

Poetry.

PRAYER AT NEW YEAR.

I.

Do 'Thou, O Father, hear
My prayer at this New Year,
And of Thy goodness teach me how to pray !
Keep Thou my erring feet,
For they be ever fleet
To run in paths which lead from Thee astray !

II.

Attune my heavy ear,
That I may learn to hear
The music of Thy universal voice !
And teach my tongue to raise
Swift words of grateful praise
To Thee who biddest every soul rejoice !

III.

Touch Thou my sealèd eyes,
And bid the mists arise,
That I may see the glory of the earth !
Till Beauty, wed with Truth,
Lead forth that gentle youth
Fair Joy, to gild my life with holy mirth !

IV.

Subdue and keep me still
Obedient to Thy will,
That my rebellious heart no more may stray !
Inform my mind with light
Of wisdom, that my night
Be cleared as by the rising of the day !

V.

Teach me the law of love,
And bid my members move
In glad obedience to her high behest !
So shall my life be spent
In gladness and content,
And Thou shalt keep my soul where'er I rest.

ROBERT MACDOUGALL,

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