

wield may have become for hands growing feeble through infirmity, labour, and anxiety try to do your duty to your offspring. They will not trouble you long. The little crib may soon be empty; or, at least, the years of maturity will soon come when your child may leave the paternal roof to fight life's battles in a distant land. The time may come when there will be no more noise in the hall; when there will be no skates, sleds, knives, bats, balls, shoes, hats, or strings left scattered about; when there will be no disputes to settle, nobody to get off to school, no fingers to tie up, no faces to wash, no rips to mend, no collars to arrange, no hair to comb, no bedclothes to tuck up; in short, nothing to look after,—there will be no children in the house.

FATHER'S PORTION.

"Husbands love your wives, and be not bitter against them." "Fathers provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged," "but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord," are Divine precepts of the weightiest magnitude. The man who is continually bickering and fault-finding in the domestic circle is the most detestable creature upon earth. "A continual dropping in a very rainy day" is nothing in comparison. He who does not study to cultivate cheerfulness, forbearance, sobriety, and respectful bearing in his own household, is unworthy the name of husband or father. Every man should study to assist in making his own fireside the most desirable place to be found. Few women would incline to be morose at home were husbands only faithful, loving, considerate. A husband should continually bear in mind what his wife was when he took her from a choice, based on what he then considered her, superior to all others. He should still remember that she has left all that she held dear, to unite her destiny with his, that his home might be happy.

"O husbands! think upon your duty. You who have taken a wife from a happy home of kindred hearts and kind companionship, have you given to her all of your time which you could spare; have you endeavoured to make amends to her for the loss of these friends? Have you joined with her in her endeavours to open the minds of your children, and give them good moral lessons? Have you strengthened her mind with advice, kindness, and good books? Have you spent your evenings with her in the cultivation of intellectual, moral, or social excellence? Have you looked upon her as an immortal being as well as yourself?" Have you earnestly considered that she is bone of your bone and flesh of your flesh, and requires a kind look, a cheerful word, a helping hand, to buoy her spirits under the pressure of domestic cares and other anxiety?

What a luxury it is for a man to feel that in his home there is a true and affectionate being, in whose presence he may throw off restraint without danger to his dignity; he may confide without fear of treachery; and be sick or unfortunate without being abandoned. If, in the outer world, he grows weary of human selfishness, his heart can safely trust in one whose indulgence overlooks his defects." The treasure of a wife's affection, like the grace of God, is given not bought, and must be retained by reciprocal love. Hence the husband is responsible if the wife of his bosom becomes cold, selfish and indifferent. If any man has failed to