

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.

bend in gratitude before thee for this gracious gift, this high behest, which thou, in thy merciful love towards the creatures of thy hand, hast bestowed upon me, vouchsafing to redeem, through the intercession of thy pure and immaculate Son, a rebellious people, and to turn them from their perverse and sinful ways to the pure worship of thee, through the means and mediation of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, the heir of all things, the brightness of thy glory, and the express image of thy person. I praise, I laud, and I extol thy mercy and loving-kindness towards us: O let my gratitude bring forth the fruits of goodness, and aid me with thy Holy Spirit to put off the old, and to take upon me the new man; that so, by devoting myself to thy service in purity of worship, and simplicity of heart, the great sacrifice and atonement, which thou hast accepted for the transgressions of our former nature, may not have been made in vain. Endue me with thy grace, and strengthen me in thy faith, fear, and love, that I may wean all mine affections from the things of this world, and fix them on the promises of that bliss eternal, which thou hast given me through thy Son, our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ; to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

For the Love of Christ.

O Holy and ever blessed Jesus, who, being the eternal Son of God, and most high in the glory of the Father, didst vouchsafe for us sinners to be born of an humble Virgin, to be subject to the

weakness of a child, to grow up in a life of privacy and labour, and to declare thyself at last the Redeemer of the world, by establishing a perfect law of grace, confirming it by innumerable miracles, and by suffering for it intolerable persecutions, even to the death upon the cross; work in me, I beseech thee, a due sense of infinite love, that adoring and believing in thee as my Lord and Saviour, I may trust in thine infinite merits, imitate thy holy example, obey thy gracious commands, and finally enjoy thy promises, by living and reigning with thee to all eternity, in those heavenly mansions which thou hast prepared for all thy faithful followers in the kingdom of thy Father. Grant this, O God, for the sake of Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

On the Commencement of the Year.

GRACIOUS God, by whose abundant mercy my life has been prolonged; who hast brought me to the beginning of another year; and who, by continuing unto me the blessings of life, hast invited me to repentance, grant that this mercy may not be in vain. Let not my years be multiplied to increase my guilt; but as age advances, let me become more pure in my thoughts, more regular in my desires, and more obedient to thy laws. Let not the cares of this world distract, or the evils of age overwhelm me. Let not another year be lost in idleness, or squandered away in unprofitable employment. Let not sin prevail on the remaining part of life, and take not from me the assistance of thy Holy Spirit; but as every day brings me nearer to mine end,

let every day contribute to make that end holy and happy. Enable me from this instant to amend my life according to thy holy word, to rectify my thoughts, and to reform my doings. Let an increase of years bring along with them an increase of faith, of hope, and of charity. Grant me diligence in whatever work thy providence shall appoint; and let me pass the remainder of my days in thy fear and to thy glory. Enable me to love thy commandments, and to desire thy promises; let me by thy protection and influence so pass through things temporal, as finally not to lose the things which are eternal. And among the hopes and fears, the pleasures and sorrows, the dangers and deliverances, and all the changes and chances of this mortal life, let my heart be surely fixed, by the help of thy Holy Spirit, on the everlasting fruition of thy presence, where true joys are only to be found: that so, when thou shalt be pleased to summon me to another world, I may be received amongst the number of those sinners, to whom sorrow and reformation have obtained pardon, and may enter into eternal happiness, through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

EPIPHANY.

For the Blessings of Christian Knowledge.

MOST gracious God, who, through thine infinite goodness, hast been pleased to offer salvation to all mankind, and to receive every humble supplicant as an object of thy mercy; and who didst communicate the glad tidings of our Saviour's

advent in the world to the people of Israel, by the ministration of angels, and by the leading of a star didst manifest him to the Gentiles; blessed be thy holy name for that glorious light which dispersed itself through the dark regions of this world, and which dispelled the thick clouds of ignorance and idolatry, of folly and of vice; which directed mankind to the true and most worthy object of their worship, and raised their nature to its utmost improvement. Adored be thine infinite mercy, which brought the joyful sound to this land of my nativity, and hast permitted it to partake of the gracious and benign influence of thy distinguishing providence. O may I always value such an inestimable blessing, by walking as a child of the light, and by compassionating the miseries of those who still sit in darkness and the shadow of death. To this end I humbly beseech thee to prosper the undertakings of all those societies which are established for the propagation of the Gospel; make the members thereof zealous and diligent in that good and glorious work; give them *wisdom* to discern the best and most proper means of promoting it; courage and resolution to pursue it; and by unity and affection in their consultations, and thy blessing upon their endeavours, the happiness to effect it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For Examination.

ETERNAL God, the great Searcher of hearts, who knowest all our secret thoughts, and from whose all-seeing eye nothing is hid, dispose me frequently to examine the state of my mind, and

to compare mine actions with the rule of thy laws, that nothing contrary to thy holy will may ever find a settled abode in my soul; and let me so consider my ways, as to turn my feet unto thy testimonies, to repent, and to live. Grant that I may so impartially judge and condemn myself, that I may not be condemned at thy dreadful tribunal. Let not self-love impose upon me in a matter of such high importance; let not sloth and negligence deter me from keeping mine accounts clear and spotless; let no darling passion be so far indulged, as to escape the scrutiny of serious examination: and whenever, O Lord, I have discovered mine own vileness, grant that, by the assistance of thy grace, I may humble myself under a proper sense of it before thee; that I may from my heart condemn all those follies, by which I have so justly provoked thy wrath and indignation against me; that I may earnestly solicit thy pardon and forgiveness through the merits of my Redeemer; that I may be careful to stand upon my guard for the future; and by prayer and watchfulness engage thy powerful protection, which is so necessary to support me in the time of temptation, the day of trial, and the awful hour of death. Grant this, O Lord, for the sake of Jesus Christ, mine only Mediator and Advocate. *Amen.*

A General Confession.

O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Maker of all things, and the Judge of all men, I acknowledge and lament my manifold sins and wickedness, which from time to time I have most

grievously committed by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine majesty. O Lord, I have erred and strayed from thy ways like a lost sheep; I have followed too much the devices and desires of mine own heart; I have offended against thy holy laws; I have left undone those things which I ought to have done; and I have done those things which I ought not to have done; and there is no health in me. I do earnestly repent, and am heartily sorry for these my misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto me; the burden of them is intolerable. Do thou then, O God, look down upon me with tenderness and compassion; do thou, whose nature and property is ever to have mercy and to forgive, pardon all that is past; forgive me all mine offences; deliver me from all blindness of mind, hardness of heart, and contempt of thy word and commandments; from all covetous desires, and inordinate love of riches; from pride, vain-glory, and hypocrisy, and from envy, hatred, malice, and uncharitableness. And create in me, O God, a new and contrite heart, that so, by truly lamenting and forsaking my sins, I may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; and grant that I may ever hereafter live righteously, soberly, and godly, and earnestly endeavour to serve and please thee in newness of life, to the honour and glory of thy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

True Contrition.

MOST gracious God, full of compassion, long-suffering, and of great pity, who sparest when

we deserve punishment, and in thy wrath think-est upon mercy; cause me earnestly to repent, and heartily to be sorry for all my misdoings; make the remembrance of them so burdensome and painful to me, that I may flee to thee with a troubled spirit, and a contrite heart. Forgive me all the sins which I can now call to my remembrance; and forgive me likewise all my transgressions of thy holy will, which may now be out of the reach of my memory, but which have been open to thine all-seeing eye, and are known to thee with all their circumstances and aggravations. Pardon me, O Lord, according to the abundant goodness of thy nature, and the declarations made by thy Son Jesus Christ; and grant me that forgiveness which I can neither ask nor expect, but upon those terms and conditions which thy holiness and mercy have laid down in the gospel. And as I am truly sensible that no forgiveness can be expected, according to thy word, without amendment of life, I seriously renounce all communication with whatever is displeasing to thee, and sincerely resolve to make it my great endeavour to correct every thing that is amiss in my temper and behaviour, and to bring myself still nearer to thy holiness and perfection. Forgive me, therefore, as thou hast promised by thy dearly-beloved Son; visit, comfort, and relieve me; cast me not away from thy presence, and take not thy Holy Spirit from me; but excite in me true repentance and contrition: give me knowledge of thy truth, and confidence in thy mercy; and in the world to come life everlasting, for the sake of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Saviour. *Amen*

MOST gracious God, who desireth not the death of a sinner, but rather that he should turn from his wickedness and live; unto thee I present my humble supplications, not only for mercy to pardon my past offences, but also for grace to assist me in times of future need. Create in me a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within me. Make me to reflect on my ways, to turn my feet unto thy testimonies, and wherein I have done amiss to do so no more. Give me that godly sorrow which worketh repentance unto salvation not to be repented of. Lead me not into temptation, but deliver me from evil; and grant that I may finally come off conqueror, yea more than conqueror, through him who hath loved us. Forgetting those things that are behind, may I press forward to the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Let not my goodness be as the morning cloud, or the early dew which passeth away; but may it be as the shining light, which shineth more and more unto the perfect day. Finally, let no iniquity have dominion over me; but may I be steadfast, immoveable, and always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as I know that my labour will not then be in vain. Grant this, O God, for the sake of Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

GOOD FRIDAY.

For the Atonement.

BLESSED Lord God, at whose mighty word the corners of the earth tremble and the moun-

tains shake to their foundations; who ridest on the whirlwind, and who directest the storm; O let thy justly-excited wrath cease, and let not the fulness of thine indignation be poured out upon guilty man. Thou, Lord, didst send thy Son on earth for our redemption; thine only begotten did leave the realms of bliss to taste the bitter cup of misery and death, and to drink the very dregs of human affliction. Rejected of men whom he came down to save, he was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; he was persecuted for our transgressions, and bruised for our iniquities; a stranger on the earth which was fashioned by his hands, and an outcast amongst the people whom his Father had created. He was smitten, and scourged, and led out to crucifixion; he was oppressed and afflicted, but he opened not his mouth; he was brought as a lamb to the slaughter, but he was dumb, and reproached them not. When, therefore, I behold him stretched upon the cross in the agonies of death, and surrounded by his persecutors, how can I expect to escape the heavy and wrathful displeasure of the Almighty? Who shall redeem me from the burden of my sins? who shall blot out mine iniquities? who shall open the gate of heaven, and bid me to come in? Thou, Lord, whom we persecuted; thou, Saviour of the world, whom we smote; thou hast made thyself a propitiation for the wickedness of man, and hast offered up thine own immaculate body, as a free-will offering and sacrifice for his transgressions. Thou, Lord, who in thy last bitter anguish didst pray for thy persecutors, thou shalt plead my cause with the avenging God, and avert the heavy judgment of

his anger. Thou shalt gather thy flock within the fold, and thy mercy shall grant what thy judgment would withhold. Thou wilt receive the penitent, nor shut the door of mercy upon the sinner, who shall transgress no more. Let then, O God, these my hopes be confirmed at thy mercy seat, and let the memory of such ingratitude and cruelty be wiped from the book of life. Impress on me for ever these awful recollections, that they may be a warning in the day of temptation, and a barrier against future transgressions. Let the silent reproach, which they breathe within me, warm my soul with redoubled exertion to expiate my crimes, and to render myself a worthy and meet partaker of the everlasting kingdom which is prepared above by my Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ; to whom, with the Father and the Holy Ghost, be ascribed all gratitude and praise both now and for evermore. *Amen.*

EASTER.

For the Resurrection.

ALMIGHTY God, whose mercy and loving-kindness are, like unto thy power, immeasurable and unbounded, receive my praises and thanksgivings for the abundant display of both, which I record and celebrate this day, the day of the Resurrection of my Saviour, who hath overcome the power of death, and thrown open the gates of everlasting life to all those that truly believe and faithfully obey thy sacred word. Christ, thine only-begotten Son is risen from the dead, and

hath become the first fruits of them that slept; hath dispelled the clouds that gathered round us; hath given us a new and glorious day, and offered to us new and unbounded hopes. Christ is risen, and sitteth at the right hand of God, to relieve us from the burden of our sins; he, who has mediated for them, shall be our advocate with thee for thy continued mercy. Turn then, O Lord, my grateful and obedient heart towards that path which my gracious Saviour hath opened. Cleanse me from all perverseness, and instil into my mind good desires; teach me to set mine affections above all worldly temptation, and direct my regard to that point where only true happiness is to be found; to that haven where, after the storms of life, and the persecution of men are hushed and are no more, I may rest from my labours, in those blissful mansions which thou hast prepared for those that love thee; and reap the fruits of a well-contested struggle against the temptations of the world, the flesh, and the devil; and be enabled to exclaim, in the triumphant language of the Apostle, O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? Grant then, gracious God, that these my pious resolutions, may never waver; that my heart, warmed by these reflections, and the contemplation of this day's mercy, may never forget its duty, or turn from the tenor of thy precepts; but influenced with the assistance of thy Holy Spirit, and strengthened with the power of thy grace, I may ascend the realms of glory, and be admitted to the mansions of eternal happiness, to the company of angels and of archangels, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, to partake of the

glories of my Saviour's Resurrection; to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

For Ascension Day.

O King of glory, who art exalted far above all principalities and powers, and enthroned in thy heavenly kingdom, where saints and angels, and all the host of Heaven, do adore thee; look down from on high on me thy humble servant. O make me feel the power of thy grace, and the blessed influences of the Holy Spirit lifting up my mind and desires from fleeting earthly enjoyments to the solid lasting glories above. Wherefore, O my heart, wilt thou be grovelling on the earth, since thy glorified Redeemer is ascended into Heaven? From this time I will lift up my soul towards thee, O Saviour of lost sinners, and reach at the glories of Heaven. My knees shall bow at thy exalted name; my tongue shall confess thy glory; and thou shalt be the daily entertainment of my thoughts.

Lord, grant that after I have dwelt above in heart and spirit, I may at last ascend, whither my Saviour Christ is gone before, and be for ever with the Lord; there, together with the whole church triumphant, to see and admire, to love and praise thee, O blessed God, world without end. *Amen.*

WHIT-SUNDAY.

For the Influence of the Holy Spirit.

LORD of all power and might, who didst send down the Holy Ghost from Heaven in the likeness of fiery tongues, lighting upon the Apostles, and didst produce in them the most glorious effects, by turning their ignorance into learning, their fear into courage, their weakness into strength, and their sorrow into joy; and notwithstanding all the devices of Satan, hast caused the glad tidings of the Gospel to be preached unto all the nations of the world; let this divine Comforter enter into my soul, and dwell there, that it may appear both by my life and conversation that thy grace doth rule in my heart, and influence my conduct. Fill my mind with holy thoughts and resolutions; renew a right spirit within me; and fix my wavering piety into a regular and constant course of virtue and holiness. And if at any time I have resisted thy blessed inspirations, and quenched those holy flames, which thou hast kindled in my breast, so purify my heart by thy heavenly grace, and mortify all those vices that are in me; so send thy grace to check mine unsteadiness, and to show me the dreadful state of impenitent sinners; so strike my regardless soul with terror and amazement, and set before mine eyes the beauteous prospect of a pious life, that I may know and love thee, the only God, and constantly do those things that are lawful and right, and pleasing and acceptable unto thee. Strengthen me, I beseech thee, with the influence of thy blessed Spirit, the

Holy Ghost the Comforter, and daily increase in me the manifold gifts of grace, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and strength, the spirit of knowledge and true godliness; that so, walking by thy grace here, I may be fitted for thy glory hereafter. Grant this, O Lord, for the sake of Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

For Grace.

GRACIOUS God, who hast promised to give thy Holy Spirit to them that ask; vouchsafe unto me, I beseech thee, its all powerful influence to cleanse my polluted nature, to comfort me in all my troubles, to succour me in temptations, and to assist me in the discharge of my duty, that I may be enabled to walk in thy faith and fear all the days of my life. To thy gracious protection I commit my soul, O thou that art faithful, as well as good; watch over me therefore, that I be not beguiled by the deceitfulness of sin, by the contagion of mine own corrupt heart, or the malice of my spiritual enemies; but may so watch and pray that I enter not into temptation; and after having lived the life of grace here, may inherit thy glory hereafter in another and a better world, for the sake of Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

TRINITY SUNDAY.

The Trinity in Unity.

LORD God Almighty, who dwellest in a blaze of glory inaccessible to human sight, and whom