

THE UNIVERSAL PRAYER.

Father of all! in every age,
In every clime adored —
By saint, by savage or by sage —
Jehovah, Jove or Lord!

Thou first great Cause, least understood
Who all my sense confined
To know but this; That Thou art good,
And that myself am blind.

Yet gave me in this dark estate
To see the good from ill;
And binding Nature fast in Fate,
Left free the human Will.

What conscience dictates to be done,
Or warns me not to do,
Thy teach me more than hell to shun,
That more than Heaven pursue.

What blessings Thy free bounty gives
Let me not cast away,
For God is paid when man receives;
To enjoy is to obey.

Yet not to earth's contracted span
Thy goodness let me bound,
Or Thee the Lord alone of man,
When thousand worlds are round.

Let not this weak, unknowing hand
Presume Thy bolts to throw,
And deal damnation round the land
On each I judge Thy foe.

If I am right, Thy grace impart,
Still in the right to stay;
If I am wrong, oh teach my heart
To find that better way.

Save me alike from foolish pride
Or impious discontent,
At aught Thy wisdom has denied
Or aught Thy goodness lent.

Teach me to feel another's woe,
To hide the fault I see;
That mercy I to others show,
That mercy show to me.

Mean though I am, not wholly so,
Since quickened by Thy breath;
Oh, lead me, wheresoe'er I go,
Through this day's life or death.

This day be bread and peace my lot;
All else beneath the sun
Thou knowest it best, bestowed or not,
And let Thy will be done.

To Thee, whose temple is all space,
Whose altar earth, sea, skies,
One chorus let all being raise:
All Nature's incense rise.

—Alexander Pope.

FIVE MINUTES ON THEOSOPHY.

The study of the many religions of the world gives prominence to several important ideas about which there has been a preponderance of agreement in all ages, and which lie at the foundation of all religious systems. The unity and de-

pendence upon each other of all created beings and their origin from One Divine Source is chief of these. The idea of the Brotherhood of Man again rests on this. As the return to its Divine Source is the only possible destiny of the Universe, so Man is involved in an Evolution of Continual progress towards Divinity, unfolding the God-like elements of his nature by his own thought and effort. All his progress depends upon his own exertions and for whatever he does he will receive the exact recompense. The law under which this is brought about is generally known as Karma. This law constantly operates in every part of the Universe and is the expression of the Justice that rules all things.

It is not always apparent what has been the cause of the effects or occurrences we observe in life, but to understand this involves a larger view of life than most people are willing to take. The seed that is sown and grows to harvest this year was ripened by last year's sunshine, the illness of to-day was contracted a week or a month since and has been developing in the meantime; the political crisis upheaving society at present may be traced to the national conditions of centuries ago; the very presence of things as they are evidences the existence of a Plan and a Designer in the remote ages before they came into being. The great thinkers of the world have all observed a law in nature by which states, conditions, or things, of an opposite character, succeed each other alternately. Like the swinging of a pendulum to and fro, or more aptly, around a circle, we have all the various aspects of life presented to us in a regular succession, good and bad, true and false, light and dark, day and night, summer and winter, life and death. This cyclic law, as it is called, regulates the lives of men so far as they are not consciously attending to their own growth and development. So people who are not much concerned about such things nor given to think of the less familiar side of life, sleep and wake, live and die, come to earth and pass away from it again and again, without realizing how often they have gone through these changes. The soul learns and develops its powers by these frequent experiences in the various states through which it passes, and it is