

stretch out your hands with a Christ-given strength, that through His help you too may draw some of these little waifs out from the waters which threaten to engulf them!—*Mrs. M. G. Kennedy.*

Family Religion.

PERMIT us to urge upon you the great importance of family religion. There is reason to fear that there is a falling away in this direction; and yet never was there a time when all the offices of home religion were more needed than now. The scepticism, the worldliness, the fashions of our day, are all powerful in their influence over the young. Temptations to vice and sin, fascinating attractions to amusements and pleasures whose tendencies are all toward evil, the disposition to break away from wholesome restraint and discipline, were never so general and so powerful as in our day. Nothing can meet these evil influences so powerfully and effectually as home religion. There can be no substitute for this. Our excellent Sabbath-schools and our facilities for general education must not be allowed to take the place of diligent, prayerful, loving, and faithful discipline at home. Let the family altar be erected in every house; let all join in reading the Holy Scriptures and in singing; let the prayer be closed with the Lord's prayer, all joining in its repetition. Let the religion of the family be cheerful, inviting, gentle and loving. Make your homes attractive, that your children may love them, and not be easily tempted to wander away from them. Exclude from them all vices, all low and vicious literature; provide for your children good, wholesome, interesting reading; teach them to love the Church, the means of grace, and to reverence and respect all sacred and religious things; exercise, as in the fear of God, your parental authority in watching over their education, their amusements, and their associations; be not seduced into the miserable folly of sending your daughters to Roman Catholic schools. Bring up your children "in the nurture and admonition of the Lord," and God will abundantly reward and bless your care and labor by crowning your age

with peace, and making your children both happy and useful in their generation.

—*From the Pastoral Address of the Bishops of the M. E. Church.*

Shake Hands.

SOME time ago I told my Sabbath-school class that I believed in hand-shaking as a means of grace. I told them that it was a means of grace to me. And I told them that I did not want one of them ever to leave the room without shaking hands with me.

Also, I told them, that I wanted them to be more constant in the practice of shaking hands with each other. There is much kindness and love conveyed in a cordial shaking of hands. I told them, too, that if a stranger came into the class, and they had not been introduced, to get introduced; to ask me, or some other member of the class to introduce them. Or, what might many times be better still, to waive all ceremony and introduce themselves.

I asked them if they supposed our Lord Jesus waited to be introduced to the Samaritan woman at the well before he spoke to her. Probably, if he had waited for an introduction, he would not have done her the good that he did.

I think that little talk together did us all good. And though there is room among us for improvement still in this matter, yet, as a Sunday-school class, we have done a good deal better in the hand-shaking business since then, and as a consequence have felt happier. Let other teachers and classes do likewise. For my part, I always feel as if I had lost something, if there is any one of my class with whom I fail to shake hands.—*S. S. Times.*

No Wonder.

"I WONDER where my scholars are!" said a teacher, with a languid air, as she seated herself in her accustomed chair, and looked around upon a vacant "form."

"I should not wonder if your scholars are where you were last Sunday, and the Sunday before," whispered a voice close