

a meal of victuals a piece every week, than not to have it; they will leave the table at any time to look at a new paper. 7. About learning them to read—that is a hard argument to get over—I suppose they would not feel so interested in reading any thing else. I don't know but my duty as a father will compel me to keep on taking it. What do you think of that?

S. Go on with your reasons, neighbour; I believe you are in a fair way to find out your duty.

B. The eighth was: it was a good paper, and ought to be encouraged. Now, honestly, I must confess, though it was good when I began to take it—it has been growing better ever since: so people generally think that I lend it to occasionally. 9. The profits of it go to spread the gospel. This is a noble object; nobody gets rich by the paper, but a great many may hear the gospel by means of it, that never would without it.

S. We have talked plainly like good neighbours about this matter, and as your reasons appear to me much stronger than your objections, I believe I shall continue my paper, and a friend can do no less than advise you to do the same.

B. I am glad we have talked the subject over, and I believe, finally, instead of sending to have it stopped, I will send on the money in advance for another year.—*N. E. Herald.*

#### SCRIPES FROM MY COMMON PLACE BOOK.—NO. 35.

##### 4. OF THE EVILS OF ENTHUSIASM.

Enthusiasm has been the root of the greatest evils that have befallen the Christian Church. From this arose the Popish Legends of their Saints, which have been used as instruments in the hands of evil minded persons, to induce them to reject the belief of the real miracles of Christ and his Apostles: and from hence our several sorts of dissenters took their rise; till they were once settled and established and then dropt it by degrees, because it would unsettle themselves. It is a perfect opposition to all rule or government; and there can be no order kept where it is admitted.

Among the other evils of Enthusiasm, it is not the least that a distance is thereby brought on all appearances of true Christian zeal and godly piety. An evil word goes out against a good man, and the effects of his labours is lessened, if not entirely defeated. The best Gold may be brought under suspicion, if malice takes advantage of the counterfeits that are abroad, with design to poison the ignorant who know not how to distinguish! Thus said the Jews of our blessed Saviour, "he hath a devil, and is mad: why hear ye him?" At the time of Christ's ministry, many were possessed by devils; and the fact being true, in general would be credited of any in particular: but the scandal was raised by persons who had neither godliness nor honesty; and if he who "spoke as never man spake," and confirmed his word by miracles and signs, could not escape the foulest censure: the best man upon earth, by his caution and prudence what they may, can hardly preserve an uninjured reputation: [verily this is most true! might more than one minister of the Church in these days say!]—They who scrupled not to call the master of the house.—Beelzebub will never spare those of his household. The character of a sober Christian, will always be in danger of two sorts of people, the lukewarm and the fanatic; from those who have too much religion, and from those who have too little. With the former sort, his piety will be lifeless and formal and the latter will trad him as an Enthusiast!—Thus it was, and thus it ever will be; true piety like all other virtues, is in the middle between two extremes.

The prevention and cure of Enthusiasm can be effected, only by observing its evil effects, and by studying faithfully the Holy Scriptures, in connexion with the ancient and primitive Church.

##### MISCELLANEOUS MAXIMS.

1. The fear of the Lord is honor and gladness, and a crown of rejoicing.
2. The root of wisdom is, to fear the Lord; and the branches thereof, are long life.

3. If thou desire wisdom, keep the commandments; and the Lord shall give her unto thee.

6. He that forsaketh his father is a blasphemer, and he that angereth his mother, is cursed of God.

5. The greater thou art the more humble thyself; and thou shalt find favor before the Lord.

6. Make no long tarrying to turn unto the Lord, and put not off from day to day; for suddenly shall the wrath of the Lord come forth; and in thy security thou shalt be destroyed, and perish in the day of vengeance.

7. If thou would'st get a friend, prove him first; and be not hasty to credit them.

8. A faithful friend, is a strong defence;—and he that hath found such an one, hath found a treasury. A faithful friend is the medicine of life.

9. My son gather instruction from thy youth up; so shalt thou find wisdom till thine old age.

10. Be willing to hear every goodly discourse; and let not the parables of understanding escape thee.

11. Use not many words in a multitude of Elders; and make not much babbling when thou prayest.

12. Fail not to be with them that weep, and mourn with them that mourn.

13. Be not slow to visit the sick; for that shall make thee to be beloved.

14. Whatsoever thou takest in hand, remember the end, and thou shalt never do amiss.

Yours,

P. OVEER.

#### TESTIMONIES IN FAVOR OF EARLY INSTRUCTION.

The following testimonies are highly gratifying and encouraging, as they afford to parents and tutors a fresh excitement to diligence and zeal in the religious instruction of children. They will likewise remind some of our young friends of past scenes, when from the lips of their tender mother, they were taught to "know the God of their fathers, and to serve him with a perfect heart, and with a willing mind."

"I owe it to my mother," (says Dr. Watson Bishop of Llandaff,) "I mention it with filial piety for imbuing my young mind with principles of religion which have never forsaken me."

"The virtuous and evangelical principles," writes General Burn, "which I imbibed in my youth, and the pious examples set constantly before me, although frequently slighted, and sometimes in the course of a wicked life entirely forgotten, yet seldom or never failed to witness against me, in the wilful commission of sin; and were frequently the means of preventing its perpetration; and what prevents sin must surely be a great blessing."

The Rev. Philip Henry is said to have frequently mentioned with thankfulness to God, his great happiness in having such a mother, who was to him as Lois and Eunice were to Timothy, teaching him the scriptures from his childhood.

The writer himself has frequently looked back on the days of his childhood, when his mother instructed him in his catechism, and taught him to repeat a morning and evening prayer, which gave him the habit of praying in the first instance, and led him at length to desire and to ask for the grace of prayer.

The principles we imbibe in our youth are seldom altogether deserted. They grow up with us, and as we advance in life, we see more of their excellency and importance. They form a contrast to the loose and wicked sentiments of the ignorant wicked mass of society. If parents who neglect their children are highly censurable in suffering the mental soil to become a desert waste, how guilty are those children who have received the early moral and religious counsels of their parents; but who, instead of bringing forth fruit answerable to such valuable efforts, produce only thorns and briars of profanity, irreligion and vice! Such will mourn at the last when their flesh and their body are consumed, and say, "How have I hated instruction and my heart despised reproof; and have not obeyed the voice of my teachers nor inclined mine ear to them that instructed me."—*Youth's Magazine.*