

“ I must do what I think is required by the interests of my family.”

“ Pray remember that property is not the only thing needed by our children.”

A few days after this conversation, the bargain was concluded and the farm became the property of Mr. Hale. Mr. Earl was to put him in possession of it early in the spring.

Mr. Earl was descended from one of the early Puritan settlers of Massachusetts. His ancestors for many generations had been devout members of the church of Christ. He was the first alien from the commonwealth of Israel. His mother was an amiable but not a pious woman, and some thought that it was owing to her that he had not profited by the instructions of his pious father, and had turned a deaf ear to the gospel which he had heard from his infancy. He loved the world, and in order to secure a larger portion of its goods he was willing to leave the home of his childhood and the graves of his fathers, and to take up his abode on the borders of civilization.

His wife was one who preferred Jerusalem to her chief joy. The old time-worn house of God, with its high square pews and huge sounding-board, was as beautiful to her as the most faultless specimen of architecture to the connoisseur. She desired that her children might grow up under the influence of the truths which were proclaimed in that house. Her chief desire with respect to them was, that they might become rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom. In the spring she was constrained to bid farewell to her native village. After a wearisome journey, she found herself and family in what was then a wilderness in the western part of New York. The gospel was not preached in the vicinity, nor was even the log school-house erected. For a time Mr. E. observed the sabbath so far as resting from labour was concerned. He even spent some time in reading the bible, but he did not pray. In consequence, that blessed book was gradually laid aside.

The climate, and perhaps the labours incident to a life in the wilderness, caused Mrs. E. to fall into a decline. When, after lingering illness, she bade her husband farewell, she charged him to send her children to her native home, that they might there be taught, in the school-house and the church, truths which could make them wise unto salvation. Mr. Earl complied, in part with his wife's request. He sent his daughter Julia, who was now ten years of age, and her younger brother. The older one he detained to assist him in his labours.