

THE Home and Foreign Record

OF

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE LOWER PROVINCES.

FEBRUARY, 1872.

THE FAMILY.

The Presbyterian ideal of the Family is Scriptural and truly beautiful. It is we verily believe the Christian ideal. Would that it were more frequently realized! The husband and wife live together in such fulness of pure and holy love that the relation between Christ and the Church purchased by His blood, is illustrated by their union and their lives. The children are a holy seed, inheriting the promises made to Abraham and Isaac and Jacob, and to all the faithful in after days. From the first moment of their existence they are the objects of earnest prayer and loving watchfulness. God's promises are pled and urged by father and mother at the Throne of Grace. He remembers His covenant. The little ones are a gift from Him, a gift unspeakably precious, sanctified from birth, presented to God at baptism, and acknowledged as members of the visible church. The parents receive them from the church after their baptism to be trained up for God. The precious trust is duly prized. The little immortals are tended with ceaseless vigilance; for now the promptings of natural affection are reinforced by the command of God and by the care of the church. The children are reared, as God's children and heirs of the Kingdom ever ought to be, in an atmosphere of tenderness and purity and holy reverence. They are brought up in joyous godliness; taught to be true in every relationship of life; early taught to love their God and Saviour; led by example to be Christians in their conduct. Thus reared in the sweet sunshine

of Christian love, truth, joy, and well-doing, thus early devoted to God, they will never need to know in their experience what the service of Satan is. Step by step they advance in the knowledge and practice of true religion. Parents and children rejoice together in the glorious light of the Gospel and in the liberty with which Christ makes His people free. And when age and infirmity overtake the parents, the children are careful to repay to them the tenderness and love of other years. The last earthly parting is but preparatory to the last and everlasting re-union in Heaven. Thus the Family is fully acknowledged as instituted by God, and its chief end is regarded as the rearing of a godly seed to serve Him and show forth His praise.

The infidelity of the day attacks the family relationship as it assails every other institution of God's appointment. If the family is dissolved, the very basis of church and state is overthrown. The enemy knows this and acts accordingly.

A vast amount of God's work in the world has to be accomplished in the family and by the family. Those who neglect their home duties, whatever may be their shining public qualities, are sinning against the souls under their charge and against God. They are sowing deadly seed that will grow and ripen to a harvest of ruin. If they are building with one hand, with the other they are sapping the foundations.

Parents of the Presbyterian Church, how are you discharging your duties? Are all your children devoted to Christ and reared in loyal obedience to Him? We can find