

O! can we, without meltings of heart, recall these hallowed scenes, where the songs of Zion, sweet and clear, mingled with the soft whisperings of the evening's breeze? Can we, without the deepest emotions, summon before our imaginations the venerated and much loved forms of those we were wont to meet at the domestic altar, when fervent devotion hallowed every thing around? Can we think, without the highest moral benefit, and having a parent's lessons re-engraven on our hearts, of the Sabbath evenings, when the family circled round the "blazing inglen," each one in turn repeating what he remembered of the sermon preached that day, within "the House of God." When in alternate verse, they read a portion of "the Book of Life," and in rotation were examined from that excellent summary of faith and morals, the "Westminster Assembly's Shorter Catechism." An exercise, in which, perhaps, more than any other within the circle of parental duty, the father's affection, assuming the sterner aspect of magisterial discipline, betrayed his earnest solicitude for his child's progress in religious knowledge, and growth in grace. Can we bring to remembrance the time when father and mother, sister and brother, still an unscattered family, sent up from their peaceful dwelling place, the aspirations of praise to Father, Son and Holy-Ghost, without our lips being touched, "as with a live coal from off the Altar;" without being constrained to act as our fathers acted, and, in the reiteration of their holy example, to tell to posterity practically and persuasively, on what foundations the glory of our native country rests; to tell how her true defences have been raised, and how they may be preserved, so that, wherever her virtuous sons may in the course of providence, be placed, the same God, the same religious ordinances, the same civil privileges, the same social happiness and peace shall be the lot of their inheritance forever and ever.

The advantages that result from the "Church in the House," are not confined to the individual members of the household. No doubt, they most largely participate in the blessings it dispenses. Like the dews of heaven falling in peaceful silence on the tender herb, the exercises of domestic worship shed a heavenly influence on them collectively. Their affections catch a deeper, holier tone, from the exalted object of their worship. The most important truths are presented to their minds in the most impressive forms, and are associated with the loftiest feelings of the heart. A tenderer love binds them in