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## THE PRAYER OF SELF.

BY PRISCILLA LEONARD.

One knelt within a world of care  
And sin, and lifted up his prayer ;  
" I ask Thee, Lord, for health and power  
To meet the duties of each hour ;  
For peace from care, for daily food,  
For life prolonged and filled with good ;  
I praise Thee for Thy gifts received,  
For sins forgiven, for pains relieved,  
For near and dear ones spared and blessed,  
For prospered toil and promised rest.  
This prayer I make in His great name  
Who for my soul's salvation came."

But as he prayed, lo ! at his side  
Stood the thorn-crowned Christ, and sighed ;  
" O blessed disciple—came I then  
To bless the selfishness of men ?  
Thou asketh health amid the cry  
Of human strain and agony :  
Thou askest peace, while all around  
Trouble bows thousands to the ground ;  
Thou askest life for thine and thee,  
While others die ; thou thankst Me  
For gifts, for pardon, for success,  
For thine own narrow happiness.

" Nay ; rather bow thy head and pray  
That while thy brother starves to-day  
Thou mayst not eat thy bread at ease ;  
Pray that no health or wealth, or peace  
May lull thy soul while the world lies  
Suffering, and claims thy sacrifice ;