

it will "give God no rest, till He establish, and till He make Jerusalem a praise in the earth." Then may we expect God to bless our efforts, to revive His work in our congregations, and to add to His church, by our instrumentality, "multitudes of such as shall be saved."

In submitting to you dear brethren, in the name of the Synod, these few remarks on this all-important subject, afterwards to be dwelt upon more fully by your esteemed ministers, from whom you stately hear the word of God, enough, we trust, has been said, to lead heads of households, who are in the habit of worshipping God in their families, to prize, and increasingly improve their privilege, and also to convince you, who, as parents or heads of families, are neglecting the duty of family worship, of the claims which God has upon you, to erect the family altar, and to call on the name of the Lord. Let the commencement, then, of the new year on which you are now entering, be to you, in respect of this matter, "as the beginning of months." Say not, there is no urgency in this matter; it may be delayed. Remember that delay brings with it an accumulation of guilt. Family prayer may, through lack of "the spirit of life which is in Christ," degenerate into empty form; but the neglect of known duty must ever be a positive sin. Say not, there is no danger involved in leaving undone the command of God. Consider how God "pours out his fury on the families that call not on his name." Say not, that you have no time for this exercise. Does not the mere mention of such an excuse show how much need there is why you should adopt this, and other spiritual safeguards, for protecting you from the encroaching and overwhelming influence of the world? Allege not, that you are unable to offer up prayer to God in the family. The Spirit will help your "infirmities," teaching you how to pray, and what you should pray for. Plead not, that no injury is sustained by your dereliction of duty. Are not you yourselves, your families, and the church of God, all suffering incalculable injury? By the regard, then, you have to your own spiritual interests,—by the regard you have to the eternal interests of the families that are dear to you,—by a regard to the well-being of that church to which you belong, and whose principles you profess—rise to the dignity of that service to which your responsibilities call you, and "worship the Lord reverently at His footstool," day by day, amid all the hallowed associations of home, so well fitted to stir up your desires after God! Your Pastors, who dispense to you the word of life; your elders, "who watch for your souls, as they who must give an account;" and your christian friends and brethren, who are bearing a testimony for God, are all anxiously desirous that you should redeem and verify your christian profession, and, by doing so, acquire the power which belongs to your position, of exerting an influence for Christ, and advancing His cause in the church and the world. "I know him," said God, speaking of Abraham, "that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment; that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which He hath spoken of him." Of this Lord, as "our God and the God of our seed," let the families of our church unitedly say, in respect of their houses, consecrated to His service, "He is our God, and we will prepare Him an habitation; our father's God, and we will exalt Him,"—"we will praise his name together." Then may we expect that God will fulfil the prayer