

PARENTAL SYMPATHY.

The question is often asked, Why is it that there is so little manifest sympathy on religious subjects between parents and children? Why do the children of a praying father and mother so carefully conceal from their parents every indication of the interest they feel in their soul's welfare? Why, when deep conviction of sin forces from them the inquiry, "What must we do to be saved?" are other counsellors first sought? Why, in the first joy of forgiven sin, is it easier to speak the feelings of the heart anywhere else than at home? Why, in the after experiences of darkness, temptation, and doubting, is no confidence given to those who are guides in all things else? There are exceptions enough to this reserve to prove that it is not the natural consequences of the relation. Why then is it? Have not parents something to think of here? It may not be too late for those parents whose hearts are pained by this want of confidence to bring about a happier state of things in their families. At any rate there are other parents whose children are yet in tender years. By God's help they may so train their little ones that this icy barrier of reserve shall never separate them. Never hesitate to talk with your little children of God, of Jesus, of their own sinful hearts. Never hesitate to take them by themselves and pray *with* as well as *for* them. As they grow older continue in your well doing, and never let them feel anything of constraint in your manner when you introduce the subject of religion. Speak not lightly, but speak cheerfully, as well as sometimes solemnly. Make the bible a daily reading book, and let the words of Jesus be familiar household words. Do this in faith, and doubtless the fruit of your sowing shall be pleasant fruit.

Y. E. A.

LOVE.

Salvation is freely offered; but it is almost as unanimously rejected by men as it is freely offered by the Savior. He comes to the sinner and offers him life; but he stops his ears and refuses to listen. He knocks at the door of his heart; the sinner refuses him admittance, and turns away from the bleeding Savior, whose head is wet with the dew, and his locks with drops of the night. And what then? Does Jesus leave him? Does he cut him down and send him to perdition? Ah, no; he follows him, whispers in his ear, *entreats* him to turn, and speaks in a voice of tenderness. "This is the way, walk in it; repent and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord." Still the sinner makes excuses, goes on in his sins, grieves the Spirit, and wounds the Savior afresh. And still the Savior follows him, still he woos

and warns and entreats. Oh, what love! What love! Reader can you slight such a Savior? Can you refuse to yield him your heart? Can you reject his kind invitations?

"Can you refuse His voice to hear,
And love your sins so well,
That you will in them persevere,
And urge your way to hell?"

How long have you slighted this Savior? And does he yet bear with you? Are you yet alive? Wonder, O heavens, and be astonished, O earth, that they who have so long rejected Christ are yet out of hell! This is an astonishing exhibition of the love of Christ. Yet how little are we affected by it?

"Sinner, will you scorn the message
Sent in mercy from above?
Every sentence, Oh, how tender!
Every line is full of love."

TRUST ILLUSTRATED.

A child was once walking through a strange country, led by his father's hand. The loving parent had pointed out to him, far away in the distance, the home to which they were going; and now the child's mind was troubled, for the road seemed to lead quite another way. "Are you sure we are in the right path?" he would often ask.

But his father's only answer was, "Trust to me."

Again the little questioner spoke: "I can not see how we shall ever get there by climbing this steep mountain side."

Still the reply was, "Keep fast hold of my hand, and fear nothing."

So the father and son went on their way until, when the little feet were very weary, a sudden turn in the road showed them that they were at home.

Now, it is in such a way that God often leads his children. They are like the little one who was so puzzled about the way. "What will become of us?" they often ask, "What will be to-morrow? or next year? or twenty years to come?" Now, such questions are like the child's. The proper answer is that which the father gave to him, "Trust." "Do what is right now—to-day; so when to-morrow comes you will find that God is taking care of you and helping you still, and in the end all will be well."

DISPUTING WITH SATAN.—An old and excellent writer gives the following advice:

"If you would not be foiled by temptation, do not enter into a dispute with Satan. When Eve began to argue the case with the serpent, the serpent was too hard for her; the devil, by his logic, disputed her out of Paradise. Satan can mince sin, make it small and varnish it over, and make it look like virtue. Satan is too subtle a sophister to hold an argument with him. Dispute not, but fight. If you enter into a parley with Satan, you give him half the victory." The reason is obvious; for we cannot parley with Satan without giving up *principle*; and whenever we allow ourselves to debate the question, whether we will do wrong, it is almost certain that we shall yield. Principle being abandoned, there is little else to guide but evil passions, which strongly prompt to sin.