

THE  
COTTAGER'S FRIEND,  
AND  
GUIDE OF THE YOUNG.

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THE QUALIFICATIONS OF PARENTS.

What man in his senses would undertake the office of a pilot on a dangerous coast, without a knowledge of navigation? or that of a general of an army, without a knowledge of military tactics? or that of a physician, without a knowledge of medicine and diseases? And who would go on another hour in the office of a parent, without seeking to possess all suitable qualifications? and what are they?

1. *Genuine personal religion.* How can they bring up children in the practice and admonition of the Lord, if they do not know the Lord for themselves? In order to teach religion with any probable effect, we must know it ourselves. That parent will have little ability, and less inclination, to inculcate piety upon his children who has none himself. A graceless parent is a most awful character! O! to see the father and mother of a rising family, with a crowd of young immortals growing up around them, and teaching irreligion to their offspring, and leading them to perdition by the power of their own example! A sheep leading her twins into the cover of a hungry tiger, would be a shocking sight; to see parents by their own irreligion, or want of religion, conducting their family to the bottomless pit, is most horrible! No parent, then, can rightly discharge the duties of a parent, in the higher sense of the family compact, without that personal religion which consists in repentance towards God, faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, and a life of habitual holiness. In the absence of this, the best end of the domestic constitution must be neglected.

2. *Entire government of the temper.* A habit of self-control,  
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