

# THE CHILD'S BIBLE EXPOSITOR.

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We seldom allowed the benefit of Mrs. Arnold's lessons to be confined to her pupils, and the two opposite characters she had drawn from real life for us were very much talked of among our companions during the week. Our cousin, Philip, happened to be on a visit to us at the time, and, as usual, he very much disapproved the tendency of Mrs. Arnold's instructions, and expressed some intention of calling upon her, and expostulating with her on the high-flown, romantic ideas of right and wrong that she was putting into our heads, so very different from the allowed and daily practices of the whole world, and so much more suitable to missionaries and enthusiasts than to reasonable and rational members of society. That persons who were engaged in the daily business and intercourse of life, had nothing in common with such imaginary standards of action, and never could have; and those who adopted Mrs. Arnold's notions on such subjects, would be fit for nothing but monks and hermits, and had better give up all idea of mixing in society with their fellow-creatures. And, continued Philip, "if the Rector would just take a hint on the same subject, and preach more practical sermons, and not make religion such a difficult and disagreeable thing, I can tell him that he would have a larger congregation, and make a great many more converts than he does now; and, in my opinion, preachers who require so much from their hearers, and who make religion so repulsive and so unsuitable to all our habits and ways of thinking, have a great deal to answer for, and do much more harm than good."

Cousin Philip had joined a debating society since we had seen him last, and had learned to speak in a loud