

ble away. But he felt that the immortal minds of his offspring, however, they might be suffered to rust here, must carry the effects of neglect into eternity.

His wife died when his children were very young, and the important part of bending the twig in a right direction, so as to make it grow to a goodly tree, devolved on his parental care, alone.

As a good and wise father, he sought to make early moral and religious impressions, while the minds of his little charge were young and tender; and knowing that theory, to be of any use, must be wedded to practice, he made his own example an illustration of his teaching.

With his truly blacksmith motto, 'strike while the iron is hot,' he felt that the most important bent of the never-dying soul, for its happiness here, as well as hereafter, must be made in an early state, while it was soft and warm, and that, in doing this, there was no time to be lost.

His eldest son he intended for his own profession; but our hero, John, not being of so robust a