

THE HOME CIRCLE.

PARENTAL TRAINING OF CHILDREN.

BY THE EDITOR.

“Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it.”

There are just two ways in one or other of which all the children of men are walking. There is the broad way of sin, and there is the narrow way of holiness. If it be desired that children should walk in the former of these ways, there is no training needed. If the husbandman would have weeds grow in any portion of his fields, there is no need that he sow the seeds of those weeds, or devote any time to their cultivation. All that is needful is, that he leave that portion of his fields uncultivated for a few years and then those nuisances of husbandry are sure to grow up in rank luxuriance. So, if parents would have their children grow up as moral weeds, exhaling a noxious moral effluvia in the family and in society, there is nothing more required than that they be left to choose their own companions, to gratify their own inclinations, and to walk in their own counsels. Thus left to themselves, they are as sure to grow up in ungodliness and vice, as smoke when unobstructed is sure to ascend or as weeds are sure to grow luxuriantly in neglected fields.

But if parents would have their children grow up as “olive plants,” ornaments in the Church and blessings to society, and prepared, in due time, to be transplanted into the Paradise beyond the skies, it will not do to leave them to themselves. A positive agency is absolutely requisite. They must be *trained*. “Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.” This training includes—

1. *The communication of scriptural instruction.* The command of God to Jewish parents was, “These words that I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.” In the seventy eighth Psalm it is declared, that “He established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children; that the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born, who should arise and declare them to their children.” Parents in Gospel times are, certainly, under a no less weighty responsibility in regard to the instruction of their children in Divine truth. This responsibility they *cannot transfer to others*. No sponsor, Sabbath school teacher, or minister of the Gospel can relieve parents of that obligation which the God of the families of Israel has imposed upon them in the command, “And thou shalt teach them diligently