

fellowship will put on this shape ; they spake often one to another. The theme will possess an interest in common. The heart will glow, the eye will gleam, the tongue will utter, *love*. The vein of ore will be struck, which as they follow it, will disclose the unsearchable riches of Christ. It has been said with truth, "God often utters his voice by the lips of some believing companion ; truth we could not find has been revealed to him, and though we may have used the most promising means to attain the knowledge we desired—though we went forward, but the Lord was not there, and backward, but we could not perceive Him ; yet at last was some thought expressed—some word spoken, in Christian conversation, which, like a key, unlocked the mystery, and made darkness light about us." The perplexed disciples as they journeyed to Emmaus, communicated their thoughts one to another, on the events of the crucifixion, and were rewarded by the presence of a mysterious stranger, who gathered up the broken thread of their discourse, explaining and illustrating til' their hearts burned within them by the way.

Religious conversation is of great value in the correct training of families. The father ought to embrace every opportunity to counsel his son, on the momentous question of salvation. The mother should draw out the tender sympathies of her daughter on the interests of the soul. "I know him," said God of the father of the faithful, "that he will command his children after him." The importance, therefore, of a right use of the tongue in the household, can hardly be over-estimated. First impressions made in the opening spring of life, have remained in the declining shadows of age. A word may possess the talismanic power of touching the heart ; that touch may vibrate through eternity. The strong man that has stood in the heat of battle—that has remained unappalled in the fury of the storm, has melted into tears at the recollection of youthful scenes and the words of a mother. Receiving the Kingdom of God as a little child, suggests the unwavering confidence placed in a parent's word. What weight, then, belongs to words of wisdom ; they mould and move the heart. The tender plant is moved by the gentlest breath of air, which when grown to a tree, defies the hurricane. We fear that in some families, much damage is done by indiscriminate and injudicious remarks before children, on sermons, ministers, church members, and other matters connected with religion. The intention may not be bad, but the effect is often ruinous. Parents perhaps wonder why their children remain worldly and unbelieving, while probably, they have themselves sown the seed that yields the crop.

In personal effort to save souls, religious conversation is a choice agency. What was the interview of the Redeemer of men with Nicodemus, but a religious conversation ? The necessity of a new nature was then insisted on ; so may it be with those we strive to win to Christ. The friendly warning and kind invitation uttered in few words, may save a soul from death, and hide a multitude of sins. It is well to break through the restraints that often seal the lips. *Personal dealing* comes more directly to the specialities of cases, than set discourses. The objections, difficulties, errors and obstacles of a seeking sinner are brought out, to be encountered and slain at once, in the living intercourse. Ministers will find that faithful dealing with their people in their own homes, brings a reward as well as the pulpit. Nor should the people stand aloof from the pastor, afraid to speak on the all-absorbing theme of eternal life. Too much courtesy may be shown to him as a robed official, and too little confidence placed in him as a dis-