

Three Men's Prayers.

The prayers of three great men of letters—Dean Swift, Dr. Johnson and Stevenson, the novelist—are strikingly illustrative.

We scarce need to be told that these words came from the grief-stricken heart of Swift, writhing in agony over the painful illness and approaching end of Stella :

"Give her a true conception of the vanity, folly and insignificance of all human things, and strengthen so as to beget in her a sincere love of Thee in the midst of her sufferings. * * * Forgive the sorrow and weakness of those among us who sink under the grief and terror of losing so dear and useful a friend. Accept and pardon our most earnest prayers and wishes for her longer continuance in this evil world, to do what Thou art pleased to call Thy service, and is only her bounden duty ; that she may be still a comfort to us and to all others who will want the benefit of her conversation, her advice, her good offices or her charity."

In this petition, uttered only a few days before he faced the Arch Fear, we gaze deeply into the great heart of Samuel Johnson :

"Almighty and most merciful Father, I am now, as to human eyes it seems, about to commemorate, for the last time, the death of Thy Son Jesus Christ, our Savior and Redeemer. * * * Have mercy upon me, and pardon the multitude of my offences. Bless my friends ; have mercy upon all men. Support me, by thy Holy Spirit, in the days of weakness and at the hour of death ; and receive me, at my death, to everlasting happiness, for the sake of Jesus Christ."

It is significant to note that the jaunty Stevenson, "light in ragged luck," really felt his dependence on God, as we learn

by perusing his beautiful "Prayers written for family use at Vaillima." Swift and Johnson thought often of death ; Swift, because he looked forward to it as a release, and Johnson, because it was the only thing that shook his heart. In contrast to these powerful and rugged men Stevenson says little of death, though he walked daily in its jaws. It was life that interested him, and we naturally find his prayers in harmony with his ideals.

He prays not for courage to meet death, but for divine help in rational living. "Prolong our days in peace and honor ;" he asks : "Give us health, food, bright weather and light hearts. * * * Let us lie down without fear, and awake and arise with exultation * * * as the sun lightens the world, so let our loving kindness make bright this house of our habitation." Let us listen reverently to this petition :

AT MORNING.

"The day returns and brings us the petty round of irritating concerns and duties. Help us to play the man, help us to perform them with laughter and kind faces, let cheerfulness abound with industry. Give us to go blithely on our business all this day, bring us to our resting beds weary and content and undishonored, and grant us in the end the gift of sleep."—The Independent.

Wilmington, N. C., May 17th, 1900.

J. R. JOHNSTON, Esq.,

Manager for N. & S. Carolina,
Raleigh, N. C.

Dear Sir,—You will please convey to the Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada my thanks for the prompt payment of the assurance on the life of my deceased husband, Colonel Roger Moore, also for the courtesy shown by your local agent, Captain McGowan.

Mr. Moore was assured under policy No. 73,478 for \$5,000.

MRS. ROGER MOORE.