









ÆTHIOPIC PRAYERS AND BAPTISMAL OFFICES,

AND

SELECTIONS FROM THE DEGUA OR HYMNAL OF JARED;

INCLUDING

HYMNS OF THE ABYSSINIAN CHURCH, AND PRAYERS.

TRANSLATED FROM MSS. IN THE LIBRARY OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM AND OF THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY, AND FROM THE EDITION PRINTED AT ROME IN 1548.

BY THE

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No. II.

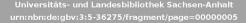
Reprinted from

THE JOURNAL OF SACRED LITERATURE AND BIBLICAL RECORD.

WILLIAMS AND NORGATE,

14 HENRIETTA STREET, COVENT GARDEN, LONDON; AND 20 SOUTH FREDERICK STREET, EDINBURGH.

1867.









PRAYERS, BAPTISMAL OFFICES,

AND

SELECTIONS FROM THE DEGUA OR HYMNAL OF JARED.

A Morning Prayer.

AGAIN let us make our supplication to Thee, the God of mercy, who didst help Abraham in his warfare with the kings; who didst deliver Isaac in the place of sacrifice; who didst lead Jacob along his road, and shewedst Thyself to him in a vision of the night when he set up the pillar; who didst magnify Joseph in a strange land, O Lord our God. Pray ye (thus): O Lord our God, who didst guide the vessel of Noah in the deep; who didst deliver Daniel from the mouth of lions, and Susannah from the hand of the elders; who didst send Moses with mighty aid, and didst lead forth Thy people with a cloud by day, and all the night through by a light of fire; who hast spoken by means of prophets, and whose grace was manifested upon the apostles when they were gathered together in one house, and there came down upon them as it were flames of fire, and they all spake with strange tongues,-do Thou send forth that Holy Spirit, the pillar of heaven and earth, and bless our congregations at every time and hour, in Thine only Son Jesus Christ our Lord. To Thee do we offer thanks, Lord of the world, and glory of

the saints,
The hope of the hopeless,
Help of the afflicted,
Refuge of the oppressed,
Converter of sinners,
Purifier of the wicked;
Thou who rememberedst the faithful,
Thee will I address, O Lord of the world,
Glory of angels, and deliverer of kings,
Who bringest forth even out of fire,
Who shepherdest Thy people,

And regardest the sons of men;

O my Lord, the grace of my soul and strength of my heart,

To Thee will I speak who art the staff of my age;

Who by Thy word didst form every creature in seven days, Who didst raise up man from dust and madest him Thy temple,

And didst make him in the image of thy face;

And who, in Thy wisdom, hast begotten us again, who abounded in sin,

By fire and water and the Holy Ghost,

And hast shewed Thyself to us, by bearing us in mind, and becamest the hope of the ends of the world, the resurrection of the dead, and the visitor of those who are in Hades.

O Ruler of the world, O Lord our God,

Through Thy cross thou hast given us the knowledge of heaven and earth.

Thou didst send Thine apostles, those twelve illustrious names, with ordinances in order to tread upon all thy foes and unclean spirits, and in order that the Trinity might be victorious, for Thou art Lord alone;

At Thy cross all evil spirits flee away;

It shall be for remission of sins to all who believe on Thy Name, For Thou art God alone, who dwellest enthroned on the lofty chariot of the cherubim;

We Thy servants stand now before Thee with the Psalms of David;

Hundreds and thousands of angels, and ten thousand times ten thousand saints stand at thy command,

And the four and twenty intercede with Thee, with sweet smelling incense, and by the Holy Ghost, who dwellest on the cherubic chariot;

These all tremble at the voice of His holy and praiseworthy might. In all the world be glory and power to Thee, both now and for aye, world without end.

Prayer.—O Lord our Lord God of Israel, God of those who have been men of might, God who hast made the heaven and the earth and all that in them is;

Hear the suit which I make to Thee this day, in the latter end of my days, O God of saints,

And God of the righteous, and God of Noah:

Those who were with him in the ark didst Thou deliver in the waters of the deluge, and didst bless him and multiply his seed.

Hear my supplication this day, O Lord, who didst stand with our father Abraham, and with Isaac Thy servant: O Thou who



didst deliver them from the midst of those who were compelled to pay tribute;

Hear my petition this day, O Lord, who didst deliver Jacob thy servant from the wrath of Levi and Esau his brother, and didst lead him on his way in peace;

Hear my petition this day, O Lord, who didst deliver Joseph from the anger of his lying brethren and from the prison house,

and didst make him of great account with Pharaoh;

Hear my petition, O Lord, this day, who didst deliver Thy people Israel from the slavery to Pharaoh, king of Egypt, and didst lead them into the land of the inheritance that was prepared for them;

Hear my petition this day, O Lord, who didst hear the prayer of Moses the prophet, and didst destroy all the enemies of thy people Israel with great power, Amalek and Midian, and Sisera, and Og, king of Edom, and all the kings of Aram.

Hear my petition this day, O Lord, who didst hear the petition of David Thy servant, and didst deliver him from the hand of Saul, the Ziphite, and gavest him might over all his enemies;

Hear my petition this day, O Lord, who didst hear the prayer of Jonas the prophet, and broughtest him forth from the belly of the monster;

Hear my prayer, O Lord, this day, who didst deliver Thy servant Susannah from the hands of the priests and elders who had no compassion;

Hear my prayer, O Lord, this day, who didst hear the prayer of Daniel the prophet, and didst deliver him from the mouth of the lions, and gavest him favour in the presence of kings;

Hear my prayer this day, O Lord, who didst hear the prayers of the three children, Ananias, Azarias, and Misael, and didst deliver them from the fiery furnace of Nebuchadnezzar;

Hear my prayer this day, O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, my Lord who didst love me, and didst dwell nine months in the virgin's womb, and for three years did suckle the

breasts of Mary;
Save me from those who watch my path, who are the ene-

mies of the children of men;

Deliver my soul from the deluge, and from the outer darkness of the worm which sleepeth not, and from the lake of fire; Deliver me, O Lord, for ever. Amen.

Evening Prayer.

We supplicate Thee, O God, Lord of all things, the very Father of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ;

Light of the world; turn to us in the multitude of Thy

mercies;

And accept my prayer;
And forgive me all my sins.
I humble myself to Thee, O Lord,

Scorn not Thou my prayer,

And forgive me my offences, for many offences have I committed.

Lord, let Thine ear be attent to my prayer,

And pardon me all my sins;

For I have violated the law of a man, and have done evil in my generation;

For I have sought for relief and found it not;

My own thoughts condemn me; I crave peace and have it not, By reason of the depth of my sin; O the sorrow of my heart!

O the grief of my spirit! Wherewith shall I be healed?

For I turn me hither and thither, and there is none to help me in my trouble; therefore, for fear and trembling, I will humble me and fall down before Thee, O Lord my God, that Thou mayest have mercy on me;

For Thou alone dost comfort the world,

In its perdition;

And Thou didst send Thine only Son from heaven,

To save the creature whom he had made,

Mortal and corruptible.

Hear the groaning of my heart, O my God; And look not upon the evil of my deeds, But look upon the woe that is at my heart. Have mercy on me, and haste to heal me,

For I am sore wounded and have offended,

For Thee only will I acknowledge in the universe, The physician of those who suffer, are sick,

The door of those who knock and have gone astray,

The staff of those who are overcome by dread;

The Saviour of the lost;

The light of those who walk in darkness;

Lay hold on me, and suffer not Thy punishment that is prepared for our sins to come forth.



I supplicate and I humble myself before Thee, who bestowest the day in which men may watch,

But not the drunken with wine,

But those whom their sins have made drunken, and who reel;

For lo, I reel under the multitude of my sins;

I will humble me to Thee, O Lord my God, that Thou mayest have mercy on me,

For Thou only art holy and pure, and free from corruption,

Thou, the tree of life!

And Thou, the gate of light!

To Thee be glory and the greatness of praise, with Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, and praise in all the world, and world without end. Amen. Halleluiah.

An Evening Prayer.

We will praise Thee, O Lord, for Thou hast continued us the live long day,

And hast delivered us from all wherein we have gone astray, and hast fed us with our daily food, and hast brought us to our rest.

For Thou hast covered us with Thy right hand, and hast caused us to exchange the evil of our evils for Thy salvation.

Thou too hast thought upon us, O Thou shepherd that neither slumberest nor sleepest, whom no darkness darkeneth, and from whom nought that the breast covereth is hidden, and before whom the condition of all lies open.

Deliver us from those *enemies* whom we see, and from those whom we see not. Far from us be those who wish us to be far

from Thee.

Shield us by Thy majesty,

And protect us under the shadow of Thy wings,

And number us among Thy sheep whom Thou leadest out by day into Thy blessing, and bringest home at night into the repose of Thy mercy,

Whose necks Thou bridlest by Thy sincere and holy word, and leadest by the light of Thy countenance which is never dim, So that they are as those who have become strong by the

change that Thou workest;

Be gracious unto us and vanquish Satan and our foes;

And bear them home as Thy reward and joy, and gather them together and bring them into the courts of Thy holy house,

That the bridling of their necks may be our inheritance, even as they have gone over us,

And we will pursue them ever more;

And we will be as blessed sheep who rejoice in our condition; And we will be as the good son who loved his Father;

And we will not be as the wicked son who provoked his hand to anger;

And we will be watchful and contend with Thy foes:

And we will render praises to Thee when we uplift them with our lips,

When we come to our rest, whither Thy holy right hand is

leading us,

By Thy only Son, through whom to Thee with Himself and with the Holy Spirit be praise, world without end. Amen.

A Prayer and Supplication to our Lady Mary, to be said at Night.

I will praise Thy grace, O our Lady, and will be seech of thee to enlighten my heart, and to direct my ways and goings, that I may go on in purity of heart in the ways of Christ and in his commandments.

Make me to be watchful in time of ease, and drive away from me heaviness unto slumber, for lo, I am bound by the

multitude of my sins.

Deliver me by thy prayers, O spouse of God; keep me day and night, and deliver me from mine enemies, who press upon me: for lo! thy Son is God the giver of life.

Give me life, for I am dead in afflictions. Thy Son is light in which is no darkness;

Give light to my blind soul.

O thou marvellous one, who wast the temple of very God,

Make me to be the temple of the Holy Ghost. O thou who didst bring forth the Physician, Heal the afflictions of my faithful soul.

The billows of the years would fain overwhelm me; guide thou me into the port of penitence.

Deliver me from the flaming fire;

And from the torment of the undying worm;

And make me not the sport of demons; For I am bound by a multitude of sins.

Purify me, O thou who art pure from all spot, for my offences are numberless; make me a stranger to all judgment, O mother of God; enable me to be a partaker of heavenly grace with all the saints, O virgin, who art the refuge of all saints:

Hear the voice of thy weary servant, and grant me a fount

of tears, and purify the uncleannesses of my soul.

I groan before thee out of the depth of my heart.

O my Lady, receive my poor petition, and carry it up to God, the bestower of mercy.

O thou who art exalted above the angels, make me to escape

from the cares of the world.

O thou rejoicing one who art clad with light, enable me to become the temple of the Holy Ghost.

O thou that art pure from every spot, I will offer thee laud

and praise with lip and tongue.

Stretch forth thy hand, and pray to Christ thy son, and deliver my soul from fault, to Whom and to Thee be ascribed grace and beauty.

O thou who art ever venerated,

Labour in good deeds for me, evermore. Amen.

Translations from the Æthiopic MS. (probably of the fourteenth century) in the library of the British and Foreign Bible Society, marked MS. F.

CEREMONIES TO BE OBSERVED IN REGARD TO BAPTISM.

Baptism shall be administered by pure running water. First, the infants shall be baptized; after them, men; and then the women. But if there be any one who hath desired celibacy (lit. virginity), let him be baptized first by the hand of the bishop. And the women, when they are baptized, shall loosen their hair; and for all infants who cannot make answers, their fathers shall answer, or in their absence their kinsfolk shall speak on their behalf. And when, after they have made their answers, they who are to be baptized come down (to the water), the men shall not wear rings of gold, and the women also shall be unclothed, for it beseemeth not to carry any strange thing into that water.

And when they take the oil for the chrism, the bishop offers praise, and another recites the exorcism of the Neophytes; and him who is exorcised, the deacon baptizes while the hand of a presbyter is upon his head; and they who stand at the right hand sing praises, and they who have said the exorcism on the left.

For further confirmation, each (candidate) is then to be turned to the west, and to say, "I renounce thee, Satan, and all thy power, and all thy lusts, and all thy desires, and all thy works."

And these shall be the words and profession for him on whom the consecrated oil is anointed: "Let this oil anoint the soul from every evil and unclean spirit, and drive him away in vexa-

And again he shall be turned towards the east, and (the priest) shall bid him say, "I believe in Thee, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, whom every soul feareth, imploreth, and supplicateth. Grant me, O Lord, to do Thy will, without blame."

Then after this, he shall turn towards the priest who is to baptize him, and they shall stand in the water naked. A deacon also shall go down with the person who is to be baptized into the water, and shall say to him who is still turned (eastward), with his hand upon his head, "Dost thou believe in God the Father Almighty?" and he who is to be baptized shall affirm it,

and the priest shall dip him once.

And he shall say again, "Dost thou believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, of the same Godhead with the Father, who was before the world with his Father, who was born of the Virgin Mary by the Holy Ghost, who was crucified by Pontius Pilate, who died, and rose again on the third day alive from the dead, and ascended into heaven, and shall come to judge the quick and the dead?" and he shall say, "I believe in Him." [And he shall dip him a second time.]

And the priest shall say to him again, the third time, "Believest thou in the Holy Ghost, and in the holy Christian Church?" and he shall say, "I believe." And so he shall dip

him the third time.

And when he comes up out of the water, he shall be anointed with the holy chrism of thanksgiving; and he shall say, "I anoint thee with oil of thanksgiving, in the name of Jesus Christ;" and he shall say, "Amen."

At a later part of MS. F., the following Prayers and Exorcisms occur.

A PRAYER OVER WATER, TO BE USED IN BAPTISM.

O Lord Almighty, who hast made the heaven, and earth, and sea, and all that is therein, who hast made man in thine own likeness and image, who hast blended and commingled the mortal and the immortal, who hast made man a living being out of each, who hast given to Thy creature a mixture of flesh and spirit, stir this water, and fill it with Thy Holy Spirit, that it may become the water of the Spirit for the second birth. Whoever shall be baptized, do Thou make to be sons and



daughters unto Thy holy name. Wash them with water, and give them wisdom by Thy Holy Spirit, through the coming of Christ, to whom with Thee and the Holy Ghost be praise for ever, world without end. Amen.

Another.

O Lord, God of all might, who didst make the waters of Mara sweet, in the days of Thy servant Moses in the desert;

Thou who didst deliver Thy people from thirst, and didst make the water a source of healing to Thy people:

Thou who, in the land of Jericho, in the days of Elisha the

prophet, didst set Thy seal on the waters of Jordan:

Thou who, in the days of John the Baptist, didst go down into it, and wast invited to the marriage feast in Cana of Galilee, and didst set Thy mark on water for them, and it was changed and became wine: we now bow in reverence unto Thee, our God.

Bless this stream of water, that it may become water of

blessing, and water of penitence, and a shield of faith.

And on account of the violent and evil man, let it be our cleansing and health, and the pardon of our sins by Thy mercy. So will we send up praise to Thee, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, for ever. Amen.

Grant it. Kyrie Eleison.

The Form of Exorcising those who are Baptized.

Inspect the men and women among you, and ascertain whether there be any deaf person with gaping mouth, and whether there be any one who trembles and sweats. The chief minister of the church should bestir himself, and see to the state of each man and woman singly, with fear and trembling. So shall we effect

their deliverance, saying,-

God rebuke thee the accuser, who came into the world and dwelt among men that He might put an end to thine excesses, and save man; who rebuked all unclean spirits, and said to the deaf and dumb unclean spirit, "Come out of that man, and return into him no more;" who conquered death by death, and put an end to the power of darkness, and on the cross put to shame the powers that attacked Him, when the sun was darkened and the earth quaked, and the graves were laid open, and bodies of the saints arose,—who rose on the third day,—who gave the promise of life to the dead, and gave life to the world,—who breathed the Holy Spirit upon the apostles and sent them to the end of the world, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the

throne of glory at the right hand of the Father, who hath reconciled all mankind to God; who shall come when He shall bring forth the eternal kingdom in holy glory, with ten thousand holy angels; when the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the accuser shall be bound, and all unclean spirits shall be cast into the depths of the abyss. Fear thou unclean spirit the judgment that shall be, when the Father shall announce the doom which is prepared for the world, and the Son shall proclaim it. and the Holy Spirit; consternation and alarm shall cleave thee asunder, thou unclean spirit: fear Him who threw down the first liar into chains, who trembleth in darkness: fear Him who destroyed the rebellious generations in the deluge, and burnt the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah: fear Him who turned back the Jordan and stayed the courses of the sun and moon: fear Him who sent into the world His mighty Son, His Only-begotten, the first born of every creature, for the cessation of evil spirits and for the building up of His holy Christian Church for ever. To Him be the kingdom and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Exorcisms of the Person who is Baptized.

I charge thee, come forth from the man, unclean spirit, whether of night or of the day, and let him believe on our Lord Jesus Christ, who was begotten of the Father before the world, and before the heavens, and was crucified by Pontius Pilate, and again ascended into heaven, and shall again come in glory to judge both the quick and the dead: for He formed Him in the image of God, and made Him to serve God, to whom be glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

A Prayer for the exorcism of water.

O eternal God, who knowest secret things, we ask and implore Thee, send Thy holy strength upon this water, and change, and sanctify, and bless it, that it may be for healing and salvation in Thy faith against everything that opposeth, and against all poisons, whether by drink, or in sprinkling, or in aught else: make it for healing and life to whoever shall take of it, to the praise of Thy only and beloved Son, to Thee, and to Him, and to the Holy Spirit, be praise, and power, and glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Another Prayer.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy



Ghost.... Thou art He with whom is power over all things, and there is nothing that is hidden from Thee. Visit this Thy servant by Thy Holy Spirit, and sanctify this water by Thy Holy Spirit, and make it to drive forth every unclean spirit. Amen.

And now, O Lord God of the powers, king of the heavenly hosts, look upon us; Thou that dwellest on the cherubim, manifest Thyself to us upon this water, and send down upon it grace, and strength, and patience out of heaven, and by the coming down upon it of the Holy Spirit, give it grace and the blessing of Jordan; endue it, O Lord, with might, that it may become the water of life. Amen.

Sanctify it, O Lord, this water by Thy word. Amen. Make this water the washer away of sin. Amen. Make it, O Lord, the water of the new birth. Amen.

Look down, O Lord, upon this water, by Thy holy Name, that no evil spirit may be hidden in it, and that it go not forth from this water with him who is washed. . . . [The MS. is here imperfect.]

SELECTIONS FROM THE DEGUA OR HYMNAL OF JARED.

Blessed art thou, O John, who didst know and precede the Lord,

At the head of the year stands thy commemoration; Thou shalt be called the infant prophet, the bridegroom's friend, His kinsman according to the flesh.

John, though a priest, was exalted above the prophets, He made the herbs and dew his food, He preached the Gospel to the soldiers, He baptized the Word, the matchless flame.

With sweet tongue he preached the Gospel, His right hand touched the fire of deity, With camel's hair his loins were covered; Let us proclaim the merits of John.

Blessed was John who baptized the Son,
With his eyes he openly beheld
The Holy Ghost descend from heaven
In the form of a dove by Jordan.

[&]quot;We add in continuation of former extracts from the Abyssinian MSS. in the Library of the British and Foreign Bible Society, a few specimens of translations from the Hymnal of Jared. They are contained in a most beautifully written quarto MS. of 536 pages with double columns in each, called the Degua, an Æthiopic word of which the origin and meaning is unknown. This volume, of which only two other copies have ever found their way into Europe, was brought by the late Mr. Jowett from Cairo; it is probably of the fourteenth century, and appears from an Æthiopic inscription on the fly-leaf to have been presented to an Abyssinian Monastery by a lady of the name of Waleta Michael, who has added to the words of presentation a solemn curse, in the name of Peter and Paul, upon any one who should steal, alter, or deface the manuscript. How it was removed from the monastery can, of course, never now be known, but the donor's imprecation has apparently had the effect of preserving the MS. uninjured, as its state is in every respect as perfect as when it left the hands of the scribe. This scribe appears to have been one Gabra Michael, a relative perhaps of the donor, who has prefixed the following notice to the first hymn, "In the name of the Holy Trinity, three and one, without division and without change, we have written the Hymns of Jared the Psalmist, from John to John [i.e., for the whole ecclesiastical year]. May the blessing of Jared, and the intercession of all the Prophets and Apostles and Saints and Martyrs, and the blessing of our Lady Mary, be with their servant Gabra Michael, world without end. Amen." A brief history of Jared, who is supposed to have lived in the fifth century, and to have been caught up into heaven, etc., will be found in Dillman's Cat. MS. Æth., Brit. Mus., p. 32 (n).

John cried, Begone, ye transgressors, from the coming fire, Let the trumpet be blown on the mountain tops, The king cometh; his fan of fire is in his hand, He will harvest his field, and gather in his wheat.

John baptized Him in the river Jordan;
And John said, When I baptize another, in Thy name will I baptize,
But if I baptize Thee, O Lord, what shall I say?
O Thou Son of the blessed, manifester of light,
Son of God, have mercy on me.

Thus, Lord, of old didst thou cause the founts of the river to stand upright,
While thy witnesses passed over on foot;
The Ark of Israel's God led on their priests,

They passed in peace into their heritage.

This is the water which God hath blessed, This the water which Thou hast sanctified, O God; By this water sanctify and bless us, O Lord, By this water blot out all our sins.

He led them dry-foot through the waters of the river, Like a mighty man refreshed with wine: Like a roaring lion was the tumult of the waters.

We laud and praise thee; for the witnesses of God are in their heritage.

He hath heard their prayer; they have attained their hope;

They have inherited the incorruptible crown:

They have inherited the incorruptible crown; The river that is full of water hath turned back, God's witnesses are in their heritage.

Blessed are the saints! the children of light are they! By faith were they saved from the sword! They passed the sea which dried up. Their countenances are brighter than the sun, In peace have they reached their city.

On the Sabbath-day they passed through on foot, He stilled the waves of the river; And praise uprose to the glorious; The priests bore the ark of Israel's God into Canaan; The fountains of the river overwhelmed them not, In peace they bare their ark.

THE FESTIVAL OF THE CROSS.

Halleluiah! Halleluiah. Let the festal day of the cross be praised by the brethren of Abraha.^b

The cross is our ransom,
The cross is our strength,
The cross is the salvation of our souls:
The Jews denied, but we believe;
Whoso believeth on this cross is saved.

By the virtue of His cross hath He preserved us and opened the eyes of our hearts.

The voices of the prophets unite and say, The cross is the light of the world,

For the cross hath won the victory; death is conquered.

Built up in his name,

Sanctified by His blood,

Signed with His cross,

Fair and goodly is Holy Church,

A perfect tabernacle, not made by hand of man.

The cross is a tree of life,
A buckler of salvation,
The cross hath given light to the peoples,
The cross hath been the salvation of kings,
Thy cross, O Lord, is the resurrection of the dead.

By His cross He opened paradise, By His cross He wrought salvation, The cross shall be our guide.

In the law of Moses was it revealed, When the rod calmed the sea; The cross was found as on this day in the holy place;^c It shed its light o'er the world.

Some are there who say, Do ye worship the tree? Keep ye a festival to the wood? But does not the precious blood sanctify us? Therefore will we adore. Halleluiah.



<sup>Abraha and Atzeba, the two kings of Æthiopia in whose reign Christianity was introduced. A monastery long existed bearing their name.
By the Empress Helena. There is a hymn for the invention of the cross.</sup>

It saveth out at sea,
It maketh light the hard burden,
It is our help in the desert,
It delivers by its grace;
Thereat the demons flee.

The cross is worshipped in heaven, I saw the sun and the moon adore; The cross of Christ shall keep you, Knock ye at the door of your Lord.

Bear ye the cross of His death, Perform ye His commands; Walk not in craftiness of speech, As said St. Paul to those of Corinth.

Let the cross be a sign of death to sin, Let the cross be a sign of the pilgrim's staff, Let the cross be a sign of the spirit's sword; Gaze on the cross with love.

It was the Lord of the Sabbath who was crucified; On the wood of the cross will I gaze; On the cross will I behold humility; To Him who was before the world will we ascribe praise. Behold the Lamb.

HOLY GABRIEL (Dec. 15).

In brightness Gabriel appeared, and announced the tidings, That the Word, the Father's Word, hath come from the Father. In brightness Gabriel appeared, In his hand a staff surmounted with the cross.

Gabriel descended from heaven, Gabriel adored the Virgin's Son.

That which Moses had proclaimed in the law, That which Isaiah had foretold in prophecy, Did Gabriel announce to Mary, And said to her, "Thou shalt bear a Son."

She was standing in the holy fane; At the majesty of that angel, with wings of fire, His mantle of purple wool, His robe inscribed like that of a Son of God,



At his aspect and voice she fell [and said], "Uplift me, O my Lord! my God have mercy on me."

She was troubled at his voice, She could not say, Halleluiah, For Gabriel had come and announced, That God was in her womb.

She was weaving the gold and purple, When suddenly Gabriel appeared, And said, "Thou hast found grace with the Lord;" And she said, "Be it to me as thou hast said."

"The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee,
And the power of the Most High shall overshadow thee."
She said to him, "I am a virgin, O my Lord;
How shall that be unto me which thou hast said?
Who asks its produce of the earth unsown?
Who the betrothed of the virgin that shalt bear in her virginity?
Repeat, repeat thy tidings."

He said, "Thou shalt bear a son of whose peace shall be no end. On David's throne shall the kingdom of God be stablished."

She answered, "How shall I bear Him whom heaven and earth cannot contain,

At whose voice the mighty ones on high do tremble?" She trembled at his words, and could say no more, For God was in her womb.

It was Gabriel who brought to Mary
The glad tidings that rejoice our hearts.
All honour to the angels!
Like a whirlwind came he down to Mary the virgin.
He it was who spake with Moses in the bush,
That bush was Mary.

THE HYMN OF THE FLOWERS AND OF THE SABBATH-DAY.

The sower and the reaper hope in thee; Of the riches of Thy grace hast Thou ordained the Sabbath, And the earth hast Thou decked with flowers; Who is merciful like Thee?

Maker of life art Thou, who hast ordained the Sabbath for rest; Lo, the flowers and the lilies bloom!



Let the bride break forth into praise, and say, The winter is past and benediction hath come.

For man's rest hath He ordained the Sabbath; With stars hath He decked the heaven; Flowers without number hath He brought to view; To the peoples hath He given peace.

Marvellous His wisdom, hard to grasp!
High above all height! yet hath He had mercy on us,
Crowning the heaven with stars of light,
Adorning the earth with flowers of purity;
The sweetness of the saints is like the flower of the lily of the valley:

The cinnamon and the nard are in bloom; Not even Solomon was arrayed like one of these.

Halleluiah, halleluiah, halleluiah! Let the bride break forth into praise, and say, Come, my beloved, let us go forth into the field; The winter is past and blessing come.

Thou hast dressed a vineyard for us with grapes of blessing, To Christ all laud is due who hath brought us to this hour; For the righteous doth He bless the year, He satisfies the hungry soul.

Sweet are thy words, the food of saints. Halleluiah.

HYMN FOR THE FEAST OF THE RESURRECTION.

Let us praise Christ who arose from the dead,
Who hath saved His people by the cross;
He went down into Hades and brake our fetters,
And proclaimed freedom to them.
He hath saved us from the yoke of sin,
And by suffering in the flesh, brought us near unto Himself.

By Himself He made known His Deity,
In His flesh He destroyed death.
Hades beheld the beauty of His Godhead, and said,
Tho' clad in flesh he is free from my power and conquers me;
It is the Heavenly One in earthly garb,
One in counsel with the Father who made the heavens.

Now let the Church say, I shall find peace in His sight, This is my well beloved,



Like streams of precious unguent is my well beloved, When I found Him, I knew Him.

His first gift was the Spirit for the remission of sins.
With a crown of thorns they encircled Him,
Who hath prepared for us a crown of righteousness in heaven!
They crucified Thee on the tree,
They gave Thee vinegar and gall to drink,
That Thou mightest give us to drink of the wine of joy and gladness.

They smote Thee with the spear and opened Thy side, That Thou mightest give us thy sacred flesh and precious blood.

We believe in His death, and we believe in His life, His second coming in glory we expect. We believe in Christ, and sing praises to Him Who trampled on the might of hell, and spoiled him of his prey.

He raised Himself, and will raise up all the dead; Our chains hath He broken, our liberty proclaimed: He rose on the third day and said to the women, Go, tell my disciples I am risen from the dead.

Well was it said of old, Give thy righteousness to the king, And thy judgments to the king's son.
He made His resurrection on the Sabbath.

He routed the might of Satan's machinations. The angel of death cried out and said, Who is this that with the might of a flame of fire, With death himself can wrestle?

But he hath conquered death and sealed up Hades, Corruption hath passed away, Grief is consigned to oblivion, Jesus, the glory of angels and king of kings, is risen.

In the patience and silence of love, For us He went to the death. Let us keep this paschal feast with joy, Let us celebrate the might of the Word, Who now is in His kingdom.

On the Sabbath the Church beholds Him, The crucified, the pierced on the tree. "Tell me," she saith, "for whom thou wast crucified?" He saith, "For thee, that I may bless my sons." She saith, "Glory and praise are due to Thee, O Lord."



HYMN FOR THE VIGIL OF ABBA JOHANNI (an Abbot).

This man was a man of God,
His dwelling was in the desert, as dwelt Elias,
Halleluiah, Halleluiah,
In sheep skins and in goat skins.

Blessed the righteous!
Blessed the elect of God!
Whom God hath gifted with eagle's wings,
That he might reach the land of the living.

He became poor,
He fed on the green herb,
The dews of the desert were His drink;
He possessed no home on earth,
He made the kingdom of heaven His heritage,
Abba Johanni was patient in the strife.

As the wandering bee, the small of body,
For the sweetness of its produce is greatly praised,
And perfumes itself among flowers;
So Abba Johanni wandered the desert,
And sought the face of Jesus in the law of the Spirit.

Abba Johanni was crowned with the spirit of grace; A virgin, he knew not the pleasures of the body.

The sufferings of the saints took up their abode in Him, He evermore gave forth the odours of the Gospel, Abba Johanni was clad in faith, Like a pillar overlaid with gold.

Abba Johanni bowed his head to the Lord, He awaited the recompence of his labours.

I will liken Abba Johanni to the likeness of a bee,
For as the bee gathers the flowers of the field,
So Abba Johanni gathered righteousness from all the saints.
On him rested the patience of Job,
He fulfilled ordinances, and became a martyr;
Like Samuel he lived in the temple from his youth.
He laboured in this world,
And went in peace and joy to the city of Jerusalem.



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THE VIGIL OF THE FOUR BEASTS.

These four together bless the God of righteousness, They all praise and celebrate His might, Saying, Holy Trinity, Glory be to God on high, The earth is full of His glory. Isaiah said, "I saw the Seraphim encircling Him." Ezekiel said, "I beheld the four beasts."

With two wings they flew,
The wheels sped along;
The earth was filled with His glory,
And His splendour covered the heavens.

Halleluiah was the song I heard in heaven, From holy angels singing Halleluiah, halleluiah, halleluiah, Lord, Full are the heavens and earth of the sanctity of Thy glory.

Of the watcher angels who slumber not in their prayers for us, Send us, O Lord, the angel of mercy, Good and kind,
With voice of clarion and with sweet accent.

When angels descend from heaven upon earth, The rustling of their wings is not heard, And there is no trace of their footfall, Their descent is lighter than the winds.

He flew upon the wings of the wind, Mounted upon horses—the King Eternal— He spoiled Satan of his captives, Those horses of salvation were the four glorious spiritual beasts.

By the river Chebar Ezekiel beheld
The majesty of the Cherubel,
Who bare the throne, alike in glory,
Sanctifying and praising with one voice.
Ye venerable beasts, pray for the forgiveness of our sins,
For the preservation of the righteous.

A thousand halleluiahs to Him that reigneth on the throne; He clothes Himself with beamings of glory as with a garment, The four beasts give forth a fount of glory, The fires of their nostrils and wings commingle.



When God beheld the heavens,
The beauty of their balance,
And the glory of their expanse,
Like a tent meet for a dwelling,
And the angels dwelling therein and traversing it,
He said, "The angels of heaven shall abide therein,
They will know their Creator."

The Cherubel and Seraphel cover their faces with their wings;
I heard the sound of the wings of the angels, as the sound of
many waters,

And like the voice of a host; Of awful sound were their praises, Seven times brighter than the sun their faces.

Lord, Thou hast made the heavens Thy throne, The earth Thy footstool; Thou hast caused angels to serve Thee, And priests to keep Thy law; Thou hast created the sun and the moon, The mountains and hills and depths of earth.

The same stone which the builders rejected Hath the Father chosen to be the Head of the corner. He who sitteth on the Cherubel, Stretched forth his hand upon the cross, He suffered, and by suffering hath united us to the Father.

The awful ones surround Him, The Seraphel encircle Him, The watchers adore His holiness, Thousands minister to Him.

THE HYMN FOR THE DEAD.

We supplicate on behalf of thy servants, Lord, who sleep, Our fathers and brethren, That Thou wouldest rest their souls in Thy prepared abode, That Thou wouldest forgive those who have sinned, their sins, For no man in Thy sight is pure.

Give rest, Lord, to their souls, Remove grief from their hearts, And tears from their eyes, Have compassion and mercy on them. Let them receive from Thee a complete reward, Rest their souls in Thy prepared abode, By the hand of Thy good angels, For Thou hast power over every creature.

Rest Thou the soul, and raise the body of those who sleep, Let sweet odours of the cross refresh the souls who wait. Let the face of Thy Christ shine upon them, For to be with Christ is better.

Thou killest and Thou canst make alive, Thou hast not created us for nought; Hasten the day of eternal life, Of the second coming of Thy Son.

Pardon the sins of Thy servants who sleep in Thee, For Thou art the God who will judge; Send them peace for Thy Church's sake, Send peace on the soul which hath come to Thee. Amen.

HYMN ON THE DAY OF DOOM.

When it is the day of doom, the day of the Lord,
What shall we say to the soul,
When the day of salvation is past?
When the earth shall restore what was entrusted to it,
When the Father shall put on the robes of retribution,
And shapes of vengeance shall appear;
When He shall lay our sins to our charge at His dread tribunal,
When our works shall be laid bare and searched out,
When all that we have done shall be told forth.

When at the coming of the Son of Man
The powers of heaven and earth shall be shaken,
Then shall sinners weep who thought not of Him in their lives;
A river of fire is poured forth before Him,
A flame proceeds from His mouth.
Tears are flowing like the waters of winter;
Sinners are taken forth from the midst of the just. Ah! ah!

The sun hath risen on the last day,
The trump hath sounded its blast,
The herald hath come,
The watcher angels speed hither and thither,



The throne is prepared for the judge,
They who laboured once are rejoicing now;
They who have been slothful are sore troubled;
Full of joy are they on the right hand
When they see His face whom they served in their lives.

Like lightning that gleams from East to West, So shall be the coming of the Son of God, With the heavenly host and the brilliancy of lightning, With ten thousand angels and all the archangels, And priests with choicest crowns upon their heads.

THE VIGIL OF MENAS, THE MARTYR.

I beheld Abba Menas
Of beauteous stature;
And goodly the appearance of his countenance,
Bright like the sun;
His staff was of sculptured gold,
A golden pillar bearing the name of Jesus.

This Menas, first a soldier of the king,
Became a soldier of Christ;
He despised earthly glory,
For gold is vanity, and a decaying garment.
Praise and laud will we offer to thee,
For he is the conqueror who is the soldier of Christ.

Accepted in heaven is Menas
Who preferred righteousness to riches.
This Menas resigned his honours,
He spurned earthly glory,
He preferred to be a soldier of the Heavenly One.

By a cloud of martyrs are we surrounded, Who committed their souls to God; Righteous and meek, Menas has received his heritage, The incorruptible crown of martyrdom.

Menas exclaimed, "O people of God, I too am a Christian."
Then Symmachus answered and said to the king,
"Menas refuses to be a soldier."
Then Menas said again, "I am a Christian."

He refused the honours of this world That he might see the face of the Most High; He fought the fight for Christ; He despised the threats of the king, That he might win the rest of the thousand days.

The Lord put honour upon Menas
And took him to Himself in his abundant mercy.
Menas is accepted in heaven,
He has gone in peace to the kingdom,
For he said, "I am the soldier of the Heavenly One,
I will not be the soldier of him who is on earth."

HYMN IN HONOUR OF NAGRAN (in S. Arabia).

Hail to thee great city, city of Nagran, City of Thunder! City of God, which art named a paradise, The blood of Thy martyrs flowed like water, The sound of their thunder reached the heavens!

O great city, city of Nagran!
Bright are thy stars,
Thy trees sing for joy,
Eloquent are thy priests,
Thy deacons minister,
And thy people are faithful,
Baptized into Holy Church.

A city there is, bright like the sun,
Whose foundations the meek encircle;
Round about it stand the martyrs,
Leaning on the knowledge of the cross.
Filled with people like a pomegranate with seed,
City of victorious martyrs, holy Nagran.

Firm and solid are its hills, And precious its stones, emerald and topaz, Fragrant its trees, bedewed with the blood of Christ, Bright and glistering its stars, Its perfume is sweet like incense.

Its bishops, elders, deacons, monks, And even women, gave their lives to the death, For the testimony of the faith; They were slain by fire and sword That they might receive their recompence.



Peace be on thee, Nagran, city of God, And peace on thy children, For the name of Christ hath made Thy martyrs famous, The sound of their thunder hath reached the heavens.

Praise be to Him who hath made the weak strong, Praise be to Him who is the reward of His saints. They shall enter into His joy, and be like Him, For with Him is the fountain of life.

THE HYMN FOR MARTYRS.

By the patient endurance of martyrs is a city saved, By the prayers of the righteous the barren land is rejoiced; The memory of the just is praise, In their security they rejoice.

First let the name of martyrs be recorded, The very lineaments of their features, As they sped along willingly and cheerfully, To behold the face of their Merciful One.

Faithful were the martyrs and strong in patience,
They attained their hope, for by hope are we saved,
When the martyrs came to martyrdom,
They came with Christ their God,
Halleluiah, halleluiah.
Peace in their front, and faith their rereward.

When they looked not for it, He brought them out of bondage; For they bore the three names, They signed their faces with the sign of the Trinity, In return for the blood of Christ, they shed their own; From afar they beheld and awaited the holy city, The martyr's hope.

On Mount Zion shall Christ reign over the holy martyrs; He shall renew their youth, He shall give them wings as of angels, He shall give them a beauteous aspect, He shall wipe away every tear.

Lo! Zion is the martyr's city, Thither tend our hopes; May we enter the kingdom of heaven.



It seemed in the eyes of fools as if the martyrs died,
But He hath blessed the times of the righteous,
They were driven out of this world, only to reach their hope,
Their breastplate was their patience;
May their prayer ever reach us. Amen.

THE HYMN OF THE JUST.

They served the Most High in their lives; For earthly, He rewarded them with heavenly things, To Thee be glory for ever.

May the elect Just pray for you and me and all,
That when the mother shall not be able to save her son,
And when the earth shall yield up its charge,
When the Father shall put on the garment of retribution,
And cause avenging spectres to flit around,
We may be in glory and honour,
Crowned with the helmet of salvation,
And safe from the death of sin.

He hath said to them, "My righteous ones;"
At His own right hand hath He caused them to dwell,
He hath caused them to inherit His holy Mount.

Meet is honour to the just Whom the Father hath called and chosen, To whom He hath given fruits which wither not, And their light is never put out.

They now rejoice where there is no death,
The death of the just is their life,
The righteous who have pleased God
Inherit a brilliant and shining land.

Halleluiah! halleluiah! halleluiah.
Sweet verily are Thy words who wast crucified for sinners,
That the souls of the just might be ransomed,
They chose the nuptial feast of heaven,
Where sickness and death are not,
And where they shall die no more.

For you is Paradise thrown open, And the tree of life is planted, There are the waters of life in a garden of delights, There dwell the souls of the just.



Their Lord beautifies their latter end, And blesses the day of their death, Right dear in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.

Oh, when shall we see the bliss,
And leap for joy thereat?
Halleluiah, halleluiah.
Unite us, Lord, to all Thy saints,
To Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—

Our Fathers from the beginning of the world, Elect from their mother's womb, Their names written in heaven; For Christ will reign among the saints, Our strength and fortress, our hope and glory, Jesus Christ.

The just and meek cry out and sing,
Glory to thee, the immortal,
God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and all their holy seed,
Grant us to enter into that heavenly kingdom,
Where rest is prepared.

This is the gate which the Lord hath made,
The righteous shall enter into it,
Gate of salvation, good and heavenly;
Let us love righteousness, for it is the river of God.

A HYMN TO THE VIRGIN MARY.

With tongues of fire shall the angels praise thee, Angels shall surround thee, Mary, with wings of light, Our mother and the mother of our Lord; Angels with pen of gold shall write thy praises, Till the second coming of thy Son.

Thou art that bush which was truly called Holy of Holies, Thou art light, the treasure-house of the Word; Mary, pray for us.

The bride hath come from Lebanon, From the dens of the lions, From the palace of kings.

Mother of martyrs!
A pure palace, beauteous and fair!

Ark which contained the law, Fair in raiment of gold, clad with divers colours.

She is that virgin whom Immanuel chose, By the wings of angels is she encircled, Seated on a throne of glory she intercedes, On her head, a crown surmounted by the cross.

This is she who looks forth at the morn, Beneath her feet the moon, She is the fair and beauteous cloud, Pure in her virginity without a stain. Gate of salvation, golden pot of manna; She bare in her womb the king of Israel.

All her words are peaceful,
The peaceful one shall she be called;
Sweetness dwells in her words and grace in her deeds,
A royal palace on earth and in heaven.



^d It should be borne in mind that in the original these lines are commonly written in rhyme. But there are no traces of any regular metre.

HYMNS OF THE ABYSSINIAN CHURCH,

(FROM THE DEGUA,)

AND PRAYERS.

HYMN FOR THE FESTIVAL OF ABBA SALAMA, OR FRUMENTIUS, FOR JULY 3.

I GREET thee with voice of joy,
Magnifying and extolling Salama,
For he caused the splendour of the light of Christ to dawn,
Where all had long been gloom and darkness.

Hail, Salama, who was commanded To manifest the doctrine that had been hidden; It rose on Æthiopia like the morning star, And in its healing light we still rejoice.

He renounced all earthly joys, He strove to win souls as his crown of rejoicing, He opened wide the portals of the faith, We enter in with glad steps.

His life was wisdom and his death was life; He who is threefold in essence was with him, By his prayers he vanquished the serpent, Blessed, peaceful, holy saint!

His cell was the tomb in which he was buried from the world; Being thus dead he ministered the word of life, He turned the widow's tears into joy, He delivered souls from a vile slavery.

The old serpent has power no longer,
The shadows of night are for ever scattered;
We rejoice in peace and pardon of our sins,
And in hope that we shall see the face of God.



 $^{^\}alpha$ Sent as a missionary to Æthiopia by St. Athanasius, and reverenced as the founder and first bishop of the Abyssinian Church.

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Abba Salama now rests in paradise, His lot is with the saints and martyrs; He there awaits his reward with Christ's true soldiers, When He shall come again, and the dead be raised up. Abba Salama pray for us. May thy benediction reach us.

THE HYMN OF GABRA MENFES KEDDUS (i.e., servant of the Holy Ghost), March 3.

Honoured Father Gabra Menfes Keddus, Honoured man of God! Heard is thy message in all the land, For thou art united with Him with whom is power.

His grace and blessing dwelt in thine own heart, Thence it overflowed to the souls of all around thee; Largely was the spirit of holiness poured out upon thee, In gifts of zeal and love and unshaken faith.

A bright star didst thou uprise upon the Church, True father wast thou to the sons of Æthiopia; An apostolic man was Gabra Menfes Keddus, He honoured the Spirit, and the Spirit left him not.

He abode in the deserts and caves, He patiently endured thirst and hunger, Dreadful lions and serpents crouched at his feet, No evil thing came near to hurt the servant of the Lord.

He dwelt not as other men dwell, He abode like angels with his God for companion; He cried to his Maker and Redeemer for rest, Till his cries and prayers expired in death.

Thou didst serve Him who is the Fount of Life, On wings of thought thou didst soar aloft, On wings of prayer thou didst ascend as a bird, Thou didst lose thy life that thou mightest find it.

O thou angelic servant of Him who saves, Thou didst diffuse among men an odour of sanctity, Thou didst proclaim the cross with unceasing voice:
With the cross in thy hand didst thou point upwards.

Blessed Father! thou wanderest no more upon the mountains! The sheepskin and the goatskin no longer dost thou wear! Thy soul reposes sweetly in the bosom of Abraham, The cool winds of paradise breathe upon thee.

HYMN FOR PRIESTS (the Third Hour).

He hath made His priests like a sapphire, Their hands can touch the flame; In the Father's presence they offer the Son in sacrifice, And their incense is beloved exceedingly.

Christ is the repose of the souls of the just,
The strength and fortress of those that follow Him.
The just are exalted in glory.
He hath called them, and will say to them hereafter,
Come, ye blessed of my Father.

For Him have these martyrs yielded up their lives, Christ hath given them their recompence,
Jerusalem is now their city;
Beautiful was their warfare, good their fight;
Their souls are "a mountain of spices,"
They are sons of light for ever.

As bishops, priests, and deacons, hath God ordained them, That they might be seen of the Church of Christ; He taught them the faith, He gave them light, Now is their converse in peace.

Seven times brighter than the sun are their faces, From the glory and the radiance shed upon them.

They loved Him more than gold, For He loved them, and poured out His blood for them; They despised this world, For the city where Christ shall reign over them was their hope.

Built by the hand of priests,
Sanctified by the mouth of bishops,
Is the Church of Christ on earth;
But on Zion is sung the song of Moses and the Lamb.

For our slavery Thou hast given us liberty,
By thine evangel Thou didst shew us the way,
By Thy cross didst Thou bring us nigh unto the Father.
He who is not far off from His servants now
Shall be with them eternally.

Thou hast given Thy faithful priests their heritage, Where there is no more toil or death; They rejoice and are glad in their rest, They walk in light through countless ages. Amen.

Song of Saints (the Sixth Hour).

Halleluiah!
With a diadem of beauty hath He adorned their head,
With things that eye hath not seen hath He rewarded them;
Worthy of glory hath He deemed them.

Secure in joy they openly rejoice;
First they look up at His glory who hath brought them thither,
Then they see how bright are their own faces,
And how their light is brighter than the stars,
And their reward beyond all greatness;
And that henceforth they shall rest in their mansions.

The guide of their way and their strength was the cross, Prophets, apostles, martyrs leaned on this, By the might of His cross He redeemed them, And now are they saints, sons of light.

They are holy and shall sin no more, Neither cold nor heat shall touch them. The Father wipes away their tears; Their's is the heritage of peace and joy.

They see how they escaped all straits and troubles, That they might come into an ample space; They look back over the way by which He led them Who is now their exceeding great reward.

The guide of their way, the source of their grace was the cross. This recovered Paradise for Adam,
Salvation to the elect thief in the jaws of death;
The tree of life is the cross for ever.

Thus have they fulfilled their warfare,
They have fought a good fight.
Pray for us, all ye saints of God who stand before Him,
Halleluiah. Amen.



HYMN OF THE KEDASSE (SANCTIFICATION) OF THE HOUSE (BODY) OF OUR LADY MARY.

Salute the free maiden, the perfect tabernacle!
A pure rain from heaven descended on her,
It purified the tabernacle of her flesh,
It abode upon her, and a son was born of her.

Behold, my dove, my beauteous one art thou; The apostles praise, the angels crown thee; Beyond frankincense is the beauty of thy salvation.

I will call thee "my lady," for thou art the mother of my Lord; Even in Adam's loins thou didst lie hid, Like a pearl of perfect whiteness, But the second Adam was born of thee.

Fair, beauteous, and free!
Mother of martyrs and sister of angels!
The bush that burned not art thou,
The tabernacle not made by hand of man!

Blessed art thou, Mary, praised of all!
The cherubel and seraphel laud thee!
Angels through all their ranks minister to thee,
The daughter of kings and prophets, thou!

The Father founded, the Spirit sanctified,
The Son inhabited this house.—
A work hard to be understood.
The bars of thy flesh were not opened,
The virginal enclosure was not broken.

He who made the heavens was carried in the belly,
His limbs were swaddled in Bethlehem:
We have beheld a hard matter,
Milk and virginity commingled.

When the mother of God wept and was in pain,
And when she died, like all men,
John beheld her, and covered her face with a robe.
Then as she lay at rest,
Her Son came and clothed her with royal raiment,
And now she reigns in glory.
The moon and stars are beneath her feet.
Halleluiah.

A SABBATH-DAY HYMN.

The Merciful and free from wrath,
Pure and without a stain,
Righteous, unsullied by sin,
A Judge who respects not persons,
Hath ordained the Sabbath for rest and joy.

With Him is the power to forgive
And on this day He says "Thy sins are forgiven."
On this day He feeds us with the bread of heaven,
That bread which is the strength of saints.

The Lord of the Sabbath went up on ship-board,
He bridled the might of the winds,
He rebuked the sea;
It heard its Creator's voice and was still,
And on the Sabbath was a great calm.

On the Sabbath He healed our sicknesses,
On the Sabbath He rested from all His works.
On the Sabbath He rested in Hades
That He might arise for a new creation.

He hath permitted us to see the dawn of another Sabbath; It is meet and right that we should praise Him Who awakens us from our slumber, And bids us partake His very flesh.

The Lord said to Moses, Honour my Sabbaths.

Thy people and all Thy house shall rest this day,

That the Lord may bless thee for ever;

In love for man hath He ordained the Sabbath.

Let us free our souls from this passing world:
He who honours this day shall find salvation.
Our days pass like a shadow,
But here is Paradise laid open;
He whose beauty covers and adorns the heaven
Fills the Church with His grace and presence.

On Mount Zion be My sanctuary,
And in Jerusalem My city;
The cross My staff, and the cross My support.
Lord, into Thy hands I commend my spirit.
Halleluiah. Amen.



THE HYMN OF "THE LIGHT."

Praise to the Saviour, the glory of the saints, The light which hath come into the world; His clothing was as light upon the mount, But He is the true light in Himself.

He came from a world of light,
And that light hath come to us;
He will lead us back into that light
From whence he descended in love and pity.

He has come whom Moses announced,—
The Crown of martyrs, the Founder of the Church,—
The Light of light, who giveth light to the just.
Oh send out thy light and truth
That they may bring me to Thy holy hill:
Send forth Thy hand from on high to save.

God is a God who knoweth all things, Clad in righteousness, robed in light. A light announced Him, shining in the heavens, And He is come, the Pilot of the souls of the just.

The Church's Bridegroom is the light of the world; Let us therefore be clad in light, And put away the works of darkness, And walk as the children of the day.

He reigns over the treasures of light,
Who existed ere the worlds were made.
He will manifest that light;
He will give comfort in our sorrows;
He will disperse the clouds and thick darkness,
And lead us to our rest above.
Halleluiah, O Thou first-born of Zion!

O Adonai, Thou art the bearer of glad tidings: Marvellous is the brightness of Thy beauty. Halleluiah. To Thee be glory. Amen.

THE VIGIL OF ST. PETER'S DAY.

We bless thy humility, Peter, chief of bishops, For thou didst hearken to the Father's word; He bowed his head and gave up his soul to the death, Blessed Peter, chief of bishops, pray for us.

The Saviour chose and ordained thee chief of bishops, That thou mightest set in order all the faith. Strong pillar, foundation that cannot be shaken! Patron of celibates, teacher of the law to the peoples!

The people chose him, the perfection of bishops,
And bid him be seated on his throne.
This was he who had been shut up in prison,
But he said, Now know I that the Lord hath sent His angel to
deliver me.

In joy and peace and orthodox faith they made him their bishop, Whom the King of glory Himself had chosen, A true steward of the faith, Blessed, holy Peter,—the tie-beam of the Church!

Peter was reserved for the martyr's crown!
Prince of bishops, on whom was the grace of conquering faith!
He put on the breastplate of righteousness,
And yielded up his life for the increase of the Church.

He said to the soldiers, "I go singly,
"But no sword shall cause this people to fail."
He threw back for them his holy cowl,
And yielded his honoured neck to the soldiers,
And became a martyr, and was conformed to his God.

Peter said to the soldiers, "My sons, God is faithful who hath sent you." The soldiers owned Him as chief of bishops, And the perfection of martyrs.

The myrmidons who vexed Him were afraid when they saw his face,

For strong in the spirit was blessed Peter: He signed his face with the token of the cross, He shone before the people like a burning torch.

The people said to Peter, Pray for us, And ask for the pardon of all our sins; For thee hath the Father ordained to rule the Church. Bless me, O my Father, let me receive Thy blessing. Halleluiah! O thou steward of the faith.



PRAYER OF ATHANASIUS.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the

Holy Ghost, one God. Amen.

Prepare us, O Lord, to open our mouth that we may praise Thee with a pure heart, and, with a tongue that is never silent, may say, Glory to God on high, and on earth peace, His good will towards men.

We praise Thee, we bless Thee. Have mercy upon us, O God, according to the greatness of Thy mercy. Lord, forgive

... those who are baptized into the orthodox faith.

Lord, forgive us by the blood of the new covenant whereby Thou hast vouchsafed us remission and mercy and salvation for ever and ever. Amen.

O Lord, forgive me all the multitude of my sins, Thy servant Athanasius, through the prayers of the holy and pure mother of the light, Thy honourable parent, and through the

prayers of all the saints. Amen.

O our Lord, and have mercy on all Christian people, and despise not our supplication. Have mercy upon us through the prayers of Mary, the mother of the light, the parent of that primal Word which was before all worlds.

O Lord, save me from falling, and from the lake of hell, even thy servant Athanasius. Blot out our offences and our many sins. For the very heavens are not clean before Thee, and the angelic hosts are not without stain, for they have fallen from their lofty thrones.

Have mercy upon us all, O our High Priest, for we have no

means of repaying Thy manifold bounties;

Have mercy upon us, O our High Priest, for the time of the gathering of grapes is hard by, and in nought have we been profitable.

Have mercy upon us, O our High Priest, for lo! the axe is laid to the trunk of the tree, and we, its fruit, are nought until our works be righteous.

Have mercy; for what shall we do when death comes upon

^c The MS. is here imperfect.

This prayer is translated from a MS. marked H in the Library of the British and Foreign Bible Society, probably of the fourteenth century. it was ascribed to Saint Athanasius as its author, or whether the MS. was used by some priest or monk named Athanasius, I have no means of ascertaining. The word Athanasius is always written with red ink. As this piece, like those which follows it are a few to be a superscript of the control of the contro which follow it, are of considerable length, and abound in repetitions, I have merely given extracts.-J. M. R.

us? Have mercy ere the soul and spirit go forth from the body, for in that moment we cannot dispute with him (death).

Have mercy; for we have no supplies for the rugged way along which we shall journey on that day; do Thou have mercy on us with all those who have been well pleasing to Thee, even to me Thy servant Athanasius, for we have no hope except in Thy great mercy which Thou hast shewed: and every one who asketh of Thee shall find mercy, for to Thee is praise due for ever. Amen.

Deliver us, O Lord, from vain glory, pride, and arrogance. Deliver us, O Lord, from jealousy, revenge, and deceit.

Deliver us, O Lord, from slandering any man, from all enmity, and from involuntary deeds of evil.

Deliver us, O Lord, from all trial, malediction, and sorrow,

by Thy mercy.

Deliver us, O Lord, from falling, and from lapse.

O Lord, deliver me not over into the hands of my enemies, and the enemies of Christ my God, even me, Thy servant Athanasius.

* * * *

O Lord, bestow on us the gift of love, and patience, and

silence, all the days of our lives.

O Lord, bestow on us the beauty of grace in all our works; give us the hope of resurrection on the day of redemption with thine elect; give us a place in Thy heavenly kingdom with Thine elect, even to Thy servant Athanasius, and lead me not into temptation, nor lay upon me any burden, too heavy to bear.

Deliver me from the worm that slumbereth not. Deliver me from the outer darkness and gloom.

Deliver me from the horrid, the profound, the rugged, the afflictive darkness.

Deliver me from the boundaries of Hades, from weeping,

and gnashing of teeth, from wailing, and great groaning.

Deliver me, O Lord, in that day, even me Thy servant Athanasius. We beseech Thee, O our Lord and High Priest, have mercy upon us all and deliver us, as Thou didst deliver Peter, and didst rescue him from the billowy sea by Thy strong and high right hand. In like manner deliver me, Thy servant Athanasius, from the sea of sin whose waves boil and destroy.

As Thou didst receive Paul the apostle, when he was the persecutor of all those who believed on Thee, the children of Thy venerable Christian Church, didst instruct him in all holy things, didst make him a good and learned prophet to Thy Christian Church, in like manner receive us. O Level

Christian Church; in like manner receive us, O Lord.



As Thou didst heal the paralytic, and didst forgive him his sins, and raisedst him up so that he bare his bed in the presence of the people, by Thy great power, O Thou who art very God, in like manner forgive me my sins, even Thy servant Athanasius, and give us healing both of our souls and bodies.

As Thou didst receive the woman of Canaan, and expel evil spirits out of her daughter, saying, O woman, great is thy faith, be it unto Thee even as Thou wilt, in like manner hear our prayers. For Satan hath led us astray in the ways of this world, and removed us far from Thee that we may not do Thy commandments.

As Thou didst heal the woman who had an issue of blood

. heal all our sufferings, and do away our sins. . . .

As Thou didst have mercy on the penitent adulteress . .

do in like manner unto us, O Thou bestower of life . . .

As Thou didst receive Thy disciple Peter when he owned his offence, and repented and wept, and didst afterwards make him a shepherd to feed Thy people and Thy Church, and didst give him the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and madest him to be the foundation of Thy orthodox Church, in like manner, O Lord, receive me, Thy servant Athanasius.

As Thou didst receive the faith and the suit of the publican, and didst make him good and pure in Thy sight, and didst choose him when a Pharisee, and for his humility didst make him great; didst bestow upon him spiritual humility: we confess our offences before Thee: let us find honour with Thee, O Lord of all, King of kings, God of gods, Lord of lords, Prince of princes, and Judge of judges, and the God who givest wisdom to the foolish, the very Lord of all the world.

As Thou didst receive the confession and faith of the thief upon the cross, when he said to Thee, Remember me, O Lord, in Thy kingdom: Thou who art very God, when Thou shalt come in the latter day, and shalt reward all men according to their

works:

In that day remember me, O Lord, in Thy kingdom, even

Thy servant Athanasius.

I will humble myself to Thee. Pardon the sins which I have committed, whether with knowledge or without knowledge.

Let us seek for this petition at Thy hands, O Lord Jesus Christ: forgive our offences and transgressions, whether secret or open, whether few or many: for there is nothing that is impossible to Thee or hidden from Thee. Make us to be as only sons whose names are held in remembrance before Thee at every time, and day, and place for ever. Give us a portion with them in eternal joy in the presence of Thy life-bestowing countenance. We ask of Thee to turn us unto Thee with spiritual conversion, that we may serve as is meet Thy holy and pure name, that we may find tranquillity and repose when we die, and part our souls from our bodies, when the terrible angels of darkness shall come to torment them, by Thy power and by Thy blessed and holy name, world without end. Amen.

And when the spirit shall go forth, and stand before Thee in fear and trembling, and shall not know what mandate shall issue forth from Thee, for that Thou art very God, our Lord Jesus Christ to be praised for ever. Amen.

When Thou shalt come the second time to manifest openly the glory of Thy kingdom, no mortal eye shall be able to endure Thy perfect aspect when Thou dost manifest it.

The might of Thy unknown Majesty, and when the host of angels shall come, and shall appear upon earth in fear and trembling, for Thou art with them in the greatness of Thy Majesty.

O Saviour, have mercy on me then, and save me for ever from the torment. Amen.

And when the herald Michael, the archangel, shall make proclamation, and shall blow the trump, then the dead shall arise at Thy mighty and powerful voice, for never heard they a blast like that; the nations, all of them, shall arise, and shall stand before Thee as in the twinkling of an eye in fear and trembling, and each one shall bear his own burden upon his shoulder, whether good or evil, each as their deeds appeared before men.

When, O Lord, Thou shalt take Thy seat upon the throne of Thy glory, Thou shalt be seen of all people, and things that have been kept secret from the foundation of the world shall be laid open, and the sheep shall be separated from the goats on that day, remember me, O Lord, in Thy mercy, even Thy servant Athanasius. These are the righteous and the wicked. The righteous shalt Thou set on Thy right hand, and the sinners on the left, and then shalt Thou say to thine elect, Come unto me, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the heavenly kingdom prepared for you, ere the worlds were made.

To the sinners Thou wilt say, Depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity, into that eternal fire which is prepared for Satan and his angels.

We beseech Thee on that day and hour that Thou place us not with those upon the left.

But have mercy and compassion upon us as Thou wast good

And Thou didst say to him in that hour, (O thou lover of men, so be it,)

I say unto thee that this day thou shalt be with me in Paradise.

O Ancient of ancients, and Lord of lords, have pity on us, O our God, and give us lowly and pure hearts which may find their satisfaction in Thee all the days of our life. And to Thee be praise and honour with Thy Father and with Thy Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.

Have mercy upon us, O Lord, for we are naked, as Thou didst have mercy on him who fell among thieves, and whom sinners wounded, and didst save him from them, in like manner save me and deliver me from the debts which are the foes of me, thy servant Athanasius. O thou lover of all the world, cleanse Thou us, and we shall be clean; heal us, and we shall be healed.

A PRAYER TO OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST.

Son of the living God, exalted above all the train of saints, vouchsafe us aid that we may walk in Thy law and in Thine ordinances all the days of our life.

Grant me also, the servant Athanasius, help.

O Lord, guide us and have mercy upon us, that we may keep Thy life-giving commandments, that we may live and find compassion and mercy before Thy lofty throne,

When the deeds of man shall be laid open.

For Thou hast said, There is nothing hidden that shall not be revealed, and there is nothing secret that shall not be made known.

Give us, O Lord, pure and unceasing prayer.

Give us, O Lord, prayer in love. Give us, Lord, prayer of peace.

Give us, Lord, prayer without cares of the world.

Give us, O Lord, prayer without hypocrisy.

Give us, Lord, prayer of the saints.

Give us, Lord, prayer night and day, with chant of Psalms, that we may sanctify Thy glorious name all the days of our lives. Amen.

Give us, O Lord, spiritual repentance. Give us, O Lord, secret repentance.

104 Hymns of the Abyssinian Church, and Prayers.

Give us, Lord, pure repentance. Give us, Lord, a right repentance.

Give us, Lord, repentance unto remission of sins.

Give us, Lord, repentance unto forgiveness of all offences. Receive, Lord, our repentance in this world and in that which is to come.

Give us, Lord, the repentance of the weary and heavy laden. Give us, Lord, repentance that shall enlighten our hearts.

Give us, Lord, a wise repentance.

Give us, Lord, a repentance that shall heal all the sufferings of our souls and of our bodies.

Give us, O Lord, repentance unto good works which shall be required of us in that day.

Fill us, O Lord, with knowledge of understanding. Fill us, O Lord, with righteousness and justice.

Give us, O Lord, the gift of the grace of Thy Holy Spirit. As Thou didst give unto Thy servants the saints, give unto us sinners as Thou didst give to those pure ones.

Grant it to us impure.

As Thou didst give unto them who were poor and needy, so grant unto us who have been self deceivers.

O our Lord and God, let not the love of those lusts which war against our souls, vanquish us.

Grant us, O Lord, spiritual humility in all our works.
Grant us, Lord, peace in our going out and coming in.

Grant us, O Lord, good works that we may walk in the ways of Thine angels.

Grant us, Lord, not to offend in ought.
Grant us to walk in the ways of Thy saints.

Deliver us from vanity, and enlighten the eyes of our hearts and of our souls, and comfort us in all our doings, and let not Thy Holy Spirit depart from us.

Vouchsafe us joy and Thy salvation,

And let Thy powerful Spirit strengthen me.

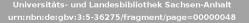
And at every time let him be not far from me in this day, that we may be without sin all the days of our lives.

O our Lord and God, uplift the eyes of our hearts and thoughts,

And receive, O Lord, our prayer in Thy presence this day, and evermore receive, O Lord, the prayer of Thy servant Athanasius.

Give us, O Lord, the sanctity of Thy glory, with our chiefs Thy spiritual angels.

O Lord, grant blessing to all who hearken to Thee, Thou who didst bless the house of Abraham Thy beloved.



Grant, O Lord, to all who hear this prayer, compassion and mercy and remission of sins for ever and ever. Amen.

Grant, Lord, to those who hear this prayer, all good things. Grant them joy in Thy heavenly kingdom. By the might of the Trinity teach Thou every creature. Amen.

And me Thy servant Athanasius. By the virtue of this prayer drive away from me all blood *shedding*, and all suffering, and affliction and grief all the days of our life,

And banish my sins from the soul of Thy servant Athanasius: Blessed is he who shall say this prayer.

Blessed is he who shall hear this prayer.

Blessed he who shall lead others to the faith by this prayer.

Blessed he who shall be consoled by this prayer.

And shall not say, Who shall be able to use this prayer? for on him who shall observe this prayer, will God confer all good things.

Blessed is he who heareth the Word of God, and heareth

reproof with joy of heart.

And who so acts that he may be crowned with saints and

martyrs.

Blessed he who shall pray this prayer and other prayers, for he shall have a portion with Peter, the head (ras) of the Apostles.

O our Lord and God, hear our prayer, and accept our sacrifices (korban) as Thou didst accept the sacrifice of Abel and Abraham Thy beloved, so receive the sacrifice of Thy servant Athanasius; and as Thou didst accept the works of Enoch, whom Thou didst take up into heaven, so that he tasted not of death to this day.

Accept, O Lord, our sacrifices as Thou didst accept the sacrifices of Noah, and didst deliver him from the deluge; in like manner accept the sacrifices of Thy servant Athanasius,

and deliver me from the deluge of sin.

O Lord, as Thou didst call Abraham, and gavest him the land as an inheritance, in like manner call me, and give an inheritance of the heavenly kingdom to Thy servant Athanasius. O our Lord and God, as Thou didst hearken to Isaac, and didst deliver him from the slaughter,

In like manner hear our prayers, and deliver us from the

death of sin.

As Thou didst accept the prayer of Jacob, and didst deliver him from the anger of Esau his brother,

So deliver me from all those who hate me, and those who

As Thou didst shew Thyself to Jacob when he prayed unto Thee, and didst comfort him with joy,

In like manner hear my prayer, and comfort me in all my sorrows; and as Thou didst deliver Joseph from the mischief of his brethren, and didst bring him out of the prison-house, and didst comfort him in his journeyings, so comfort me Thy servant Athanasius; and as Thou didst manifest Thyself to Moses at the bush, and gavest him might and signs and great wonders,

In like manner give me spiritual strength.

And as Thou didst bring him forth out of the depths of the

sea, and didst deliver him from the land of Egypt;

In like manner deliver me from the overwhelmings of sin, and from the mischiefs of concupiscence, and from the works of Satan;

And as Thou didst accept the prayer of Josua the son of Nun, and didst turn back the sun for him so that it stood still for three hours, and gavest him victory over his enemies;

In like manner give me power and victory over my violent

foes:

And as Thou didst deliver David Thy servant from all those who persecuted him, and didst receive his repentance after his fall, and didst raise him up by Nathan the prophet, who said to him, The Lord hath had mercy on thee, and hath put away thy sin, so deal with me, O our Lord and Saviour of all the world, forgive all our sins, and deliver us from those who persecute us.

So deliver me Thy servant Athanasius; and as Thou didst

accept the prayers of Solomon and gavest him wisdom, So give me, O Lord, spiritual wisdom to know Thee.

And as Thou didst oft accept the prayer of Elias the prophet when the rain was shut up, and he brought down fire from heaven, and raised the widow's son; and as Thou didst receive the prayer of Elisha, and he cleansed Naaman the Syrian from

his leprosy, so, Lord, grant me mercy.

Purify me from all offence and sin, even me Thy servant, and as Thou didst receive the prayer of Hezekiah through Isaiah the prophet, and didst add to his days fifteen years, so deal with me, O our Lord, who am Thy sinful servant, and raise us up from the death of sin, and give us eternal life of the holy kingdom where there is no worm or moth, in that temple of the angels which no hand of man hath made for them.

In Thy compassion and mercy to Thy servant Athanasius; and as Thou didst receive the prayer of Jonas the prophet, and

didst bring him up out of the depth of hell,

So bring me up out of the depth of my sin, and accept Thy servant's prayer in this hour; and as Thou didst accept the prayer of Daniel the prophet, and deliveredst him from the hungry lions,



So deliver me from all straits and grief, even Thy servant Athanasius; and as Thou didst receive the prayers of the three children, and deliveredst them from the fiery furnace,

And from the wrath of Nebuchadnezzar the king;

So, O Lord of hosts, deliver me from all those who attack us, and forgive the sins of Thy servants;

And as Thou didst receive the prayers of all the just, Thine

elect from one end of the earth to the other,

And didst grant them their desires:
So deliver us, O Lord, and grant us all our requests in Thy compassion and mercy, specially to Thy servant Athanasius.

We believe in Him in whose hands are life and death.

We believe in Him who giveth spiritual life. We believe in Him who giveth salvation.

We believe in Him who sitteth upon the cherubim and seraphim; who praise Him with great praise.

We believe on Him who looketh upon the earth, and maketh

it as it were to tremble.

We believe on Him who became incarnate from the Holy Virgin Mary, mother of God.

We believe on Him who created our father Adam in his

image and likeness.

We believe on Him who came and saved Adam.

We believe on Him who wrought great miracles.

We believe on our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, beside

whom is no other God.

We Thy sinful servants ask and beseech, and make suit to Thee to set us free from the net of sin, and to make us to walk before Thee aright and without spot, and deliver us from the toils of death, and forgive us all our offences, through Jesus Christ Thy only Son, with whom to Thee and with the Holy Spirit be glory and praise from this time forth for ever. Amen.

d After this prayer follow in a smaller handwriting than that in which the bulk of the MS. is written, "In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen. Sador, Ayador, Arudor, Adonai, Rodas, Ananias, Zajarias, Misael, Aros, Gaphos, Agaphos, Aniuph, Sedoratu. These are the wounds of the cross of Jesus Christ. In these names put I my trust." Then in the same handwriting Jesus Christ. In these names put I my trust." Then in the same handwriting follow barbarous names of the Deity, of Hebrew sound and form, but different from those given by Ludolf (Comm., p. 350). Then follow the names of the four mystic beasts in Ezekiel; viz., "Camaruel, Seruphael, Warekial, Danial. May their prayers preserve me. Amen and Amen."

