

And there is no health in us. "There is no health in my flesh," Ps. xxxviii. 3.

But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us miserable offenders. "God be merciful to me a sinner," Luke xviii. 13. "Have mercy upon me, O God," according to thy loving kindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions," Ps. li. 1.

Spare thou them, O God, which confess their faults. "I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him," Mal. iii. 17. "I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin," Ps. xxxii. 5.

Restore thou them that are penitent. "Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit," Ps. li. 12. "He restoreth my soul," Ps. xxxiii. 3.

According to thy promises declared unto mankind, in Christ Jesu our Lord. "Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins," Acts xiii. 38. "All the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen," II. Cor. i. 20.

And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life. "Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God," II. Cor. vii. 1.

To the glory of thy holy name. "Whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God," I. Cor. x. 31. "Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit," John xx. 8.

Amen. "All the people shall answer, and say, Amen," Deut. xxvii. 15. "Let all the people say, Amen," Ps. cvi. 48.

THE ABSOLUTION OR REMISSION OF SINS.

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. "Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies," II. Cor. i. 3.

Who desireth not the death of a sinner, but rather that he may turn from his wickedness and live. "As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live," Ezek. xxxiii. 2.

And hath given power and commandment to his ministers, to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. "God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them." "God, who hath reconciled

us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation." "Now then we are ambassadors for Christ," II. Cor. v. 18, 19, 20.

He pardoneth and absolveth all them that truly repent and unfeignedly believe his holy Gospel. "Thou, Lord, art ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee," Ps. lxxxvi. 5. "By him all that believe are justified from all things," Acts xiii. 39.

Wherefore let us beseech him to grant us true repentance. "If God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth," II. Tim. ii. 25.

And his Holy Spirit. "God hath also given unto us his Holy Spirit," I. Thess. vi. 8. "A new heart also will I give you, and I will put my spirit within you," Ezek. xxxvi. 26.

That those things may please him which we do at this present. "Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools," Eccl. v. 1.

And that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy. "Let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God," II. Cor. vii. 1.

So that at the last he may come to his eternal joy. "Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord; into life eternal," Matt. xxv. 21-46.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. "This is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son," I. John v. 11. "Neither is their salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved," Acts iv. 12.

It is thus that our Prayer Book appeals to the Word of God. It places upon our lips, in prayer and praise, the thoughts and words of Scripture. It stands next to the Bible in the English tongue; nay, more, next to the Bible in human language as the vehicle best fitted to voice the heart's desire and yearning for the Father of our spirits, the God who has revealed Himself in nature and in name as Love.

W. J. ARMITAGE.

THE EVER-PRESENT CRISIS.

ONCE to every man and nation comes the moment to decide,

In the strife of truth with falsehood, for the good or evil side:

Some great cause, God's new Messiah, offering each the bloom or blight,

Parts the goats upon the left hand, and the sheep upon the right,

And the choice goes by for ever, 'twixt that darkness and that light.

Careless seems the great avenger; history's pages but record

One death grapple in the darkness 'twixt old systems and the Word;

Truth for ever on the scaffold, wrong for ever on the throne—

Yet that scaffold sways the future, and behind the dim unknown

Standeth God within the shadow, keeping watch above His own.

Then to side with truth is noble when we share her wretched crust,

Ere her cause bring fame and profit, and 'tis prosperous to be just;

Then it is the brave man chooses, while the coward stands aside,

Doubting in his abject spirit till his Lord is crucified,

And the multitude make virtue of the faith they had denied.

For humanity sweeps onward; where to-day the martyr stands,

On the morrow crouches Judas with the silver in his hand;

Far in front the cross stands ready and the crackling fagots burn,

While the looting mob of yesterday in silent awe return

To glean up the scattered ashes into history's golden urn.

They have rights who dare maintain them; we are traitors to our sires,

Smothering in their holy ashes freedom's new-lit altar fires;

Shall we make their creed our gaoles? Shall we, in our haste to slay,

From the tombs of the old parties steal the funeral lamps away

To light up the martyr-fagots round the prophets to-day?

New occasions teach new duties; Time makes ancient goods uncouth;

They must upward still and onward, who would keep abreast of Truth;

Lo, before us gleam our camp-fires; we ourselves must Pilgrims be,

Launch our Mayflower, and steer boldly through the desperate winter sea.

Nor attempt the Future's portal with the Past's blood-rusted key.

—James Russell Lowell.

FOR PARISH AND HOME.

HUSBAND AND WIFE.

It is a misfortune that marriage, the most important step that men and women take in life, is apt, when referred to in general conversation, to provoke smiles rather than serious thought. And even in the pulpit few clergymen have the courage to preach upon marriage. The young man, with his life all untried before him, feels that this is a topic for older men to discuss, and the older men have too often lost the freshness of sympathy which would enable them to bring the subject before younger people in an interesting and profitable