

of society, survive all the changes incident on external improvement. The loss of a parent's love and constant influence can never be compensated by elaborate systems of teaching in crowds. Home is, and must be, the centre of the holiest and tenderest influences. Our children are given to us not to be merely fed, clothed, and taught how to use their hands with skill for the keeping together of body and soul during the space of three-score years and ten; but to be trained in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and so become qualified for a higher and nobler course when the mortal frame has been laid in the dust. Their souls are, therefore, precious in our sight. It may not, in every instance, be possible to carry out a course of systematic teaching at home—for there are circumstances in some families which preclude such a line of action; but it is possible in the poorest and busiest, as also in the richest and most quiet of homes, silently and orally to sow the seeds of sound principle, of reverence for things human and Divine, and of elevated taste; and, by the daily force of parental affection steeped in the tender love of God, to win young hearts over to the fellowship and service of Christ.

Beyond this, however, we should avail ourselves of the appliances furnished of the zeal and enterprise of the Church. Those most familiar with the history of mankind know well, that the religious training of the young is a work of such magnitude and difficulty as to demand every kind of wise agency to supplement our own exertions within the sphere of home,—the more so in an age of extreme activity and pressing fascination of evil under the semblance of good. It is of considerable value to associate our young people very early with Church life. There are hallowed remembrances in connection with God's "holy hill of Zion." A young heart is less lonely in the world when conscious of having in spiritual things a Church-home. Of many, it may be said that nearly all they know of the Scriptures has been learnt in the Sabbath-school, while we are constantly meeting with instances of persons who ascribe their deepest and most abiding impressions to the instruction and pious influence of teachers in the Sunday-school.

Looking at the subject in its negative aspect, one can hardly conceive of the vast moral and religious disaster that would