

the Church. I believe it was Ruskin who was once asked when a child's education should be commenced. "With its grandmother, sir," he replied. So I would say, in its care for the young, the Church must commence her operations and her efforts, whether protective or aggressive, in the hearts and homes of the parents in our congregations.

As lying at the very foundation of this work, should be emphasized as of essential importance, *proper instructions to parents respecting the nature and teaching of the Sacrament of Baptism.*

There are few matters connected with our faith and worship more calculated to stir sorrow in thoughtful souls than the indifference with which even Christian parents regard this Sacrament, and the low views of it which prevail in many minds. That it is a duty which they owe to their children all will confess ; that it is something that should be *done* parents will admit, and it would be uncharitable to deny that many look for and claim God's blessing for their children in the sacrament ; but that Presbyterian parents in general have any clear conception of what, we believe, Scripture warrants us to claim, that the rite of Baptism conferred on the ground of the parents' faith is the seal of the grace of God's Spirit, promised and in God's own time to be bestowed and developed in the heart of the child, and that this grace, whenever so developed, is as really the fulfilment of the terms of their covenant with God as though it were bestowed when baptism is administered—that this conception clearly prevails is something that the writer has yet to learn. A clear grasp of this doctrine, then, on the part of ministers and teachers, the persistent enunciation of its great truths from the pulpit on suitable occasions, and this still further aided by the distribution among the people of popular tracts explaining its privileges and obligations, will do much to lay a foundation upon which the Church may hope to rear the superstructure of a successful work for her young people.

Such teaching can only be consistently followed by results