

## THE PUBLICAN.

I would be strong, O Lord !  
 Strong-souled to trust Thee in the midst of foes,  
 Strong-armed to strike at every wrong and sin—  
 Yet gentle, Lord !  
 For all injustice give me fire and sword ;  
 For wrong that touches me, the grace to wait ;  
 And for Thy poor, who stumble in the way,  
 A hand all strength, a heart all tenderness.

I would be brave, O Lord !  
 To speak Thy word 'gainst every lying creed ;  
 To hate the hypocrite and all his kind,  
 Though in the guise of Fortune's self he come  
 With both hands full of gifts, of wealth or place ;  
 To be regardless of all consequence  
 When for Thy truth I stand, though all alone—  
 Yet generous, Lord !  
 And not unmindful of that yesterday  
 When 'mongst Thy foes I stood, and truth opposed.

I would be true, O Lord !  
 Would seek to find, would find to do Thy will ;  
 To every idol, though within Thy church,  
 "Nehushtan !" cry ; nor ever think of rest  
 Till Thy light floods the world, and all men see—  
 Yet humble, Lord !—  
 What's truth to me another soul may vex  
 That has not lived or battled in my place—  
 And tolerant of all who seek and fail ;  
 Clear-eyed to seek 'neath error's every form  
 The seed of living truth that's hidden there ;  
 To find in every erring son of man  
 What Thou did'st find in me—a son of God.

O Master mine ! that found me in the way  
 Oppressing where I might have served my race,  
 Receiving tribute, though I had enough,  
 From hands that ached with toil and penury,  
 My answered prayer I saw within Thy face,  
 Thy face all power and faith and gentleness,  
 And from Thy face it leaped into my soul—  
 My prayer, my hope, and my sufficient creed,  
 To be like Thee.

—WILLIAM J. LONG, in *The Outlook*.

DEDICATE IT TO THE LORD'S WORK.—The saloon-keepers are asking, "Where is the consistency of church members who, by their ballots, make the selling of liquor in saloons a legal business, then refuse to accept our contributions because our business has contaminated the money?" I believe the saloon is the greatest curse the world has at the present time. But if saloon-keepers have a desire to contribute of their means for spiritual purposes, I say, by all means accept it, and with clean hands and a pure heart dedicate it to the Lord, praying that His blessing may attend it wherever it goes. The great sin lies back of all this by legalizing the saloon.—*Mrs. J. S. Hunt, Erie, Pa.*