

SUNDAY SCHOOL BANNER

for
TEACHERS
AND
YOUNG PEOPLE.

VOL. XXVI.]

FEBRUARY, 1892.

[No. 2.



DEDICATING THE FIRST-BORN.

Dedicating the First-Born.

ONE beautiful feature of the Jewish religion was its preservation of the family life of the people and celebration of domestic institutions, such as the dedication of children, their presentation in the temple, the household festivals, the feast of tabernacles, and the like. Even the poorest, who could not offer a lamb or a kid for a sacrifice, were permitted, like Mary, the lowly mother of our Lord, to offer a turtle dove or two young pigeons. The devout Jew recognizes God as the giver of every good and perfect gift, and offers him the first-fruits of his flock and of his fields—not the halt and lame, but the best that he has.

Jewish family life is often exceedingly beautiful and worthy of highest imitation. We knew

a poor Jew who lived in a travelling van, and earned a livelihood by grinding scissors and the like. Yet two days of every week he did no work; on Sunday, because it was against the law of the land, and on Saturday, because it was against his religion. On this day he placed above the door the sign, "The Lord our God has commanded us to keep holy the Sabbath day." He was a widower with only one child, a little boy about eight years of age. On this boy he lavished all the love of a father's heart and had so instructed the little fellow in the Holy Scriptures that he could read the Bible fluently, not only in English and in German, but also in the original Hebrew. This Jew was a devout man and one that feared God, and we doubt not that the loving All-Father of the Gentile and the Jew accepted his service,