

XIII

THE WORLD SET FREE

"Deliver us from the evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen"

THE prayer closes with a petition for deliverance from evil. That it is allied with the preceding petition is clear from the connecting word, "but." It is fitting that it should come at the close of the prayer, for it sums up in one brief statement all that had been asked in the preceding petitions. The name of the Father will be hallowed on earth; the kingdom of God will be here in its fulness; hate and strife and selfishness will give place to love, service, and sacrifice; poverty will be banished from the earth; the spirit of forgiveness will rule in social, political, and international relations; the wrong conditions, which tempt men downward and put excessive burdens on the weak, will be done away; all the great social and religious ideals of the entire prayer will be realized when the petition, "Deliver us from the evil," is answered. Its fulfilment means—*the world set free*, when "the creation itself also will be delivered . . . into the freedom of the glory of the children of God."