

every heart; when thou shalt reign unrivalled in all thy works, and the usurped authority of that apostate spirit, which divides and deforms thy kingdom, be utterly destroyed for ever. In heaven thy will is the inviolable law: myriads of ministers encircle thy throne, who cease not, day and night, to celebrate and to serve thee with uninterrupted praises and unerring obedience. Oh! that such fidelity were found on earth! that the sons of men did even now resemble that celestial society, to which they hope hereafter to be united; were animated with the like holy ardent zeal, and could give themselves to God with the same entire devotion. We are blind and vain, but thou art wise and good. Wise, therefore, in thy wisdom, secure under thy care, great and happy in humility and subjection, we have no wishes but in thee. Our whole desire and glory is to be, to do, to suffer whatever thou art pleased to appoint. During our passage through this perishable state, we trust and know, that thou who gavest us life, will give us also all such things as are necessary for its support: and we ask no more. But, oh! leave us not destitute of that "Bread which cometh down from heaven." Let our souls be nourished by thy word and ordinances; that we grow in grace, and be made partakers of a life that will never end. Wealth, fame, and power, be they freely theirs to whose lot they fall: let our riches be deposited in heaven: the object of our ambition is the light of thy countenance, even the approbation and applause of God. What have I said? ah, me! Can I hope to be justified when I am judged? Dare I trust to that fiery trial! Will my life, or will my heart, endure the inspection of thy pure eye? But there is mercy with thee; let me appeal from the severity of thy justice, and lay hold on this anchor of my hopes. Pity where thou canst not approve, and pardon that which must offend. Then shall my life

bear testimony to my thankful heart, and that gratitude which extends not to thee, shall overflow on men. How just is it that I should shew to them that mercy which I ask and want. I bless thee for thy goodness, and I feel the "constraint" of love: and do now, from the bottom of my heart, naked before that presence from which no thought is hid, most freely forgive all those who by word or deed, knowingly or ignorantly, have offended, or have injured me. I relinquish all my claims to vengeance. I bury, from this moment, for ever in oblivion, all offences and the very remembrance of resentment: and do most ardently desire, that the sense of thy divine and boundless love may kindle in my breast a flame of thankfulness to thee, which no time can quench, and an affection to men, which no provocation or wrongs can conquer. May this principle of love live in my heart, and direct and animate my actions. I am willing it should be called forth and cultivated by exercise and discipline, and whatever trials or sufferings thy wisdom sees fit for this happy end, I cheerfully embrace them. Shew me no hurtful indulgence. I decline no danger for thy glory, for the good of men, for the improvement of my virtue. Yet remember that I am but dust. Be thou near me in those perilous moments. Let not the storms of trouble and trial overwhelm me. Strengthen my failing faith. When I sink stretch forth thy hand. I rely on thy providence and grace, that thou wilt deliver me from the danger, or support me under it. Save me from sin, from the great enemy of souls, and from eternal misery.

These, Lord, are the requests which my heart pours out unto thee. But thou seest the wants which it doth not know: thou hearest the desires it cannot utter. Give us what is good though we ask it not, and mercifully deny when we pray for evil.

My soul falls down with the lowest reverence before thy throne, adding