

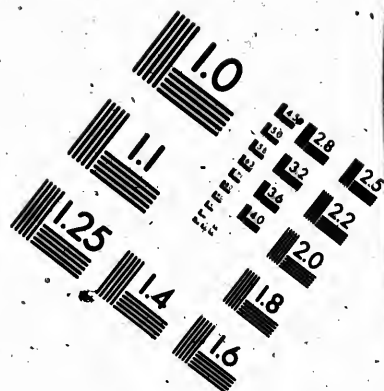
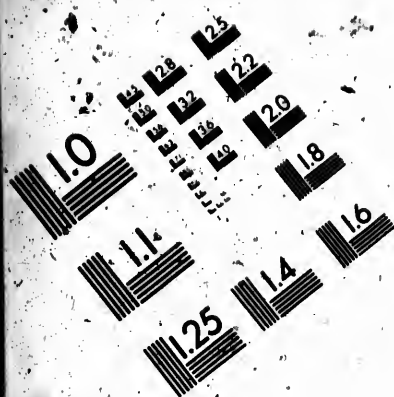


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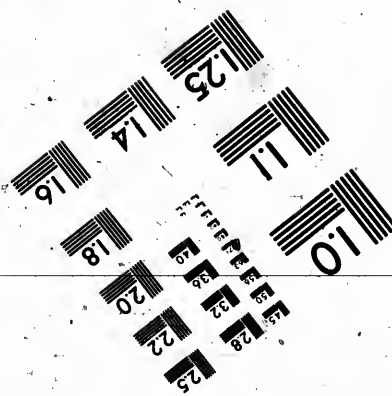
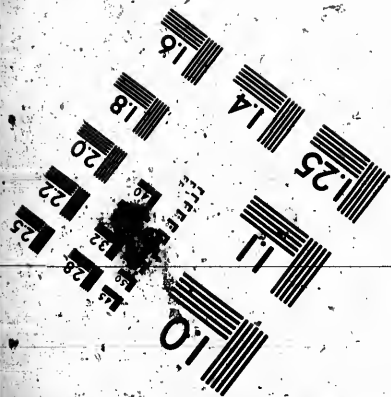
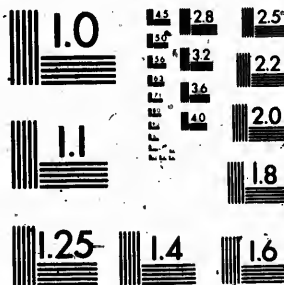
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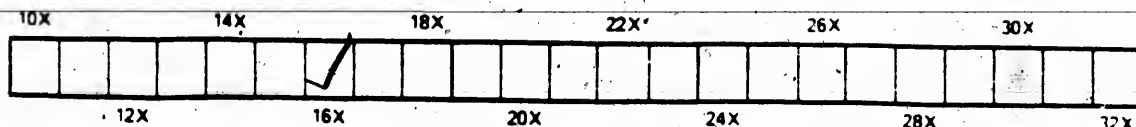
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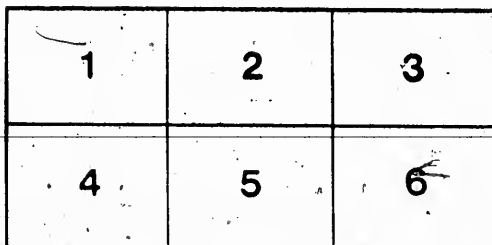
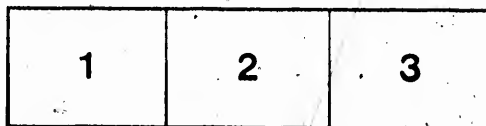
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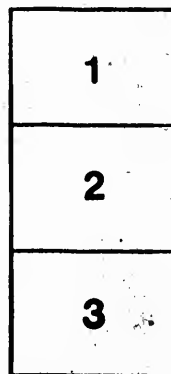
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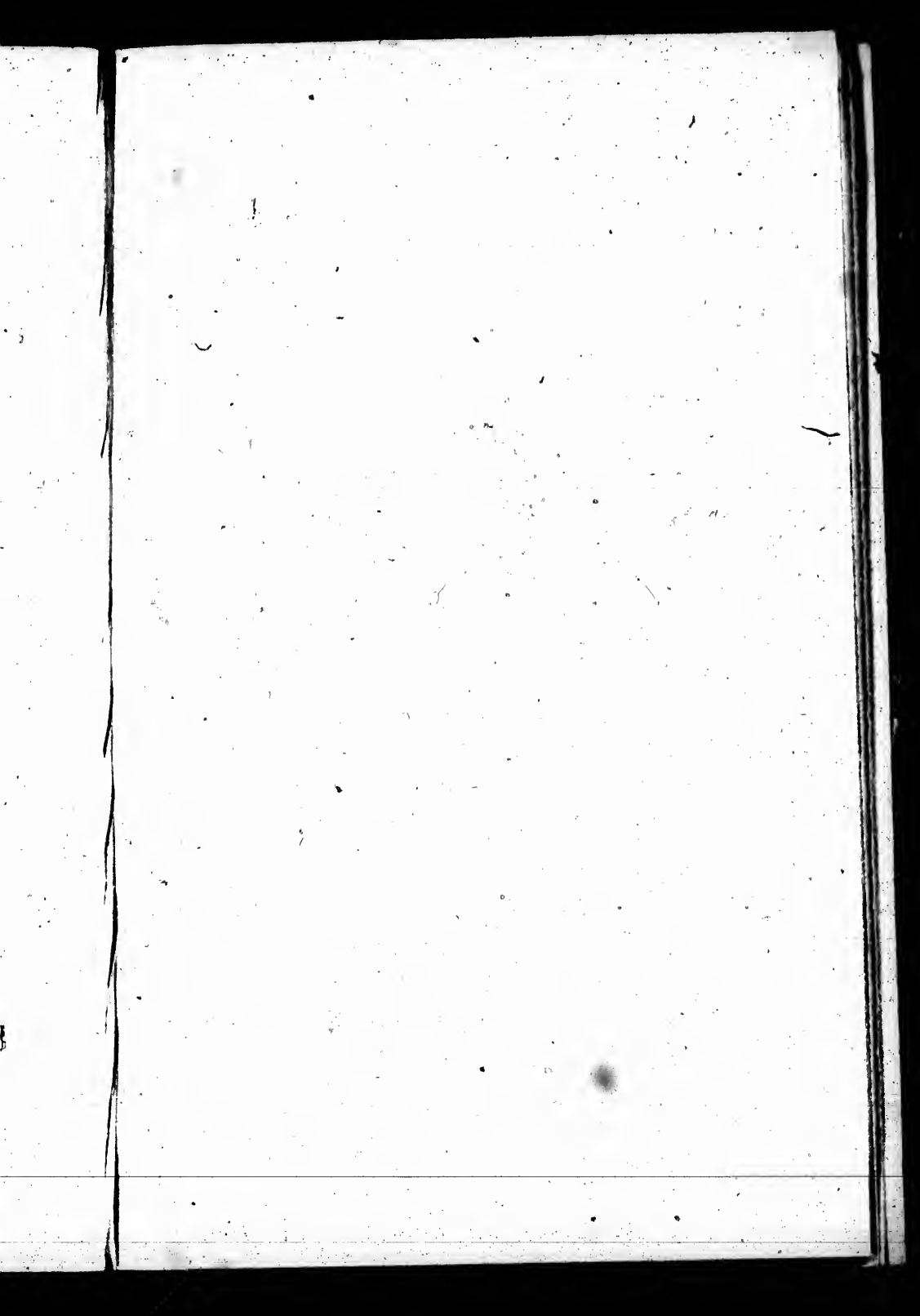


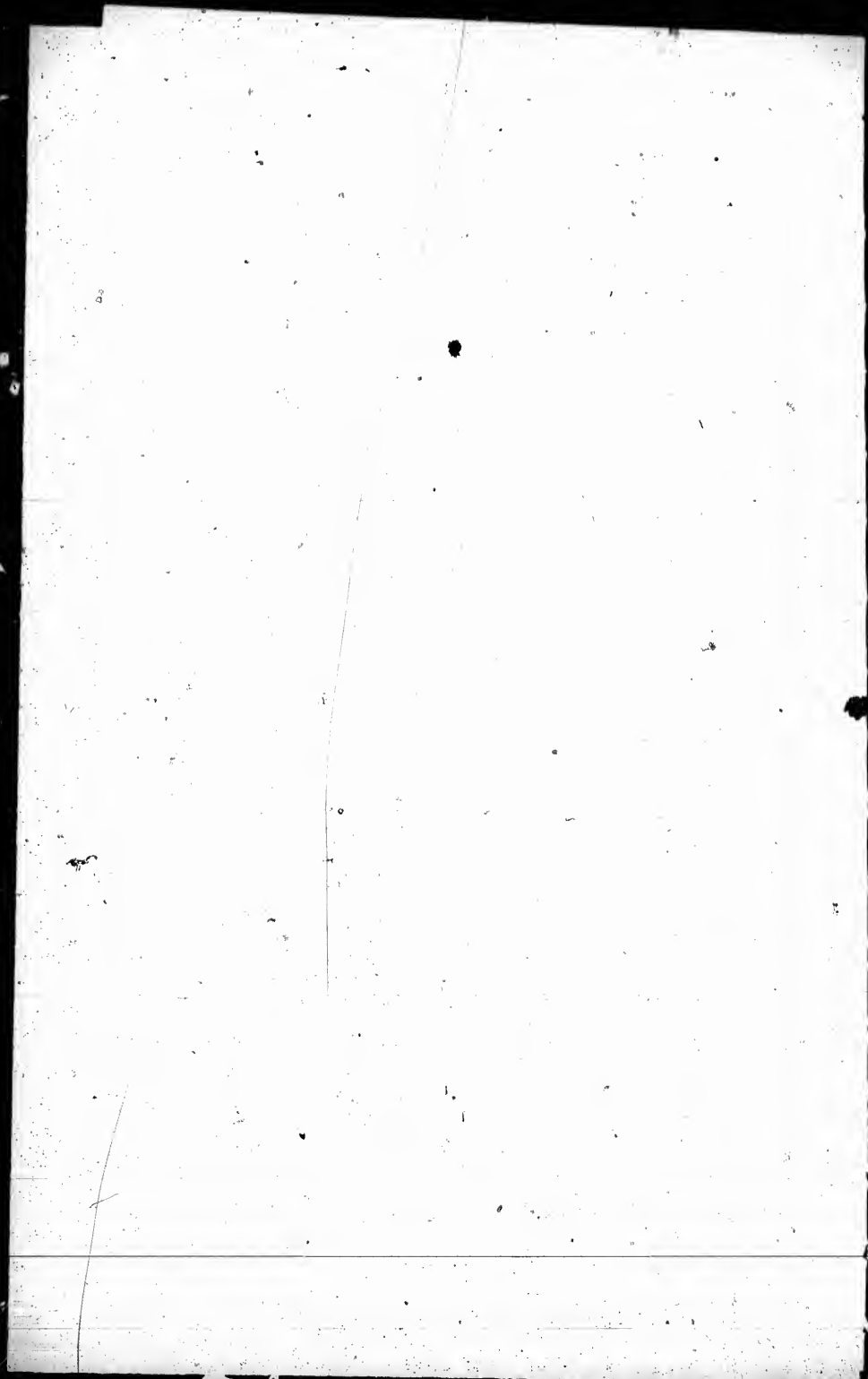
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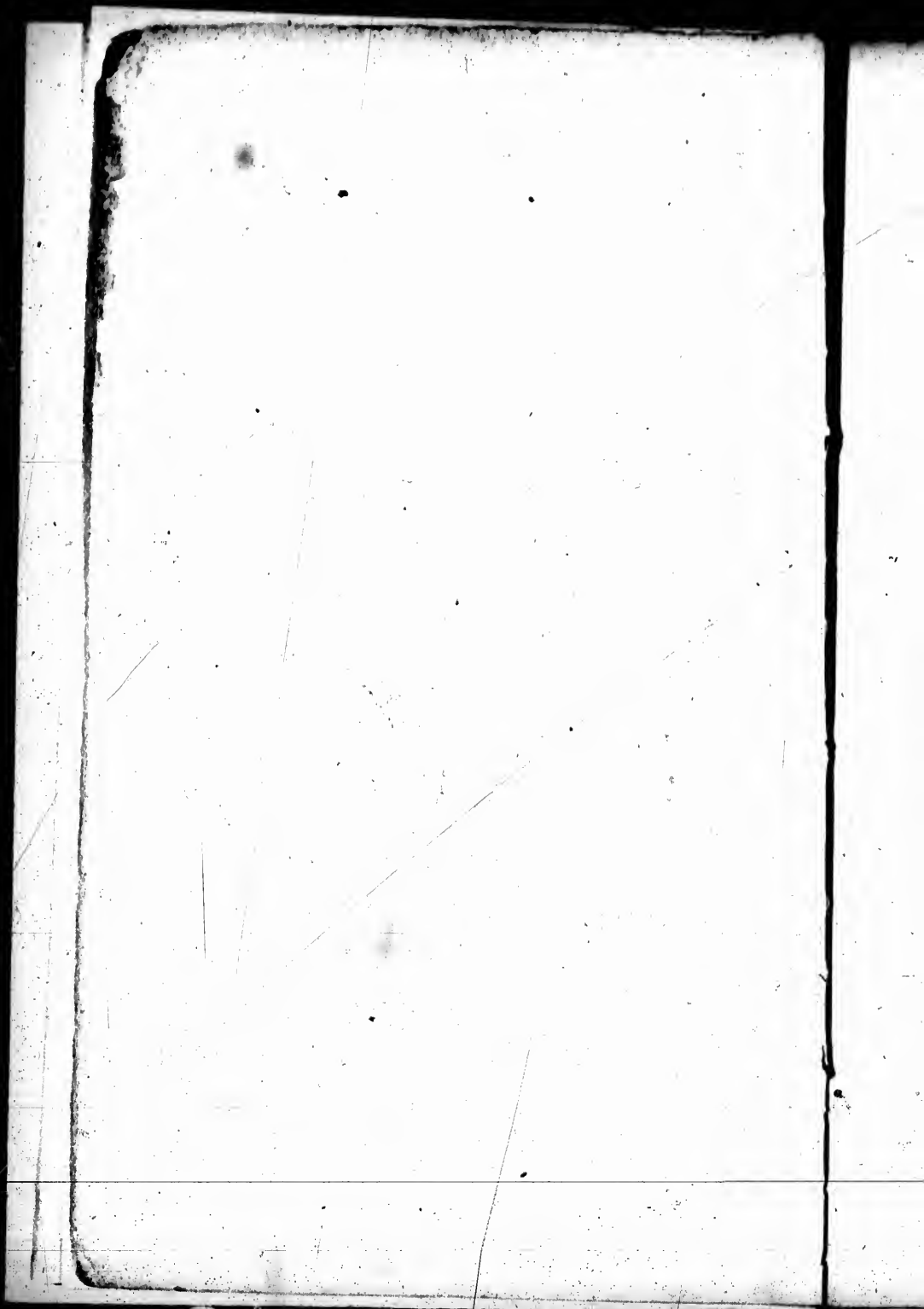
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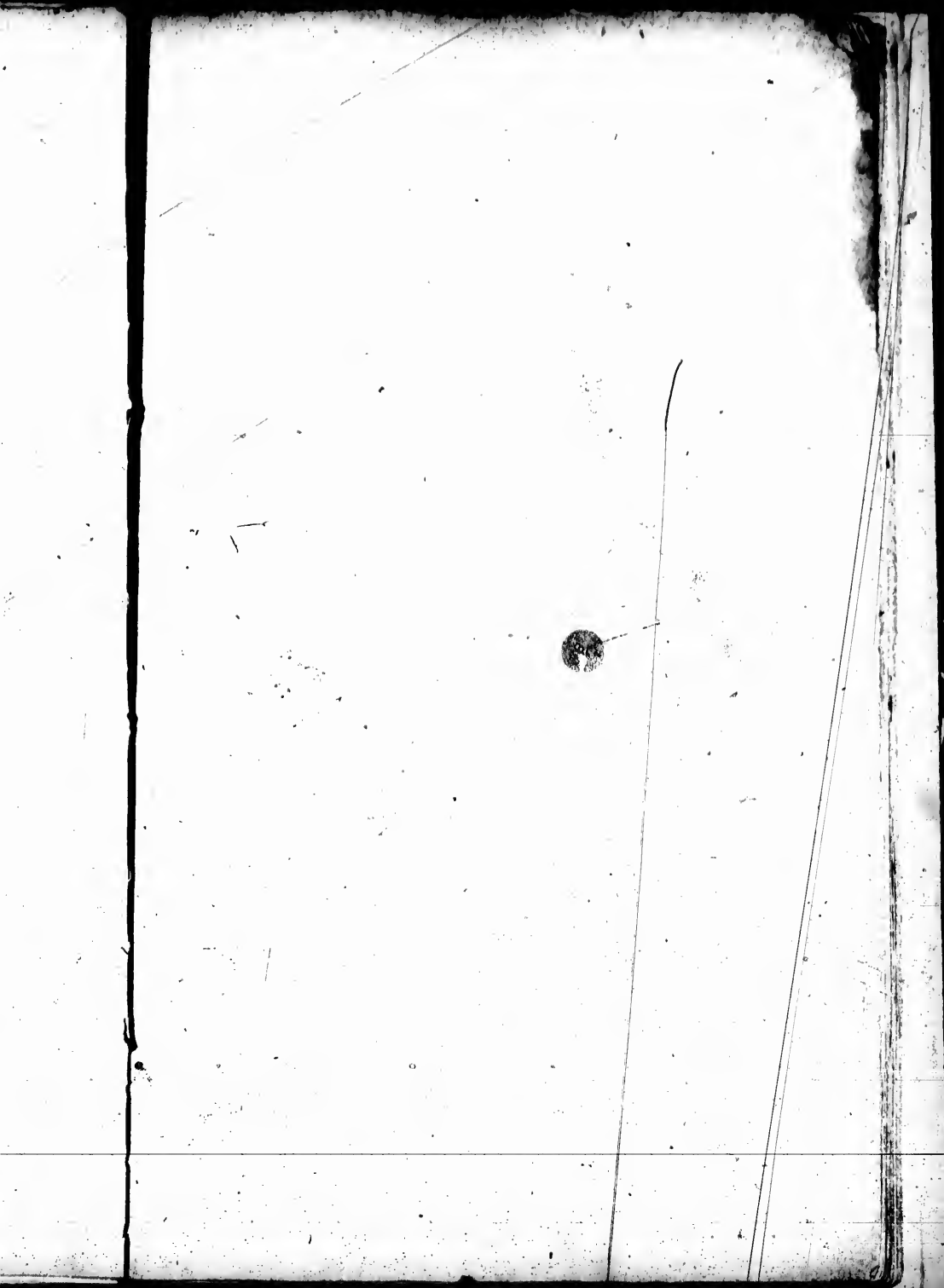
REV. ALFRED ALLEN, M. A., OF ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE.

WITH A PREFACE BY THE REV. ALFRED ALLEN, M. A., OF ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE.

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RE

PRAYERS

FOR

THE YOUNG;

BY THE

REV. THOMAS ALEXANDER, A. M., COBOURG.

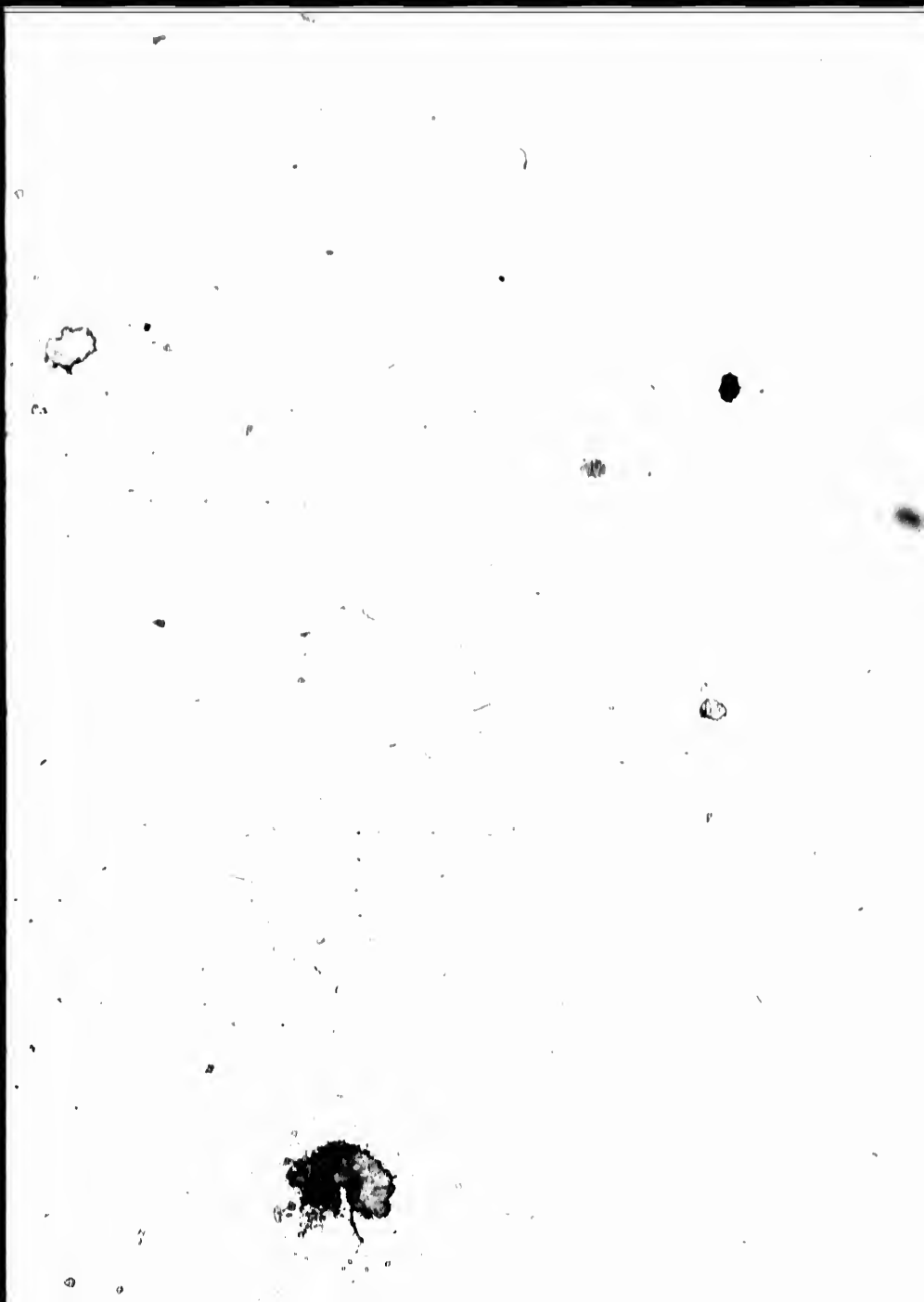
“While Josiah was yet young, he began to seek after the God of his father.”—2 CHRON., XXXIV 3.

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P R E F A C E.

THE following pages are designed chiefly to assist the Young under my special care, in approaching the Throne of Grace. Although it is desirable, that children as well as those of riper years, should be able to pray without any set form; yet it seems necessary, that they have placed before them some specimens of Prayer, and that they be early taught such Prayers as they are able to comprehend. It is hoped those now published will be found of this description.

To the Prayers, I have added a few Graces before and after meat, trusting, that, by children using them, those parents will be put to shame, who sit down to partake of their common meals without imploring God's blessing, and who rise from table without offering up thanksgivings to God for the daily food which he bestows.

To the Prayers and Graces, I have added a few Hymns from various authors. And to the whole I have prefixed an Address to Children chiefly on the subject of Prayer.

In order to render this little book of service, I claim the assistance of parents, and especially of mothers. By explaining the Prayers to their children, and getting them thoroughly to understand and correctly to learn them, they may be the honored instruments in God's hands of leading their offspring, like young Josiah, to seek after the God of their fathers.

Manse of Cobourg, }
20th March, 1840. }

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ADDRESS TO CHILDREN

ON

THE SUBJECT OF PRAYER.

MY DEAR YOUNG FRIENDS:

I trust you know what prayer is. It is simply asking favors of God. Whether we pray in secret, or in the family or in public, it is simply asking favors of God. This is the true meaning of prayer; yet the word, as it is commonly used, signifies something more than this. It signifies also, adoring the perfections of God, thanking him for his past goodness, and confessing the many sins of which we have been guilty. When you pray to God then, you should adore him as the Maker of all things in Heaven and on Earth, as the Wisest, the Greatest, and the Best of Beings. You should bless Him for all temporal blessings, but especially for Jesus Christ, and all the privileges and benefits communicated through him. You should acknowledge yourselves sinners and entreat Him to pardon your sins, to sanctify your souls, and to prepare you for Heaven. These are some of the things in which your prayers ought to consist. And while you pray for yourselves, you must not forget to pray for your parents, your relatives, and all mankind.

But, perhaps, you are now ready to say—"We acknowledge that it is our duty to pray; that Christ not only prayed often himself while on earth, but also commanded us to pray to our Father who seeth in secret; and we know that all the good people mentioned in the Bible prayed to God, but we cannot find right words." I believe you, my young friends, and therefore I have composed some prayers for you, out of which you may choose those you like best, and two or more of which you may easily learn by heart, having first tried to understand them well.

But it is not enough, that you learn and repeat some of the prayers in this little book; you must really feel what you say. Remember that God's eye penetrates the inmost recesses of your hearts. He knows your thoughts and feelings; and if you do not think and feel, what you are saying, when you pray to him, he will treat you, as if you were mocking him and did not care for his favor. But besides all this, if you would have God to hear and answer you, you must offer up your prayers in the name of Christ, for he himself hath declared, that "whatsoever good things we ask of the Father in His name, they shall be given us." In this way, I hope you will learn to pray when you are young, and be prepared for engaging in prayer as long as you live. Perhaps you may now ask: How often should we pray? In the Bible we are told that Daniel prayed three times a-day. And David says—"Evening and morning and at noon will I pray and cry aloud." And in another Psalm he says—"Seven times a-day do I praise thee, because of thy righteous judgments." Under the law it was required that the morning and evening sacrifice and prayer should be regularly of-

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ferred. And nature itself seems to point out these as appropriate seasons for prayer. In the morning when you awake to consciousness, it becomes you to render thanks unto God, whose sleepless eye has been upon you during the silent watches of the night, and who has brought you to the light of another day. And when the shades of evening closing in, summon you to rest, it becomes you to bless God for all the bounties and blessings which enter into your lot,—to implore His pardoning mercy and His sanctifying grace, and to commit yourselves into His hands, that whether you awake in time or eternity, you may awake to the light of His countenance.

Perhaps you know some persons, who are called good people, that never pray. Perhaps your parents do not pray. But let not this deter you from the performance of a commanded duty, let it rather encourage you; for your prayers may be the means of doing good. I have read of a child, who once asked his father why he did not pray for him, as some good parents, whom he had read of, used to pray for their children? The father looked stedfastly at his dear boy, sighed and wept, and said—“No wonder I have not prayed for *you*—I have never prayed for *myself*.” “Then I will pray for you, father,” said the child. After this, the father, the mother, and the little boy always prayed, and they became good people.

A little Irish boy, mentioned in the reports of the Hibernian Society, had a very wicked father. One night the father came home very drunk; he heard a voice behind his bed, and when he listened, he heard his little boy praying to God, to have mercy on his father. The father was so struck with what his son said, that he immediately gave up his wicked ways. By your following

the example of these children, you may be the means, in God's hands, not only of bringing your friends to engage in this exercise, but also of saving them from everlasting destruction.

With prayer to God you must conjoin the reading of the Scriptures. In the morning, read a chapter in the Old Testament, and in the evening read a chapter in the New. Endeavour also to remember what you do read, for you will find it to be of use to you, not only when you are young, but also when you come to the years of maturity. The example of Timothy I would earnestly recommend to you. He had a pious mother, who taught him the great principles of religion, when he was young. Nor was the labor of instruction lost; for it is recorded—"that from a child he knew the Holy Scriptures, which were able to make him wise unto salvation." You must also *think* on what you read; you must think of it when you go out and when you come in; when you lie down and when you rise up; when you sit in the house or walk in the way. And besides all this, you must *pray* that God would make you understand what you read. A blind person cannot see though the sun shines; and you cannot see, though you have the gospel, till your eyes are opened by the Spirit of God.

I surely need not tell you that it is your duty to go to church. There are many young persons who are busy in play or mischief on Sa' bath, when they should be in Church. I hope you are not of that number. I trust you go to the house of God's regularly as you can; and that, while you are there, you are attentive to what the minister is saying, that you may give some account of it to your parents or teachers when you go home.

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If there are Bible classes or Sabbath schools within your reach, you must by all means attend them, as they are calculated to promote your spiritual improvement and your preparation for Heaven. See that you be regular in your attendance, and careful to profit by the instructions which are given you.

You will perceive that, in addition to the Prayers, I have given you a few Graces before and after meat, some of which I wish you to use, every time you partake of your ordinary meals. And although some of your companions may laugh at you for so doing—yet never mind that. God will look upon you and love you while he is angry with them. I have also given you a few of the best Hymns that I could find—which I wish you to learn and repeat to your parents, at least every Sabbath evening. And now, my dear young friends, I must conclude, for I have made this address longer than I intended, I trust you will read it over again, and endeavor to comply with the advice which I have given you. I can assure you, that it is solely with a view to your spiritual improvement, that I have ventured to publish this little book. And if, by the blessing of God, I shall contribute, in however small a degree, to that end, I shall consider that my labor has not been in vain.

I am,

My Dear Young Friends,

Your sincere well-wisher,

THOMAS ALEXANDER.

Manse of Cobourg,
1st of March, 1840. }

* F
land.

PRAVERS IN RHYME.*

MORNING.

Raised up to see another day,
For grace and mercy I would pray ;
Beneath his care may God me take,
And save me for my Saviour's sake.

EVENING.

And now I lay me down to sleep,
I pray thee, Lord, my soul to keep ;
If I should die ere time to wake,
Take me to heaven, for Jesus' sake.

MORNING.

This morning, when I rise from sleep,
I thank thee, Lord, who didst me keep.
Do thou preserve me through the day,
And lead me in thy holy way ;
Do thou forgive my sins and make
Me wise and good for Jesus' sake.

* For the prayers in rhyme I am chiefly indebted to a Minister in Scotland.

EVENING.

Again, O Lord, ere down I lie,
I for thy mercy still would cry.
Do thou preserve me while I sleep,
And all my friends from evil keep ;
And give me grace when I awake,
To do thy will for Jesus' sake.

MORNING.

I thank my God, who through the night
Has kept me till the morning light :
Lord, I would now most humbly pray
For grace and mercy through this day.
Keep me, O Lord, from every sin,
And every wicked thought within.
Under thy care my childhood take,
And hear my prayers for Jesus' sake.

EVENING.

Great God ! I thank thee for the day,
Forgive, and take my sins away,
For Jesus' sake, who kindly gave
His precious blood, lost man to save.
And now I go to bed to sleep,
Do thou a child in safety keep,
And in the morning may I wake
To bless my God, for Jesus' sake.

THE LORD'S PRAYER.

Our Father, who in heaven art,
Thy name be still adored ;
And by the grace thou dost impart,
Thy kingdom come, O Lord.

Thy will be done on earth, we pray,
Even as 'tis done in heaven,
And, let our bread from day to day,
To us, who serve, be given.

As we our debtors would forgive,
So we forgiveness crave ;
Us to temptation do not leave,
But from all evil save,

For thine the kingdom is and might,
And with thee will remain ;
The glory too most pure and bright,
For evermore, Amen.

PRAYERS IN PROSE.

MORNING.

O Lord, I thank thee for the mercies of the past night. I laid me down and slept ; and I have awaked because thou didst sustain me. Make me a good child this day, and keep me from all evil, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

EVENING.

I will praise thee, O Lord, for thy care of me during the day now past. Forgive the sins which I have committed against thee. Bless my parents and friends, and keep all in safety till the morning, for Christ's sake. Amen.

MORNING.*

Gracious God ! thy mercies are new to me every morning, and in every moment, and yet I am unworthy of even the least of them ; for I have sinned against thee in thought, word, and deed. But I rejoice that a Saviour has been provided, who is called Jesus, "because he saves his people from their sins." To him O Lord would I look and in him would I trust. For his sake do thou pardon all my sins, and enable me by thy Spirit to hate and for-

* This and the rest that follow, may be used by those who are above eight years of age.

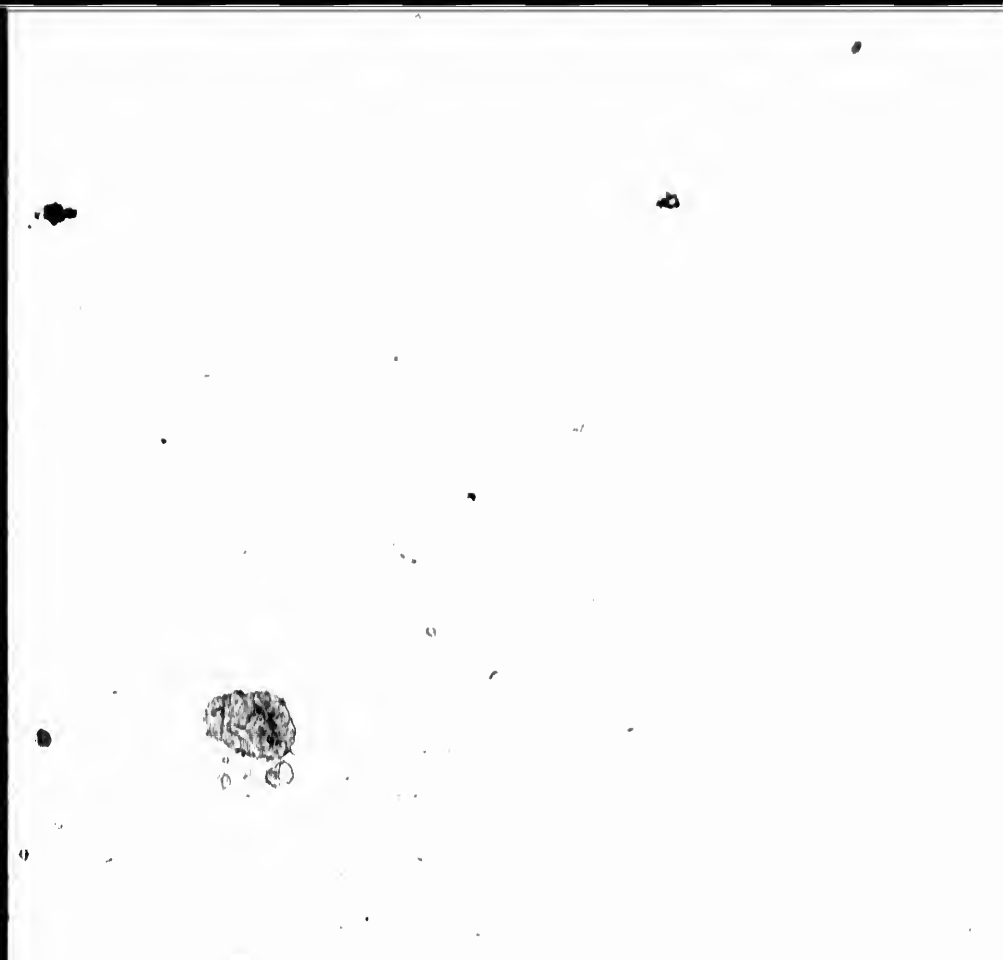
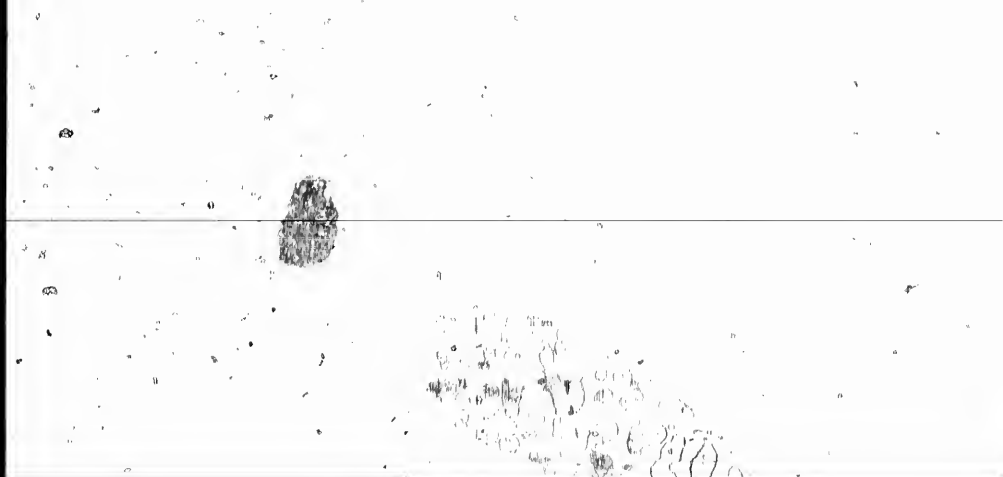
sake them? For what me, O God, this day wherever I am. Enable me to obey my parents and to be kind to my companions and friends. May we all serve thee on earth, and be permitted at last to meet in heaven, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

EVENING.

Heavenly Father! I thank thee for thy goodness to me during the day. Thou hast given me food to eat, raiment to cover me, a house to shelter me and friends to comfort me. O help me to be more thankful for thy mercies and to do whatever thou commandest. May I be most thankful for Jesus Christ who came from heaven to earth to die for sinners. O help me to believe in Him, to love Him and to do His will. For His sake forgive all my sins and give me a new heart. Make me henceforth gentle, teachable, and obedient. Enable me to remember my Creator in the days of my youth and to spend them in thy service. And if my father and mother forsake me or are taken away by death, then, O Lord, do thou take me up. May thy best blessing rest on every one in this house, and may we all be protected during the night. And all I ask is, for Christ's sake. Amen.

MORNING.

Most Gracious God! in the name of Jesus Christ, who alone is worthy, I would make my requests known unto thee. I confess that I know not what to pray for as I ought, but the Spirit helpeth my infirmities, and teacheth me for what, and now I ought to pray. May he enable me to draw near unto thee as a child to a father, able and



ready to help me. Although I am young in years, yet I am old in sin. Of myself I deserve nothing, but to be cast into outer darkness. But I rejoice that thou art merciful, and that Christ said when he was upon the earth, "Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of heaven." This morning, O Lord, I would come unto him for the supply of all my wants—I would come for pardon, peace and reconciliation. I would come for grace and strength to enable me to do thy will and prepare for heaven. O may all my wants be supplied out of his infinite fulness—may he be formed in me the hope of glory—may I search the Scriptures which testify of him, and in every relation of life may I follow his footsteps. Accept O Lord, of my thanks for thy care of me during the night. Go forth with me to the duties and labors of the day. May I be in thy fear all the day long. Guide me by thy counsel while here, and afterwards receive me to glory, for Christ's sake. Amen.

EVENING.

Most blessed and gracious God ! I desire to draw near unto thee with reverence and godly fear. I adore thee as my creator, preserver and bountiful benefactor. Early was I cast upon thy care, and thou hast never ceased to care for me. Thou hast often preserved mine eyes from tears, my feet from falling, and my soul from death. But although thou hast been good and gracious, I have been evil and unthankful. I have broken thy law times and ways without number. I have indulged such passions and spoken such words as are offensive to thee, and have in many instances neglected my duty. But ever blessed

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PRAYERS FOR THE YOUNG.

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be thy name, that there is mercy with thee, that thou mayest be feared, and that thou hast laid our help upon one who is mighty to save. Help me to put my trust in his finished work, and be pleased, for his sake to receive me into thy favor, and friendship. May I see my need of him as a prophet to instruct me, as a priest to atone for me, and as a king to rule in and over me. O Lord, thou hast been with me during the day, be also with me during the night, and let no evil befall me. May my sleep be sweet unto me, and when the night is gone, may I rise and go forth in thy strength, to do thy will and to promote thy glory. Bless my parents and make me a blessing unto them. Bless also my * brothers and sisters and may they all be thine in Christ Jesus. Hear me in these my humble prayers and when thou hearest, forgive, and all I ask is for Christ our Redeemer's sake. Amen.

MORNING.

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O Lord my God, I would look up to thee this morning in the exercise of faith and prayer, I would adore thee as very great, as clothed with honor and with majesty—I would worship thee as infinitely powerful, wise and holy—I would also bless thee as infinitely good—thy tender mercies are over all thy works, but the children of men have been the objects of thy peculiar care. Thou hast given them more knowledge than the beasts of the field, and more understanding than the fowls of heaven. Thou hast made them a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned them with glory and with honor. But man being

* These expressions and similar ones in any of the prayers, are of course to be altered according to circumstances.

in honor did not long abide. He soon fell from that happy estate in which he had been created and thereby forfeited all claims to thy favor, and incurred thy righteous displeasure. But ever blessed be thy name, thou didst not suffer him to perish in his sins, but didst promise that the seed of the woman should bruise the serpent's head. And in the fulness of time, thou didst send forth Jesus Christ, made of a woman, made under the law to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. I bless thee, O Lord, that I live in the days of the Son of man. I bless thee that mine ears have heard the sound of the gospel, and that I am invited to come and partake of the blessings which have been purchased by Jesus Christ. O may I obtain an interest in his atonement, may I be brought within the bond of the everlasting covenant, and be enabled to say that it is all my salvation and all my desire. Graciously take care of me during the day as thou hast done during the night now past. Keep me by thy grace from lying and swearing and all that is evil. Preserve me from the company of the wicked and make me to choose the good for my companions. Mercifully forgive all my sins, receive me graciously and love me freely, and all I ask is for Christ our Redeemer's sake. Amen.

EVENING.

Almighty God! I desire this evening to draw near to the footstool of thy throne. Enable me to do so with humility and reverence. May I remember the infinite distance that there is betwixt Thee and us, that thou art in heaven, while I am upon the earth; that thou art holy just and good, while I am altogether polluted and sinful;

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that thou art eternal and unchangeable, while I am the creature of a day, who am crushed before the moth and whose foundation is in the dust. But although thou art infinitely exalted above our highest conceptions and praises, yet thou condescendest to regard the things that are done upon the earth, and to dwell with that man who is of an humble and contrite heart, and who trembleth at thy word. Enable me at this time to offer unto thee the sacrifice of a broken and a contrite heart. Convince me of my sinful and miserable state by nature. Enlighten my mind in the knowledge of Christ. Open mine eyes to see, and my heart to love the truth as it is in Jesus. May I be united to him by a true and a living faith. May I be willing to be saved by his death, taught by his word, guided by his example and governed by his laws. May the consideration of his sufferings make me hate sin with a perfect hatred and flee from it as from the face of a serpent. Have mercy on my relatives and friends. Convert the unconverted among them, and bless with increasing grace those who do believe. Reward my benefactors. Bless and forgive mine enemies and enable me also from the heart to forgive them. Draw near in mercy and compassion to the sick, the afflicted and the dying. Look down in mercy on this household. May we lie down in thy fear and rest under the shadow of thy wings. May no plague come nigh our dwelling and at whatever time we awake, may we be still with thee. Hear these my supplications and grant an answer in peace, for Christ's sake. Amen.

NOTE.—The two last prayers may be used in the family by saying WE instead of I, US instead of ME, and OUR instead of MY or MINE.

PRAYERS FOR THE SABBATH.

FOR A CHILD—SABBATH MORNING.

This Sabbath morn, the Lord be praised
That from the bed of rest I'm raised,
This holy day to spend.
May God be with me all day long,
To keep from doing what is wrong,
And from all ill defend.

May I the bible read with care,
And to the church with joy repair,
To hear, and sing, and pray ;
And there may grace sent from above,
Teach me my blessed Lord to love,
And serve him every day.

SABBATH EVENING.

The Sabbath drawing to a close,
Before I on my bed repose,
I give thee thanks O Lord ;
For thou hast kept me through the day,
Permitted me to praise and pray,
And hear thy blessed word.

May what I heard my soul impress,
And make me long for holiness,
And to be like thy son.
For his sake, pardon me, and grant
That nothing good my soul may want,
Now and when life is done.

SABBATH MORNING.

O Lord I thank thee that thou hast permitted me to see another Sabbath. Enable me to spend it in thy fear and service. May I think about what is good, read the bible and go to church. May my meditation of thee be sweet, and in the multitude of my thoughts within me, may thy comforts delight my soul. When in church may I be kept from sleeping and trifling and all unholy thoughts and desires. May I learn more about Christ this day, and be taught to love and serve him with all my heart. May the demonstration of the Spirit accompany the reading and hearing of thy word, that it may make me wise unto salvation. Be very gracious to those who shall meet with me in thy courts, and assist thy ministering servant who is to preach to us, and to pray in our name. Show mercy also, O Lord, to the wicked and careless who will not hear the gospel; and grant that there may be many this day, who shall be brought out of darkness into light, and from the power of Satan into the glorious liberty of thy children. Be graciously present with all the congregations of thy people this day. Clothe thy priests with salvation, and cause thy people to shout aloud for joy. Go with me, O God, to thy house of prayer, and enable me to worship thee in the beauties of holiness. Preserve me by thine almighty power, through faith unto salvation, for our Redeemer's sake. Amen.

SABBATH EVENING.

Most Gracious God, on this the evening of thine own day, I would present myself with reverence before thy throne of grace. I would bless thee that there is one

whole day in seven, on which I am permitted to rest from the labours of the life that now is, and to prepare for the life that is to come. I would thank thee for having raised me up this day, and permitted me to read thy word, and repair to thy sanctuary. I would rejoice that it was on this, the first day of the week, that the Saviour arose triumphant from the grave, and thereby declared himself to be the Son of God, with power. I bless thee, O Lord, that my lot has been cast in a land of gospel-light, and that I have the liberty of worshipping under my vine and my fig-tree, none daring to make me afraid. But, O Lord, I must confess that I am not duly sensible of all the privileges which thou art permitting me to enjoy. Although I was in thy house of prayer this day, yet how often did my thoughts and affections wander from what is good—how little have I been impressed by the important truths which I heard, and how much amiss did thine eye discover in my whole behaviour. But, O Lord, do thou have mercy upon me. May I be cleansed in the blood of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by thy spirit. Enable me to treasure up thy word in my memory, and to reduce it to practise, when engaged in the ordinary duties of life. Be thou the protector of every one in this dwelling to-night, and let us rise up to-morrow in peace and with thankfulness. And all I ask is for Christ our Redeemer's sake. Amen.

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THE LORD'S PRAYER EXPANDED.

ACCORDING TO THE EXPLANATION OF THE SHORTER
CATECHISM.*

Unto thee, O Lord, would we draw near with all holy reverence and confidence, as children to a Father, able and ready to help us. And we would pray that thou wouldst enable us and others, to glorify thee in all that, whereby thou makest thyself known; and that thou wouldst dispose all things for thine own glory. Do thou grant also, that Satan's kingdom may be destroyed, and that the kingdom of grace may be advanced, ourselves and others brought into it and kept in it, and that the kingdom of glory may be hastened. And do thou by thy grace, make us able and willing to know, obey and submit to thy will in all things, as the angels do in heaven. Grant O Lord, that of thy free gift we may receive a competent portion of the good things of this life, and enjoy thy blessing with them. And we especially entreat thee O Lord, for Christ's sake, freely to pardon all our sins, which we are the rather encouraged to ask, because by thy grace we are enabled from the heart to forgive others. And do thou also vouchsafe either to keep us from being tempted to sin, or support and deliver us when we are tempted. In this our humble prayer we take encouragement from thee only, as infinitely great and merciful, and in our prayers we would also praise thee, ascribing unto thee kingdom, power and glory. And in testimony of our desire and assurance to be heard, we say. Amen.

* This may be used by grown up persons who have not been in the habit of praying, but who wish now to begin.

GRACES BEFORE AND AFTER MEAT.

BEFORE.

Lord, bless the food I'm now to take
And pardon me for Jesus' sake.

AFTER.

I thank thee, Lord, for all my food,
And pray thee, still, to do me good.

BEFORE.

Bestow thy blessing, Lord, and give
Me wisdom in thy fear to live.

AFTER.

The daily bread thou dost afford,
I praise thee for, Most Gracious Lord.

BEFORE

Be present at our table, Lord,
Be here, and every where adored ;
These mercies bless, and grant that we
May feast in paradise with thee.

AFTER.

We thank thee, Lord, for this our food,
But most of all for Jesus' blood ;
Let manna to our souls be given,
The bread of life, sent down from heaven.

BEFORE.

I bless thee, O Lord, for all thy goodness. I bless thee for the food which thou hast now provided. O may it be blest to me at this time, for Christ's sake. Amen.

AFTER.

I thank thee, O Lord, for what I have now received. Pardon my sins, and make me wise and good, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

The following Graces may be used by parents :—

BEFORE.

O Lord, thou art the giver of all good. Thou opened thy hand, and satisfied the desire of every living thing. O do thou bless to us the food now provided ; and teach us, whether we eat or drink, or whatsoever we do, to do all to thy glory, for Christ's sake. Amen.

AFTER.

We bless thee, O Lord, for giving us the meat that perisheth. Do thou also give us the meat that perisheth not, even the bread of life, of which, if a man shall eat, he shall never die. And all we ask is for Christ's sake. Amen.

BEFORE.

O Lord, we acknowledge our dependance upon thee for life, breath, and all things. May we be truly grateful unto thee for all thy mercies, and let us be strengthened

by the food we are now about to take, for, doing thy will,
for Jesus' sake. Amen.

AFTER.

Gracious God, accept of our thanksgiving for what of
thy goodness we have now experienced. O may all our
sins be pardoned, and may we endeavour at all times to
glorify thee with our souls and bodies, which are thine,
for Christ's sake. Amen.

HYMNS.

I.

AGAINST WANDERING THOUGHTS.—*J. Taylor.*

When daily I kneel down to pray,
As I am taught to do,
God does not care for what I say,
Unless I feel it too.

Yet foolish thoughts my head beguile ;
And when I pray or sing,
I'm often thinking all the while
About some other thing.

Oh ! let me never, never dare
To act the trifler's part ;
Or think that God will hear the prayer,
That comes not from the heart.

II.

THE LORD'S DAY MORNING,—*Watt.*

This is the day when Christ arose
So early from the dead ;
Why should I keep my eyelids closed,
And waste my hours in bed.

This is the day when Jesus broke,
The powers of death and hell ;
And shall I still wear Satan's yoke,
And love my sins so well ?

To-day, with pleasure christians meet
 To pray and hear the word ;
 And I will go with cheerful feet
 To learn thy will, O Lord !

III.

LOVE AND DUTY TO PARENTS.—*J. Taylor.*

My father, my mother, I know,
 I cannot your kindness repay ;
 But I hope that, as older I grow,
 I shall learn your commands to obey.

You loved me before I could tell
 Who it was that so tenderly smiled ;
 But now that I know it so well,
 I should be a dutiful child.

I am sorry that ever I should
 Be naughty, and give you a pain ;
 I hope I shall learn to be good,
 And so never grieve you again.

But lest, after all, I should dare,
 To act an undutiful part,
 Whenever I'm saying my prayer,
 I'll ask for a teachable heart.

IV.

PRAYER.—*J. Davidson.*

When with the morn I first awake,
 And glance upon the new-born day,
 Be gratitude my earliest theme,
 Then kindly, Lord, teach me to pray.

Amidst the busy hum of men,
When each pursues his worldly way,
Detach my mind from earthly cares,
And lead me oft to Thee to pray.

When evening's sable period comes,
Memento fit of life's decay,
Teach me thy goodness to record,
And ere I go to rest, to pray.

Whene'er temptation me besets,
Protect me that I may not stray;
Defend my path, and grant me grace
To walk with thee, I humbly pray.

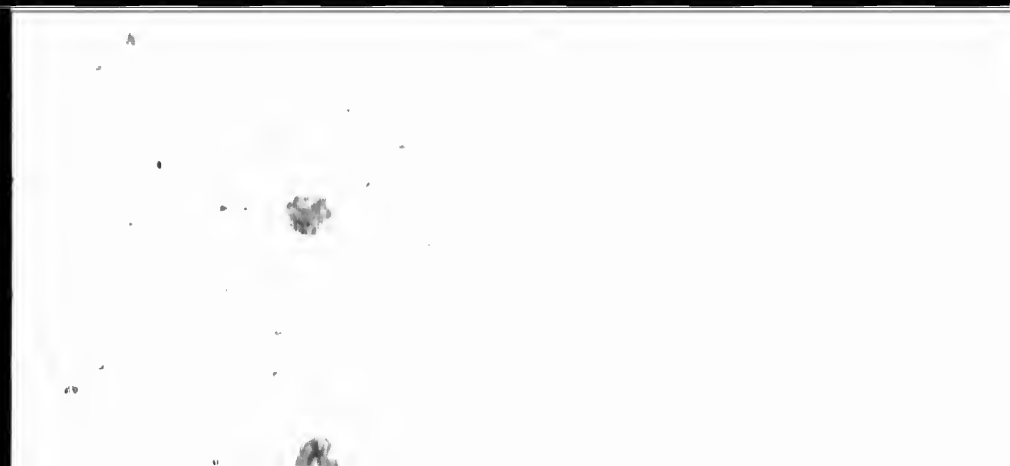
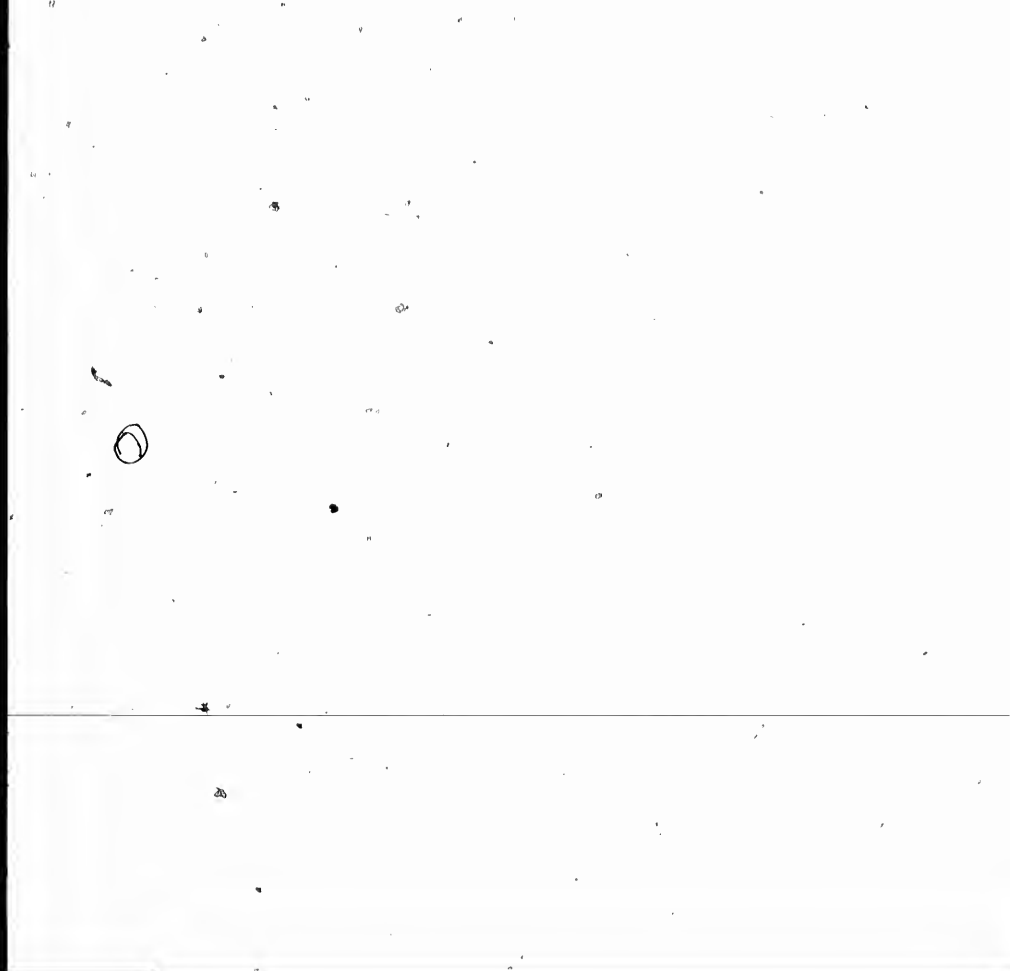
What time good hope my soul doth cheer,
My thanks to thee I will essay;
And when my spirit quails with fear,
Be it my privilege to pray.

When I approach life's closing scenes,
Good Lord, be thou my help and stay;
Be with me to the vale of death,
To Zion guide me. Thus I pray.

V.

WHAT IS PRAYER?—*Montgomery.*

Prayer is the soul's sincere desire,
Unutter'd or exprest;
The motion of a hidden fire,
That trembles in the breast.



HYMNS.

Prayer is the burden of a sigh,
The falling of a tear;
The upward glancing of an eye,
When none but God is near.

Prayer is the simplest form of speech
That infants lips can try,
Prayer the sublimest strains that reach
The Majesty on high.

Prayer is the Christian's vital breath,
The Christian's native air;
His watchword at the gates of death,
He enters Heaven by prayer.

Prayer is the contrite sinner's voice
Returbing from his ways;
While angels in their songs rejoice
And say "Behold he prays!"

The saints in prayer appear as one,
In word and deed and mind,
When with the Father and the Son,
Their fellowship they find.

Nor prayer is made on earth alone,
The Holy Spirit pleads;
And Jésus on the eternal throne,
For sinners intercedés.

O, Thou, by whom we come to God,
The life, the truth, the way,
The path of prayer Thyself hast trod,
Lord, teach us how to pray!

VI.

"NOT LOST—BUT GONE BEFORE."—*Anon.*

Dear is the spot where Christians sleep,
And sweet the strain which angels pour;
O, why should we in anguish weep?
They are but gone before.

Secure from every mortal care,
By sin and sorrow vex'd no more,
Eternal happiness they share,
Who are not lost—but gone before.

To Zion's peaceful courts above,
In faith triumphant may we soar;
Embracing in the arms of love,
The friends—not lost—but gone before.

On Jordan's bank whene'er we come,
And hear the swelling water's roar,
Jesus, convey us safely home,
To friends—not lost—but gone before.

VII.

BY ROBERT K. GREVILLE, L. L. D.

O, God, we come before thee,
Oppress'd with doubts and fears;
We cease not to adore thee,
With many sighs and tears.

But thou canst comfort send us;
Oh, bid our fears depart;

And joy, if thou befriend us,
Shall reign in every heart.

The gold of earthly treasure,
We count it all as dross ;
The sum of earthly pleasure,
Is vanity and loss.

On thee, O God, depending,
We seek a nobler prize ;
A bright and never-ending
Reward beyond the skies.

To thy own holy mountain,
Oh, let us then press on,
And drink we at the fountain,
That gives us strength alone.

Oh, may we, all things selling,
Obtain one pearl above,
And reach that happy dwelling
Of everlasting love.

VIII.

PRAYER FOR RESIGNATION.—*Edmeston.*

Oh, Thou whose mercy guides my way,
Tho' now it seems severe,
Forbid my unbelief to say,
There is no mercy here !

Oh, grant me to desire the pain
That comes in kindness down,

More than the world's supremest gain
Succeeded by a frown.

Then, tho' thou bend my spirit low,
Love only shall I see ;
The very hand that strikes the blow,
Was wounded once for me.

IX.

MARY AT THE SEPULCHRE.—*Cunningham.*

How sweet in the musing of faith to repair
To the garden where Mary delighted to rove ;
To sit by the tomb where she breathed her fond prayer,
And paid her sad tribute of sorrow and love ;

To see the bright beam which disperses her fear,
As the Lord of her soul breaks the bars of his prison,
And the voice of the angel salutes her glad ear—
The Lord is a captive no more—"He is risen !"

O, Saviour ! as oft as our footsteps we bend,
In penitent sadness, to weep at thy grave,
On the wings of thy greatness, in pity descend,
Be ready to comfort, and "mighty to save !"

We shrink not from scenes of destruction and wo,
If there we may meet with the Lord of our love ;
Contented with Mary to sorrow below,
If, with her, we may drink of thy fountains above.





