

their children's children, for generations to come, may suffer from *their* cruel and guilty remissness. Nature shudders at the contemplation of so awful a responsibility; and yet, awful as it is, every parent must be a sharer in its danger who does not strictly and conscientiously attend to the moral and religious instruction of his children, and by both example and precept enforce upon them from their earliest infancy the important contrasts of their destination hereafter. It is a common and a fatal error in parents, to suppose that precept, unaided by example, is sufficient to discharge their duty to their offspring, but the inconsistency of such conduct is easily detected by children. If they hear from their parents an injunction to "honor the Sabbath day and keep it holy," and are obliged by them to learn the commandment which enforces this duty, and yet see the Sabbath day profaned either by business or pleasure by those who are so careful to instruct them in its observance, is it reasonable to suppose that they will grow up with any very strong impressions of its importance or necessity? No man will teach his son to swear, and to take the name of God in vain; on the contrary, most fathers would punish their children, or at least reprehend them severely for such a fault, and yet those very fathers will, on the smallest excitement of anger or surprise, (or it may be without even this flimsy apology,) utter oaths and curses in the presence of their families—thus leaving them no choice but to condemn and despise their parent, or to approve and follow his profane and wicked example.

It is mere mockery to address to our children the precepts of religion, of honesty, or of morality, if we do not, by our examples, inculcate a rigid adherence to them. Our responsibility is an awful one, but we cannot escape by any middle way. We must either fulfil this all important duty faithfully, or we must take the consequences (for ourselves and our descendants) of our neglect. If we discharge it conscientiously, and frequently call upon the Giver of all good to bless our endeavours, and to crown them with success, by the aid of that support and guidance, without which our best efforts are fruitless and vain, we may confidently look forward to the day when we may meet in a better world with those precious charges entrusted to our keeping here, and we may humbly trust that our children's children shall for generations yet unborn reap the fruits of our labours of love. The reverse of this picture is tremendous—it ought to be contemplated steadily and frequently by every parent; but who is there amongst us who dares look on such a prospect, or who does not shrink from the possibility of sharing in it, and humbly deprecate divine justice, and implore divine mercy,—that it may please the Lord to deal not with us after our sins, neither to reward us after our iniquities.

C. H. H.—d.