

## FAMILY WORSHIP.

On the subject of "Family Worship" Canon Liddon remarks:

There is one mark of a household, in which God is known and loved, which is too often wanting in our day—I mean the practice of family prayer. Depend upon it, the worth of a practice of that kind can only be measured by its effects during a long period of time; and family prayers, though occupying only a few minutes, do make a great difference to any household at the end of a year. How, indeed, can it be otherwise, when each morning, and perhaps each evening, too, all the members of the family, the old and the young, the parents and the children, the master and the servants, meet on a footing of perfect equality before the Eternal, in whose presence each is as nothing or less than nothing; yet to whom each is so infinitely dear that he has redeemed by His blood each and all of them? How must not the bad spirits that are the enemies of pure and bright family life flee away—the spirits of envy and pride, and untruthfulness and sloth, and the whole tribe of evil thoughts, and make way for His gracious presence in the hearts of old and young alike, who, as He brings us one by one nearer to the true end of our existence so does He, and He alone, make us to be "of one mind in a house," here within the narrow presence of each home circle and hereafter in that countless family of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, which shall dwell with Him, the universal Parent, to all eternity.!

## CRITICISING OTHER PEOPLE.

I have in my mind a certain family in which this pernicious habit was indulged, and nearly every one of the children only too faithfully reproduced in their lives the models of the originals. Nothing was too sacred to escape their censure or ridicule; the neighbors were subjected to every species of criticism. All this much-to-be-pitied family grew up to be despised and spurned by all right-minded people. Dear mother, let me whisper a warning and tell you the cause of this moral devastation. It was the mother.—*Household.*

Little omissions of duty, little acts of disobedience, as they may seem to us, may prove a great hindrance along our path.

## REDEEMING THE TIME.

Many a young man has been tempted to neglect present, commonplace duties under the thought of husbanding his energies for the doing of some grand and brilliant service when the coveted opportunity shall come. Such a one is the victim of a serious self-deception. There is no likelihood of his ever enjoying his anticipated opportunity; but even if it should arrive, he is doing all that he can in the meanwhile to render himself incapable of embracing it, at least in the proper spirit. It is by means of the most careful attention to the will of God in the ten thousand trifles of daily life that a man is educated into that spirit of devout obedience which fits him for the higher walks and the wider fields of service.

In fact, almost everything may be made a snare to entrap Christians into procrastination. Even penitent sorrow for the loss of past time may be so perverted. Our life on earth is really so very brief that it affords us nothing more than opportunity for doing our appointed work; and though it permits us all that we need for the exercise of true repentance, it cannot spare us a single hour for the indulgence of morbid self-upbraidings over the wasted past. It is possible for a man to so bewail the lost past as to repeat the sin he is bewailing by losing the present also.

"Quick, quick!" were the words adopted by good Bishop Jewel for his motto; and by seeking to live in the spirit of them, he compressed more active work into a single year than many do into an entire life. Richard Baxter, too, feeling as if the hand of death were already laid on him, and desiring to do what he could while his brief opportunity was left him, lived with an intensity of devotedness which made his single life more fruitful than the lives of a hundred of ordinary Christians. Of Bishop Hooker it is said that he was "spare of diet, sparer of words, and sparer of time." In this same rigid economy of time lies one of the chief distinguishing marks between the great mass of commonplace disciples and the mighty men of faith who serve God efficiently in their generation. No procrastinator does much for Christ; no procrastinator enjoys much of Christ.—*Chris. Weekly.*

Happy the child who sows the good and the true. The harvest will not fail him.