

the stillness of whose solitudes has hardly been interrupted by the prayers or praises of a Christian worshipper. Stand up on Himmaleh's lofty summit, and let the eye look in vain for a single trace of the religion of Christ. Enter the rich and splendid cities of India, and of the Chinese Empire; coast along the countries of Asia Minor; explore Persia, Armenia, and Independent Tartary; and alas, what a frightful picture of moral death every where appears! And need I say any thing of Africa, over which an almost unbroken cloud of darkness rests; or of the islands of the sea, most of which are yet peopled with the most degraded class of idolators? The facts are well known. So small a portion of the earth is supplied with the means of grace, that it may well be said, that 'the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now, waiting for the manifestation of the sons of God.'

Our Lord Jesus Christ, after having said that the harvest was great, and the labourers few, commanded his disciples to 'pray the Lord of the harvest to send forth labourers into his harvest.' If there ever was a subject which ought to be commended to the blessing and guidance of God, it is the training up of young men for the holy ministry. It ought to be remembered in the closet, where no ear, but that of the Most High, hears the outpourings of the heart. The parent, in the hour of family devotion, with his beloved children around him, should pray that God will raise up an intelligent and holy ministry. In the circles of social prayer, it should be made an object of supplication. And it should by no means be overlooked, when the people of God meet in the sanctuary to pray for the extension of the Redeemer's kingdom.

The parents of pious sons, having suitable natural endowments, ought

to encourage them to seek the office of the ministry. I do not mean that they should be compelled or urged to study against their will. But a judicious parent can in various ways so place this subject before a son, as to guard the sanctity of the ministerial office, and also incite in him a strong desire, if it be the will of God, to enter the ministry. He ought to be taught from his childhood, that having the requisite qualifications, he can be more useful in the ministry than in secular employments. There ought to be a free interchange of sentiment between the parent and son upon this subject. And as the ungodly son ought to know the strong desire of his parent for his conversion; so the pious son should be made acquainted with the feelings of his parent, in relation to his becoming a minister of Christ.

Pious parents ought to consecrate their children to the service of God. Hannah consecrated her son Samuel before his birth. 'I have lent him,' said she, 'to the Lord, and as long as he liveth, he shall be lent unto the Lord.' The mothers of Schwartz and Samuel J. Mills made a similar dedication of their sons. Had they given millions of dollars to the cause of benevolence, the offering would not have been so valuable. Had Schwartz and Mills engaged in secular employments, the conversion of the world would have been retarded, and millions who will now be saved, would have perished in the darkness of heathenism.

Parents should feel that the Lord has special claims upon their children. If a beloved son has been converted, it is the duty of the parent to enlighten his mind in respect to the nature and extent of his obligation to Christ. . Brothers and sisters and other relatives not unfrequently throw obstacles in the way of those, who desire to study for the ministry. It is proper for them to advise with