

my prayers: for the sake of my blessed Saviour, have mercy upon me.

Lord, make me a doer of thy word, and not a hearer only, lest I deceive my soul.

A morning Prayer for a Servant.

O Lord my God, the great Creator and Preserver of all mankind; I bless and praise thy holy name for all thy mercies to my soul and body. Thou hast given me another day; O give me grace to spend it to thy honour and glory: Enable me to do in it the work for which thou hast sent me into the world, before the night of death cometh, wherein I cannot work.

O God, thou witness of all my actions, and judge of all my thoughts and affections, what would become of me, if thou shouldst enter into strict judgment with me! How should I stand before thy tribunal, covered with the guilt and shame of my sins? Lord, I repent; increase thou my repentance. I repent of—[*here mention those sins which most burden thy conscience.*] O be thou reconciled unto me, and pardon me for the sake of Jesus Christ: And not only pardon my sins, but deliver me from the power and dominion of them.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me: Give me a true faith, and inflame my heart with a holy love, that I may delight in thy commandments, and walk before thee in uprightness and fear, in faithfulness and honesty, constantly and cheerfully depending upon thee.

Enable me to do the duty of my place, not

with eye-service, but with singleness of heart, as knowing that I shall be accountable to thee at the day of judgment, as well for those duties which I owe my master and mistress, as for those which are more immediately to be paid to thee. O Lord, keep me from all opprobrious and reproachful language, from all lying and slandering, and from all unjust and deceitful actions: Make me always thankful, humble, and contented, neither withholding from thee the praise due to thine infinite bounty and mercy; nor from man, the thanks due to him for any act of kindness or charity towards me.

Bless this whole family to which I belong, and sow in all our hearts the seeds of unfeigned charity; that we may all enjoy the comfort of a mutual affection, and of a mutual assistance and aid in our several places: possess us with a just sense of our duty to thee and man, that we may be living members of thy blessed Son; and grant, that being protected by thy providence, directed by thy word, and assisted by the influence of thy Holy Spirit, we may be admitted into thy glorious kingdom in heaven, where we shall adore and praise thee, love and enjoy thee to all eternity, through Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose holy name and words I continue to pray—

Our Father, &c.

An Evening Prayer for a Servant.

O My God, my strength, and the rock of my salvation; how does my soul praise thee for thy great goodness, and all the precious promises of thy gospel.

But, O my God, I have forgotten thee, though thou hast given me my being: I have forgotten thee, though thou gavest thine own Son to redeem me, not only to free me from the punishment due to my sins, but from the slavery and dominion of them, and to procure for me life eternal. I have feared the displeasure of man, whose breath is in his nostrils, more than I have feared thine, O thou just and holy Judge of mankind; I have been more solicitous for the bread that perishes, than for thy favour, which is better than life itself: I have sinned against my knowledge, thy word, and the motions of thy Holy Spirit. I have been apt to repine and murmur at thy providence, and to be discontented in my condition, particularly—[*here mention particular sins.*] But I repent, O my God, of all my sins, and humbly beg the assistance of thy grace, that I may do the works meet for repentance, and serve thee in truth and with an upright heart all the days of my life.

Have mercy upon me, O Lord, have mercy upon me, and forgive me all my offences, and give me grace to keep upon my watch, and guard against them for the future: enable me sincerely to endeavour to reform and amend my life, that I may every day grow and increase in goodness, and be so much the fitter for death, the nearer I approach to it; and whenever it comes, let it find me, O Lord, in a disposition and frame of spirit fit to die; having an unshaken faith, an humble resignation and submission, an holy contempt of earth, and a devout love of heaven.

Thou hast called me to be a servant, but thou hast called me to be a son too, and an heir of

eternal life; O give me grace to be contented, and faithfully to discharge my duty. Do thou, who never slumberest nor sleepest, watch over me, and this whole family: Let thine angels pitch their tents about us this night; let us lie down securely, and let our sleep be sweet and refreshing to us, for Jesus Christ's sake: in whose name and words I beg all things needful both for myself and all mankind, particularly all that I am any way bounden to pray for.

Our Father, &c.

*A Prayer before Confirmation.**

BLESSED be thy name, O Lord, that I was born in a Christian nation, and admitted into thy church by baptism, and that I have been continued in life, to be able to understand my baptismal vow, and to confirm it in my person. Lord, I heartily take that solemn engagement upon myself, to believe from the heart in God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, my Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier; and to renounce all sin, the works of the devil, the vanities of the world, and the inordinate lusts and desires of the flesh: O Lord, having thus resolved to live in all dutiful obedience to thee and thy laws, I earnestly implore the assistance of thy grace, to enable me to persevere, and continue steadfast in this holy resolution, through Jesus Christ, my blessed Lord and Saviour. *Amen.*

* See Candidate for Confirmation instructed, published by T. & J. Swords: or Nelson's Instructions on Confirmation.

A Prayer after Confirmation.

MOST gracious God, who keepest covenant with them that love thee, and walk before thee with their whole heart, I praise thy holy name for the opportunity I have enjoyed of dedicating and giving up myself to thee and thy service, in the presence of the church. Do thou, O merciful Father, who hast hitherto preserved me in body and soul so strengthen and direct me by the gracious influences of thy good Spirit, that I may constantly profess thy truth unto my life's end, and keep a conscience void of offence towards thee and towards men: and having walked in newness and holiness of life, as becomes a member of Christ's church, I may at length partake of that life and immortality, which he brought to light through the gospel, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

*A Prayer to be used before receiving the Holy Communion.**

O Blessed Jesus, who didst suffer death upon the cross for the sins of the world, and hast appointed the Holy Sacrament, (which I am now about to receive) in remembrance of thy death, and as a means of strengthening and refreshing the souls of penitent sinners; prepare me, by thy grace, for the performance of this duty. Thou

* The Companion for the Altar, or Nelson's Christian Sacrifice may be used as a preparatory book of devotion.

hast mercifully promised, that him who cometh unto thee thou wilt in no wise cast out: Unto thee, O Lord, I come weary and heavy laden with the burden of my sins. Forgive the many and great offences which I have committed; cleanse and strengthen my heart by thy Holy Spirit; and make me an acceptable guest at thy table: enable me to approach it with a steadfast and lively faith in thee, with a deep and earnest repentance, and with fervent charity towards all men. Grant that I may receive the full benefit of that atonement which thou hast made for me by thy precious blood; and that, walking henceforth in the way of thy commandments, I may be prepared to meet thee with joy, when thou comest in the glory of thy Father; to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour, praise, and thanksgiving, now and for evermore. *Amen.*

An Ejaculation, to be said at the Lord's table just before receiving the Bread.

GRANT me, O Lord, that portion of thy grace, which may feed my soul to life everlasting. Be merciful to my unrighteousness; pardon my sins; be thou my God, in Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

To be said after receiving the Bread.

Glory be to thee, O blessed Jesus, who hast by thy death opened unto us the gate of everlasting life. O Lord God, who didst sanctify us by the offering of the body of Christ once for all, sanctify me, even me, O Heavenly Father.

To be said before receiving the Cup.

O Saviour of the world, cleanse me by thy blood from all my sins, that I may at the last day appear without spot before thee.

To be said after receiving the Cup.

Glory be to thee, O blessed Jesus; keep me always mindful of thy love and goodness towards me; make me perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle me. Blessed Lord, thou hast loved us, and washed us from our sins in thy own blood. All glory be to thee. *Amen.*

A Prayer to be said after receiving the Holy Sacrament.

O Almighty God and heavenly Father, I return thee thanks and praise for all thy mercies vouchsafed unto me; and particularly for the opportunity which thou hast this day given me of receiving that holy Sacrament, which thy Son Jesus Christ has appointed in remembrance of his death and sufferings, and for the spiritual nourishment and support of our souls; I confess, O Lord, that I have not received it with a suitable degree of love and devotion towards thee, nor felt myself sufficiently sensible of the greatness of those blessings which the performance of this duty has called to my remembrance. Forgive, O Lord, the weakness and imperfection of this and all my other services; increase my faith, warm and enliven my heart with a constant and

most thankful affection towards thee, and enable me by the grace of thy Holy Spirit to fulfil the promises of obedience, which I have now made to thee. Make me watchful over my thoughts, words, and actions; and grant that I may lead a strictly honest, sober, chaste, and godly life, following the example of my blessed Master, Jesus Christ, and placing my whole trust in his precious death and blood for the pardon of my sins, that, when he shall come to judge the world, I may be found clothed with his righteousness, and be received into thy heavenly kingdom. Grant this, O merciful Father, for the sake of the same Jesus Christ, thy only Son our Lord. *Amen.*

At the Commencement of Devotion.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who fillest both the heaven and the earth with thy presence; who art always listening to the supplications of thy creatures; who art more willing to hear than we to pray, and art wont to give more than either we desire or deserve; open, I beseech thee, thine ears of mercy to an unworthy creature, now prostrate at thy footstool. Possess me with such a strong and vigorous love, as may lift me up above all earthly things, that I may approach with joyful heart to thee my God, mine exceeding great joy. Repress my wandering thoughts, and fix them entirely upon thee; raise my cold and earthly desires, and cause them to flame in the lively fervour of devotion, that I may so ask as to receive; so seek, that I may find; and so knock that it may be opened unto me. Give me a lively sense of mine own personal wants, and a distinct understanding both of those good things

which I have received, and of those mercies which, in thy word, thou hast promised to bestow. Endue me with faith in thy promises, that I may come boldly to the throne of grace, not daring to limit thy majesty, or to prescribe unto thee the measure of thy bounty or supplies. And grant, that the end and purport of my prayers may be the promotion of thy glory and of mine own salvation; and that I may prove as abundant in thanksgiving for mercies received, as earnest in suing for those good things of which I stand in need. Grant me these graces, for the sake of Jesus Christ mine only Mediator and Advocate. *Amen.*

For true Devotion.

ALMIGHTY God, the Father of all mercy, and the Parent of every good, pardon, I most humbly beseech thee, the wanderings and inconsistencies of my nature: forgive me all mine unintentional errors, and aid me in struggling against my greater faults; show me the hideousness of vice, and arm my soul against the assaults of temptation. Instruct me to feel mine own unworthiness in the contemplation of thine omnipotence; to correct mine errors, and to amend my life. Judge me not according to my deserts: for who amongst the sons of men can be justified in thy sight? Thou, O God, knowest what is most fitting for me: Thou wilt, therefore, grant or withhold the object of my petitions, as seemeth to thy godly wisdom most conducive to my good. Teach me to extend to others those blessings which thou hast bestowed on me: awaken

in me a spirit to profit by the precepts of thy holy Gospel; incite me to imitate, as far as my sinful nature will permit, the great, the pure, the exalted example of my blessed Redeemer; and enable the ministers of thy holy faith to unite the wandering children of error in the fellowship of thy holy church, through the influence and mediation of my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

For Faith.

O Almighty God, and Father of all mercies, who alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men, and who didst in the beginning powerfully instruct, and graciously lead thy faithful servants, by sending to them the light of thy Holy Spirit; grant me by the same Spirit a right judgment in all things necessary to salvation. Give me, I beseech thee, the spirit of wisdom, of understanding, and of counsel; that by the inspiration thereof I may think those things that are good; the spirit of faith, fortitude and power, that by the guidance thereof I may perform the same, in a manner most acceptable to thee. Remove from me all ignorance and blindness of heart, and make thy word unto me like the star, which led the wise men to Christ, and all thy works profitable instruments to draw me unto thee. Increase in me the gift of faith and hope to believe in thy promises made in Christ, that I may not by mine own negligence or the infirmity of my flesh, be driven away from faith in his blood. Grant me always to hold fast the profession of this faith without wavering;

that I may grow in knowledge and grace, and abound in all the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God. Carry on with power the work of grace and sanctification in my soul, that my sinful corruptions may grow weaker and weaker every day, and my faith stronger and stronger. Let it take entire possession of my soul, subdue every corrupt affection, and bring all to the obedience of faith. And finally that I may obtain that which thou dost promise, make me heartily to believe and to love that which thou dost command; help me to grow in grace, and in the knowledge of my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; let me not be barren in this knowledge, but so bring forth abundantly the fruits of the Spirit, love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, meekness, goodness, and forbearance, against which there is no law, that I may at last attain the end of my faith, even the salvation of my soul, through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

For a right use of the Faculties of the Soul.

BLESSED Lord, who, through thine infinite goodness, hast endowed me with an immortal soul, capable of loving and of enjoying thee eternally; who, of thy distinguishing mercy, hast ranked me among the order of rational beings; and of thy goodness, hast given me an understanding to contemplate divine things, and to choose and embrace the greatest good; grant that I may so use these thy precious gifts, as to employ them to those ends and purposes for which thou didst

communicate them: that all my faculties may adore and worship thee, the source from whence they received their origin; and that the great care and business of my life may be to provide for that happiness, which thou hast made me capable of, and which can only be obtained by a patient continuance in well-doing. * Let not the concerns of this short and uncertain life make me neglect the things which are eternal. Let not the faint images of honour, and the empty scenes of pleasure, fill my soul, which was created for the most perfect and satisfactory enjoyments, even the assurance of eternal life by the resurrection of thy Son. Let me live under the constant sense of these precious promises, that they may support me under all the afflictions and calamities of this life; and so comfort and strengthen me at the hour of death, that I may cheerfully submit to my dissolution, knowing that when this earthly tabernacle shall crumble into dust, I have an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens, through the merits of Jesus Christ, who died for my sins, and rose again for my justification. *Amen*

For a Removal of the Obstacles to Belief.

MOST gracious God, who art the author and giver of all good things, assist me by the influence of thy grace, that I may mortify all those inordinate and corrupt inclinations of my heart, which oppose the belief of thy holy and heavenly truths. Enable me to conquer mine evil habits, and to govern mine unruly passions, that they may not indispose my mind to embrace that evi-

dence which so plentifully accompanieth thy divine revelations to the sons of men. Let not the scandalous divisions of Christians, or the ill lives of those that profess thy holy religion, ever weaken my belief; since love, peace, and unity are marks of thy true disciples, and since thy wrath is revealed from heaven against all those that obey not the gospel of thy Son. Keep my mind free from all prejudice, which puts so false a bias upon the understanding, even in matters of the greatest importance, and which may prove so fatal and destructive to mine eternal welfare; that seeing the reasonableness of those things which thou hast required to be believed, the perfection of those duties which thou hast enjoined to be practised, and the power and force of those motives upon which both are founded, I may be steadfast and unmoveable, and at last receive the end of my faith, even the salvation of my soul, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For an effectual Belief of the Christian Religion.

GRACIOUS God and heavenly Father, I adore thine infinite goodness, manifested to the children of men in the revelation of the holy Gospel. I believe, O God, that the blessed Jesus condescended to take upon him human nature, with all its frailties and infirmities, sin only excepted; that he was the great Prophet sent from thee to instruct me in all the particulars of my duty, to give me right apprehensions of thy divine majesty, and to improve my nature to the utmost perfection; and that he confirmed his mission by greater miracles than any other man ever did,

and by prophecies, which lay beyond the reach of any created understanding, the fulfilment of which convinces me that he was sent from God. I believe, O Lord, that thou didst by a voice from heaven declare him to be thy beloved Son, in whom thou wast well pleased, and that all the prophecies concerning the Messiah were fulfilled in him. I believe that he suffered death upon the cross for man's redemption, and made there a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction for the sins of the whole world; that he has satisfied thy justice, and made reconciliation for us. I believe that he rose from the dead the third day according to his own infallible prediction; that he conversed forty days with his disciples; that in their sight he ascended up into heaven, where he now sits at thy right hand to intercede for sinners; that he has fulfilled his promise to his disciples, of sending to them the Holy Spirit; and that the miraculous gifts, as bestowed upon his apostles, proved his exaltation, at the same time that they enabled him to propagate his religion throughout the world. Lord, I beseech thee increase this my faith, and strengthen it against all weakness and infirmity. Let no unreasonable prejudice cloud the light of mine understanding; let no pride and vanity obscure the proofs of thy holy revelations; let no partiality pervert my judgment in matters of such high importance; and, above all, let no unreasonable lusts or appetites corrupt my will, and indispose me to entertain thy holy and excellent laws. Make my faith lively and effectual, and let its fruits appear in my life and conversation; make it perfect by charity, which is

the true character of thy disciples ; that so, by believing and loving thee in this life, I may see and enjoy thee eternally in that which is to come, through the merits of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Saviour. *Amen.*

For Courage in the Profession of Christianity.

O Lord God Almighty, who art the refuge and security, the hope and salvation of all those who repose their trust and confidence in thee ; I adore that infinite love which assumed our nature, and raised the Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, and gave him glory at thy right hand, that all his faithful followers might rest assured of thine eternal care, and that they should not perish, but have everlasting life. Blessed, blessed be thy name for these glad tidings of great joy, which raise my spirits above this world, and place me in quietness and safety amid all the troubles and dangers of life. Grant, that I may feel enlivened with the same spirit which was in the Captain of my salvation, who was made perfect through sufferings, and that being faithful to him unto death, I may receive a crown of glory. Defend me from so great a sin, as the thought of denying my Lord and Master, and his holy word ; and keep me by thy power through faith even unto salvation. Confirm and strengthen me in such a steadfast belief of thy promises, as may not only bear me up with constancy and patience, but may inspire me with resolution in all dangers, even in death itself. Fill my mind with such a powerful sense of those immortal joys, that nothing may appear so

dreadful as to terrify me from my duty, or turn me aside from the paths of righteousness, of charity, and of truth. Endue me with such a perfect love to my Lord and Master, as may cast out all fear and suffering ; fortify my heart with such a zealous affection to his religion, that I may not be terrified by any adversaries, or fear those that can only kill the body. Regard, O Lord, the supplications of thy servant, who has now made an oblation of himself wholly unto thee ; and endue me with christian prudence, as well as courage, that I may be both as wise as a serpent, and as innocent as a dove ; and may ever cleave with a discreet zeal unto truth and righteousness, saying boldly, the Lord is my helper, therefore I will not fear what man can do unto me. Grant this, O God, for the sake of Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

CHRISTMAS.*

For the inestimable Blessings of Redemption.

ETERNAL God, the Lord and Father of all things both in heaven and on earth, I prostrate myself before thee in all humility, and raise my heart in grateful praise and thanksgiving for the inestimable blessing which thou hast vouchsafed unto the sons of men, in sending thine only-begotten Son, the mighty God, the Prince of Peace, as thou hadst promised by thy holy prophets. I

* Suitable instructions and devotions for the festivals and fasts, will be found in "the Companion for the Festivals and Fasts," published by T. & J. Swords.