

downcast and perplexed, experiences something analagous to what the Prophet Isaiah felt, when the angel with a live coal from the altar came to him with a message of grace. Parents taking hold of God's covenant promise, and appreciating the sign between God and them—that He will be a God to their seed, are anxious that their offspring from their birth should be the Lord's. What more likely to secure so desirable an end than to begin with object lessons. The Bible in hand, voices raised sweetly and solemnly in praise to God, parents and all under their roof bowing before God—these exercises are calculated to make a bidding impression on a child's heart. In an island containing 4,000 inhabitants, there was at one time neither tree nor shrub to be found, and planting invariably proved a failure. A man of means ordered a trench to be dug opposite his house, and when finished had it half filled with the soil, and then water made to flow through. There he planted willows, and beautifully they grew. The water courses beside which God would have our plants grow are, doubtless, the Family Altar—parental instruction and holy example. Children should be taught by example as well as precept, that reverence is due to the Lord in every act of worship. If the Divine blessing and aid are not invoked in a few words ere engaging in worship, there might be a moment of silent prayer by all.

Healthy family piety is seen in the regularity with which the household attends the house of God; worship made interesting at home, children will have delight in attending church service. Some families betray great want of that ardent desire God plants in the heart of every parent living near to Him—the desire to see his children lambs of the flock. Wherever Jesus is, children should be brought, and the promise, “Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them,” ought to satisfy parents that that is the proper place to bring their dear little ones to Him. Many of God's children remember the gentle knockings of Jesus at the door of their hearts in His name, when they, Samuel-like, knew not it was Jesus. Let children grow up to ten and twelve years of age, as many allow them to do, before they are seen in the house of God, and the devil has done what no parent can undo. Specially let them be led to the prayer meeting—of all places the place of *power*. Thousands of children have been born again in that hallowed place, and trained to love and frequent the prayer meeting through life. In our prayers let us not forget the little ones.

Another feature of piety at home is the care taken to interest the whole family in the cause of Missions. Missionary intelligence, and the conversation at table and elsewhere, about what God is doing in foreign fields, are just the things well-trained children love to listen to. More of this, and the cry, “We cannot get young men,” would be less heard. Let a missionary box be placed on the table of every sitting-room, parents taking the lead in dropping their offerings there, and many a cent will be dropped there where otherwise there would be none.

Next to the worship and Word of God, piety at home calls for *truthfulness* in every thing at any cost. One word of falsehood will shake a child's confidence in its parent, and may lead to ruinous results. The company invited to our families should be carefully considered. Disparaging remarks concerning ministers or church members, made in the hearing of our children, are like the sowing of thistles in our garden.

Of those nominal professors who lean towards the customs and maxims of men of the world, who are so absorbed in worldly mindedness as to find no time for worship in the morning, and yet if an acquaintance meets them in the street, can afford to spend far more time than would be required in leading their household to God's altar, and often ere they return home at night, their little ones are in bed—of such all we can say is, that it would be infinitely better for the cause of Christ if they had no connection therewith. Our Lord said, “He that is not with me is against me, and he that gathereth not with me, scattereth.” “I would thou wert cold or hot, so then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.”

Let there be consistent piety at home, increasing prayer to the God of promise,