

meeting of our poor humanity with God and His eternal Son, and therefore in its essence it is full of miracle.

Fix your hearts, my friends, on this manifestation of the eternal Son, the King of angels and men, the Lord of all power, of all holiness, of never-dying love. Before His bright image and the thoughts which His manifested presence brings to the reverent faithful soul, there flit away into their kindred darkness all unreasonable questions of a bewildering scepticism, all pratings of a human philosophy, which, affecting to be a wiser substitute for the Gospel, would coldly banish to a distance the God whom Christ brings very near, all doubts of our heavenly Father's love, and the despair which follows from them; and, enemies of our peace more common and harder still to conquer, proud, avaricious, angry, unclean thoughts: Christ, all the miracles of whose earthly life hold a spiritual as well as an outward significance, is for our spirits the wonder-worker still. Shall we doubt, in some vain phantasy as to God's changeless nature and the fixedness of His laws, that the Father hears and the Son offers, and Father, Son, and Holy Spirit send answers to our prayers? Shall we fear lest any strength of our temptation, any weakness of our infirmity, can, if we fix our hearts on Him, baffle His Almighty power to purify and save? Lay fairly hold of His Almightly hand outstretched to you, and He will lead you safely. The unknown future in life and in death must be full of terrors to all who are not walking with Him. To the faithful, knowing His power and love and nearness to be manifested as we read of Him in the Gospels, He says, "Fear not, for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name, thou art Mine. When thou passest through the waters I will be with thee, and through the rivers they shall not overflow thee, when thou walkest through the fire thou shalt not be burned, neither shall the flame kindle upon thee: for I am the Lord, thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour." This it is to be under the protecting care and guidance of Him who by His wonderful works is manifested to be mightier than the mightiest.—*Abbreviated from "The Preacher."*

## THE FAMILY AND THE SUNDAY-SCHOOL.

IT is often asked how shall parents assist in the work of religiously instructing their children?

1. They can themselves be consistent Christians. Example pleads with higher power than words. A life of steady, uniform, patient devotion to Christ will impress the child's heart in such a way that all the rough rubs of the world will scarcely or never obliterate those impressions.

2. Attend carefully to family devotion, and see that none of the children are absent, sleeping, playing, reading, or something else during the exercise. Accept no excuse but sickness. Read not as a dull formality, but with a view to obtain important instruction for time and eternity. Enliven and improve the service by singing. If there is but little musical talent in the family, give that little to the Lord. Our hymns are often full of petitions, and the music quickens our faculties. Occasionally, just before or just after singing a stanza, call attention to sentiments which otherwise might be passed over with negligence from frequent repetition. "Do we feel this gratitude which we are about to express to God for having kept us during the night?" Or, "Are we sincere in this confession of sin which we have made, or are about to make?" Such questions would repress carelessness, and lead all to remember that what is said on earth is remembered in heaven. Encourage your children to take part in the exercises. "I have a boy," said a friend once, "who is twelve years of age, who, two or three times a week, joins in the prayer at the family altar." "The Republic is at the fireside," said the Roman orator. *The Church is there too.* It is a small field, maybe, but it is worth the most assiduous cultivation. Your sons and your daughters are growing for the pulpit, for the religious press, for the place of social prayer, for benevolent labour, and for the committal of Christian enterprise. Fill them with the truth; breathe over their widening path the breath of a father's care, and expect, as you may expect, the blessing of the Highest on their souls.

3. See that your children observe their secret prayers on retiring. "I call up," said a man to us whose hair was white with sixty winters, "I call up the sight of my mother tucking me away in my little trundle-bed. Every lineament of that sainted face is as clear to me as though she were here by

my side. There is the little bed. I almost hear the creak of its wooden wheels; I almost see the snow-white spread; I almost feel my warm blankets that I crept between; but, above all, I hear the voice of my mother reminding me to repeat,

Now I lay me down to sleep.

Shall I, can I, ever forget that little prayer—little, indeed, in one sense, but mighty in making me feel the obligation to serve God." Let the older children be instructed to make confession to God of the sins of the day, and implore help to overcome for the future.

4. Make the Sabbath a pleasant day. Set apart an hour that shall be the children's hour. Question each about the experiences of the day, concerning the Sunday-school lesson, the words of the superintendent, the singing, the sermon. Question out of each the truth taken in, and make them feel that their duties and delights are yours also. Through the week inquire concerning the next Sunday's lesson. Help to the elucidation and illustration of it. Anything you may read bearing on the lesson tell, and, if necessary, retell it.

5. If not a teacher in the Sunday-school, be present often as possible. If you are never there, how can you make your children understand that it is a place of any importance? Once a month, at least, you ought to be a visitor.

6. Go to church regularly. No matter if the minister or some member of the church does not exactly suit you; go any how. Take your children along. Let them sit with you. Be attentive to the Word, speak favourably of the minister on your return home, inquire as to the text, amplify any unamplified point, and enforce the teachings. Do not undo all that has been done by thoughtless or cruel criticism.

7. Assist the pastor and the teacher in the specific work of teaching the doctrines of your Church; in other words, teach the catechism to your children.

8. Provide proper reading matter for your family. You are not indifferent as to your table; things wholesome and seasonable are carefully selected. Be as careful in selecting books such as will not only interest and excite, but as will afford healthy mental and moral development. Every household should be supplied with one or more religious papers. Children should early form habits of regard for the Church, its literature, and all its movements. Many a young man has been held in firm affection to the faith, has had habits of liberality established, from the fact that his father was a subscriber to the Church paper. Altogether, the most intelligent Church members, the foremost supporters of the ministry, are found amongst those who are the constant readers of the literature of their Church.

9. Contribute of your means to the purchase of books for the library, and to meet such expenses as are essential to a successful prosecution of the Sunday-school work. Do not wait to be pressed by the superintendent or pastor. Find out for yourself, and be a willing, generous, regular contributor. No investment will yield better returns.—*House.*

## WORRY.

**B**ELIEVERS have rest. God gives them this great comfort. Worry comes from doubt. It nearly always arises from foreboding evils that never come, or doubting promises that are sure. Usually, neither joys nor sorrows are what we anticipate. Why not wait, then, till they come! The present is all that we know with certainty, why then take thought for the future? David says, "I hate vain thoughts," and so should we, and do not most of our fears and many of our hopes and desires, prove to be utterly vain? Our Saviour forbids anxiety when he says: "Take no thought for the morrow." Forecasting is well if seasoned with trusting; looking ahead is proper if we look in hope, and allow for unseen results. Our greatest griefs are unexpected; our highest joys break suddenly upon our hearts. The connection of divine agency with human action is such that no one can forecast the future exactly. Often, what we most fear is changed to blessing, and what promised highest pleasure drives thorns to our hearts. Will worry make our hair white or black? It whitens hair without cause, excludes peace where the Lord would give it, exhausts life where rest is offered, creates evils out of good, begets fear where no fear is lawful, prevents blessings that are sent to our doors, consumes energies needed to win success, invites enemies that hope would repel, grieves the Spirit and hinders his gracious helpfulness.—*Selected.*