As prayer was the key to open the morning, so should it be the lock to shut in the evening: therefore fall down upon your knees, and pray. He is fool-hardy that dares to lie down to sleep, who knows he has offended God, and is not reconciled to him. Always sleep as if one whispered in your ears, saying, O remember you must die; this night shall thy soul be required of thee.

When you undress. Grant, Lord, that when I am unclothed of this body, I may be clothed upon with a house which is from heaven.

When you lie down in your bed. I will lay me down in peace to take my rest. O my God, under the shadow of thy wings make me to dwell in safety.

If you cannot sleep. Thou Lord, hast granted thy loving kindness in the day-time; and in the night season I will sing of thee, and make my prayer to the God of my life. In the night I

will lift up my hands towards thy sanctuary, and bless the Lord. O do thou give me grace to watch, and pray always, that at thy coming, thou mayest say to me, "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of thy Lord." Amen, blessed Lord, Amen.

When thinking upon the many transgressions and iniquities which you have committed against God. O remember not the sins of my youth, nor of my riper years, but receive me, O heavenly Father, into the arms of thy fatherly compassion, as thou didst the returning prodigal; and forgive me all my wickedness, for the merits of *Jesus* thy only well-beloved Son, my Saviour.

Consider often that the Lord *Jesus* shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, taking vengeance on them that know not God, and obey not the Gospel of our Lord *Jesus Christ*, and punishing them with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power. Meditate on the day of the Lord, which *St. Peter* informs us will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat; the earth also, and the works that are therein, shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, looking for, and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Think often that you hear the last trumpet sounding, Arise ye dead and come to judgment. And may this

awaken all who are dead in sin to a life of righteousness.

When thinking on these words of Christ, to the goats, i. e. the wicked, on the left hand, at the last great day, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels. O God, who can think without fear and trembling on this certain punishment of all unrepenting sinners, to be shut out of heaven, to be cast into hell, where there is weeping, and gnashing of teeth, where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched? Grant, Lord, that all unbelievers, as well as those who confess *Christ* with their tongues but renounce him in their lives, and deny him in their works, Christians outwardly, but heathens, and worse than heathens in their hearts and conversations, may consider their latter end, and pray for grace to repent, believe, and obey, that they may not be plucked away suddenly. From these bitter pains of eternal death, good Lord deliver us.

When thinking on Christ's words to the sheep, i. e. the good, on his right hand, Come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. O comfortable words! O happiness which cannot be conceived, or sufficiently valued! what tears ought not this hope to wipe from our eyes? Hear, O my God; and breathe into my heart that spirit, which renews me after thine own image, in righteousness and true holiness. Set up thy kingdom, O *Jesus*, in my heart; for to become thy faithful servant is more to me than ten thousand worlds. O let me hear at last this joyful sentence, these ravishing words, "Come, ye blessed

of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."

As no hour passes by without some instance of God's bounty; so it is fit that none should pass without a zealous and constant love of so good a God, without a thankful remembrance of every good gift, which cometh down from above, from the Father of Lights. In every thing give thanks, says *St. Paul*; for this is the will of God. Every day's experience convinces us, that those who are continually taken up with the pleasures, business, and cares of life, forget their divine and spiritual nature, become like the beasts, wholly earthly and sensual. Let us often stand still, and consider the wondrous works of God, and thus raise our minds from earth to heaven. Consider this world as a great store-house of blessings, and look forward unto the other world; and trusting in your Saviour's merits, you may say—not one only, but both these worlds are mine; by virtue of my Redeemer's merit, I possess the comforts of this life; and on the same unshaken footing, I stand entitled to the unspeakable happiness of a better. As God hath made every thing beautiful; as the whole heaven and earth are rich with his goodness; so let our hearts and tongues be ever full of his praises. The soul is never touched with such joy, delight, and satisfaction, as when God is seen, and heard, enjoyed, and praised in all his works. The religious is the only wise man, and true lover of wisdom; and the pleasures of the mind and imagination have never their proper relish, till they are ripened by the exercise of devotion. May we all make the beauti-

ful works, and various scenes of nature, a guide to grace, and a step to glory! God's tender mercies are over all his works. Who that has any faith, or even eyes to behold the wondrous works of the Almighty, can forbear crying out with an holy astonishment, with an ecstasy of praise, "O Lord God of Hosts, who is like unto thee! All thy works praise thee, O Lord, and thy saints give thanks unto thee. Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts, heaven and earth are full of thy Glory. Glory be to thee, O Lord most high!" Holy minds have been ever wont to look through these bodily objects at spiritual and heavenly. But why should I seek any other authority than the Lord of life himself; who, upon the drawing of water, on the day of the feast of tabernacles, took occasion to speak of those living waters, which should flow from every true believer; (*John* vii. 37.) and upon occasion of a bodily feast, (*Luke* xiv.) entered into that divine discourse of God's gracious invitation of us to that spiritual food of grace and glory? Thus we should ascend in our thoughts from earth to heaven; and suffer no object to come in our way without some spiritual use and application. When we view the beauties of the creation, let us always consider to whom we stand indebted for all these entertainments of our senses; and who it is, that thus openeth his hands, and filleth the world with good. Such a habitual disposition of mind consecrates every field and wood; turns an ordinary walk into a morning or evening sacrifice. Let us make this heavenly use of all earthly enjoyments. Whatever is pleasurable, or charming

below; let it raise our desires to those sublime delights above, which will fill us with never-ending satisfaction and joy.

When you turn your eyes to the sun, moon, or stars, or to this earth, which is full of the goodness of the great Maker of them all, cry out with wonder and praise, O Lord how wonderful are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all; heaven and earth are full of thy riches and glory. If God in these things appears so great in counsel, and mighty in work, what may we expect to see in the palaces of heaven; in the holy orders of angels, cherubims and seraphims, thrones, dominions, principalities, and powers; and in that wonderful Redeemer Jesus Christ, who is beyond all objects, beyond all other manifestations, the wisdom of God, and the power of God! Therefore, O my soul, ascribe greatness, glory, and praise to our God, for ever and ever. For among the gods there is none like unto thee, O Lord; neither are there any works like unto thy works. Thou art great, and dost wondrous things; thou art God alone.

When you hear the birds sing. Do these birds, O my soul, rejoice and sing; and shalt thou be silent, when thou canst repeat a song far sweeter than theirs; a song which has sweetness enough to make melancholy depart, and sooth away the sorrows of death itself; the glorious song—Christ loved me, and gave himself for me? It is God that justifieth; who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died; yea rather, that is risen again; who is even at the right hand of God; who also maketh intercession for us.

When the weather is unseasonable. Father, forgive us those sins, for which thou art justly

displeased; remember, O Lord, to crown the year with thy goodness; and so renew the face of the earth, that the pastures and fields may rejoice and sing, and that we may reap the fruits of them in plenty.

When the weather is fair, and there is a good harvest. We praise and bless thy name, O Lord, for these great and undeserved mercies; let us show, by holy lives and conversations, our thankfulness to thee for opening thy hand, and filling us with plenteousness.

When you eat the fruit of the trees. Glory be to thee, O God, for the sweet and delicious fruits of the trees of this earth; O that I may taste of the fruit of that tree, which groweth in the midst of the paradise of God.

Upon a fine prospect. What a pleasing variety is here? This is no other than a natural and real landscape drawn by that Almighty hand in this table of the earth for the pleasure of our view; no other creature besides man is capable of admiring this beauty. Whilst I enjoy it, may I not forget to praise my Maker. But there is a sight, O my soul, that offers thee a truer and fuller delight, even this heaven above thee; all other prospects end in this; this glorious circumference, bounds, and encircles, and enlightens all that thine eye can see; whether thou look upward, or forward, or about thee, there thine eye alights: there, then, let thy thoughts be fixed. One inch of this lightsome firmament hath more beauty in it, than the whole face of the earth; and yet this is but the outward curtain of that glorious tabernacle in which God dwells; couldst thou but look within that veil, how shouldst thou be ravished

with the blissful sight? There, in that incomprehensible light, thou shouldst see him, whom none can see, and not be blessed; thou shouldst see millions of pure and majestic angels, holy and glorified souls. Thou, O Lord *Jesus*, didst tell thy disciples for their comfort, that in thy Father's house were many mansions, and that thou wast going to prepare a place for them. O blessed Saviour, I humbly pray, that in this heavenly glory thou wouldst prepare a place for me thy unworthy servant.

Upon the spring. May these trees, and herbs, O Lord, which are as it were rising from the dead, put me in mind of rising from the death of sin unto a life of righteousness, that by thy Spirit being rooted in faith, and putting forth the fruits of holiness, I may at the last great day spring up to eternal glory, through *Jesus Christ*.

Upon the fall of the leaf. Let these leaves dying, and falling from the trees, make me, O Lord, remember that I must die, and fall into the grave; and that as they often by sudden winds are blown down before their time, so I by the sudden blast of a distemper may be brought to death, and to the house appointed for all living. Grant, O Lord, that these considerations, by thy grace, may make me live in daily expectation of it, and be prepared to meet death, not with terror, but joy, with the earnest prayer of thy beloved Apostle, "Come, Lord *Jesus*, come quickly."

Remember that thou art an eternal Spirit, that thou art but for a few days, months, or years, in a state of flesh and blood, only to try, whether thou wilt choose to be for ever happy with God, or for ever miserable with the devil. Remember

that thy life is but a vapour, which appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away; that thou art in the body only to be holy, humble, and heavenly minded; that thou standest upon the brink of eternity; that death, resurrection, and judgment, will suddenly come upon thee like a thief in the night, and then thou wilt see a vanity in the things of this world, greater than any words can express. Do but see thyself in the light which *Christ* hath brought into the world, and thou wilt see that there are no enjoyments here, which are comparatively worth a thought, but such as may adorn thee with faith, and with that holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord. Remember that the Christian receives his name from *Christ*, which word signifies anointed of the *Holy Ghost*: therefore every one who is a true Christian may be said to be anointed with the Holy Spirit of *Christ*. He then who saith, I am a true Christian, expresses thereby no less than this—I am baptized into *Jesus Christ*, whose Spirit dwelleth in me; I believe in him as my only Saviour and Redeemer; I love him without hypocrisy, earnestly endeavouring, by divine grace, that is, by the help and assistance of God, to be like-minded with him, and to tread in his steps in my whole life and conversation, with all faithfulness and constancy. As there are many thousands that take to themselves the name of Christians, and yet, indeed, are in no such happy state as they imagine; therefore examine yourself, whether you only have the bare name of a Christian, or whether you are also in truth and reality a faithful disciple of *Christ*, guided and led by God's Holy Spirit. Grant, Lord,

that we all may be Christians, not in name only, but in deed; not in word only, but in heart. May every one who nameth the name of *Christ* depart from iniquity.

When you are under diseases, difficulties, crosses, and disappointments, consider that they are necessary for you. A constant and uninterrupted flow of the comforts of this life is too apt to fix our heart upon them, and to make our affections grow languid, and indifferent to enjoyments, spiritual, heavenly, and divine. It begins to be the silent language of the heart, "It is good to be here." And God often, like a kind and tender parent, corrects us with sickness and losses, to wean us from this vain world, and put us in mind of a better, of the promised rest above.

Under all troubles and afflictions, say, I must own, O gracious God, that thou wouldst do me no injustice, shouldst thou take away all my comforts; and shall I be cast down and complain when so many are still remaining? O thou righteous Judge, who afflictest, sanctify these afflictions to me, and make me better by them; cause patience to have its perfect work, nor let me be so eager to get out of the fire with my dross remaining, while thou art refining and purifying me, as silver is refined, and purified seven times in the fire. May I be still, and know that thou art God. May I consider that there is a rest remaining for the people of God; and till it comes, may I say,—It is good that a man hope, and quietly wait for the salvation of God. The Lord giveth, and then taketh away; and who shall say, What doest thou? O grant me Christian patience—thy will, O Lord, be done.

Upon the beginning of a sickness. All things must undergo their changes; I have enjoyed many fair days and sunshine; and as I am a sinner, it is necessary I should meet with clouds and storms for correction. What! shall I receive good at the hand of God, and shall I not receive evil? "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." This is my comfort, that I am in the hands of a wise and good God. This messenger is worthy to be welcome; it is the Lord, let him do what seemeth him good. "Whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth." This Scripture supports my spirits, and keeps me from fainting while I am rebuked of him.

Upon taking physic. As thou, O God, hast created medicines out of the earth, to ease the pains and cure the diseases of thy fallen creatures; so, I beseech thee, to bless this medicine which I am now taking, that it may heal my sickness; and being made whole again, may I sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon me. Nevertheless, not my will, but thine be done.

Upon a recovery from sickness. I shall not die, but live and declare the works of the Lord. The Lord hath chastened and corrected me; but he hath not given me over unto death. Praised be the Lord, for he hath heard the voice of my humble petitions; the Lord is my strength, and my shield; my heart hath trusted in him, and I am helped; therefore my heart danceth for joy, and in my song will I praise him. May I never forget that gracious voice, which said, Deliver him from going down into the pit; let

his health be restored, and his day of grace be prolonged. Grant, Lord, that I may never despise the riches of thy goodness, and forbearance, and long-suffering: but let this mercy, in raising me again, make me watch over all my ways; depart from all sin and iniquity, and serve thee faithfully all the days of my life.

Upon continuance of sickness. O Lord, rebuke me not in thine anger; thou rebukest even where thou lovest; so rebuke me, that while I smart with thy rod, I may rejoice in thy mercy.

Upon taking a nauseous medicine. How loathsome is this medicine! how offensive to the eye, the smell, and the taste! and it must be taken for health. Such is the chastisement of God, for the present grievous; nevertheless, afterwards it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby. O God, give me resolution cheerfully to take, and drink up that bitter cup of affliction, which thou, in thy wisdom and goodness, hast mixed for the health of my soul.

When in pain. If I be thus vexed with bodily pain, Lord, how shall I be able to endure the sting of a tormenting conscience? O God, whatever my flesh suffers, keep my soul free, and in peace. Whensoever my heart is stung with remorse for sin, only thy merits, O blessed Saviour, can mitigate and heal the wound; they have virtue to cure me, give me grace to apply them.

Upon the tolling of a bell for one departed. How often hath this bell reported to me the departure of many more strong and vigorous bodies than my own? and now, what doeth it, but call

me to the thought of my departure? Here is no abiding for me: I must away too: this sound is not for my ears, but for my heart. Lord, grant that this summons may awaken me to prepare for my long home, that I may be taught to die daily, and so be happy for ever.

When you are at a funeral, take occasion to think the more of death, and account every funeral your own; and say, Teach me, O Lord, to number my days, that I may apply my heart unto wisdom, and live so now, as I shall wish I had done when I come to die.

Upon the sight of a grave digged up. O Lord, as the grave will safely keep my body till the last great day, let me commit myself to it with joy, in sure and certain hope of its resurrection to eternal glory, through our Lord Jesus Christ.

I beseech you to think often on death, which will lessen the terror of it when at hand, and make you know yourself. The oftener, said a good man, I exercised myself in meditations of this kind, the less was my anxiety; and by making the thoughts of death familiar, what was at first so terrible and shocking, is become the sweetest of my enjoyments.

As thou, O Lord Jesus, didst taste death for every man, so deliver me from the fear of it, that I may not all my lifetime be subject to bondage, arm me for my last hour; be with me in my last combat, when the devil, like a roaring lion, will seek to devour me; make me faithful to the death, that thou mayest give me a crown of life.

When heaven is mentioned, say, O Lord, send

out thy light, and thy truth, that they may lead me, and bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy dwelling.

You are under the greatest engagements to love the Lord your God for offering this dwelling, this glorious kingdom, to you through *Christ*. Hear, O heavens! wonder, O earth! and let eternity dwell upon the stupendous truth! God spared not his Son, his only Son, but delivered him up to the deepest humiliation, and to the most accursed death, for us men, and for our salvation. Do you think often of this kingdom being purchased for you by the blood of the Son of God? Does your heart glow with thankfulness for these mercies? No man need be convicted of any other crime, at the great tribunal, than insensibility to such love, and unthankfulness for such favours. This, without the addition of horrid impieties, is enough to leave you without excuse. This is enough to prove you to be more stupid than the beasts of the field. "The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib: but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider." *Is. i. 3.* Want of consideration is the unhappy spring from which most of the sins, miseries, and calamities of mankind flow. Indeed, God, in his prophet *Isaiah*, makes this the great reason why his people were gone into captivity; why their honourable men were famished, and their multitude dried up with thirst; why hell hath enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure; and their glory, and their multitude, and their pomp descended into it. Beware that this accusation of

the want of consideration be not brought against you.

*Consider, and meditate often on the wonders of redemption, and then this language of praise will be ever flowing from your lips—*O my soul, so freely pardoned, and justified by the precious blood of *Jesus*, the Son of God, praise the Lord evermore. Thou never canst do enough, who hast received so much. Give unto him all honour, all praise. To God the Father, who created and made us; to God the Son, who redeemed and saved us, by dying for our sins, and rising again for our justification; to God the Holy Ghost, who sanctifieth and maketh us holy; three persons and one God, be ascribed all glory, honour, power, and dominion, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Upon your death-bed, say, Lord, I have waited for thy salvation; Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, because mine eyes have seen thy salvation, in knowing, and depending upon my Lord and Saviour *Jesus Christ* for my redemption. Lord, wash my soul in the blood of this Lamb, that it may be presented without spot unto thee. Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit. Farewell vanishing life, and welcome blessed eternity: even so Lord *Jesus*, come quickly.

REFLECTIONS

Proper for Persons at Sea, and those who live near the Sea.

THE Lord is a great God, in his hand are all the corners of the earth, and the strength of the hills is his also. The sea is his, and he made it.* He shut up the sea with doors, and said, Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further, and here shall thy proud waves be stayed.† Thus saith God the Lord, he that created the heavens, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; he that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein. Sing unto the Lord a new song, and his praise from the end of the earth; ye that go down to the sea, and all that is therein; the isles, and the inhabitants thereof.‡ He gathereth the waters of the sea together, as it were upon an heap, and layeth up the deep, as in a treasure-house. Let all the earth fear the Lord; stand in awe of him, all ye that dwell in the world. For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast.§ Hear now this, O foolish people, and without understanding; which have eyes, and see not; which have ears and hear not. Fear ye not me? saith the Lord: will ye not

* Psalm xcv.
† Job xxxviii.

‡ Isaiah xlii.
§ Psalm xxxiii.