

Shorter Catechism as the grandest epitome of Bible truth ever made; and if it has not the prominence it once had in our schools, this becomes a stronger reason why we should make it all the more prominent in our homes. A Presbyterian church cannot live without Bible instruction. Our very existence depends upon an intelligent acquaintance with the Word of God; and the best time, and place, and help for this noble work is the catechism taught to the young by earnest, God-fearing parents who feel the full responsibility of their charge—"Bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

## II. PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY.

We know that no field left uncared for will ever run to *wheat*, but in every case to *weeds*. So no untaught, untrained, uncared-for family will ever become Presbyterian in their belief. To produce such fruits as have grown for generations with such profusion and happy results in Scotland and the north of Ireland demands intelligent Christian culture, for it does not come by chance, nor is it ever found in neglected homes. That form of belief known as Presbyterian, which we hold to be the purest form of New Testament worship, both in doctrine and polity, can be produced only by earnest training, for it is not a natural growth in the depraved human heart. It will invariably be found—as many instances in every age go to show—that the children who grow up in worldly, careless, prayerless, catechismless homes will naturally degenerate to some lower type of religious life, where they will be more at home than when under Presbyterian teaching—if they do not go to swell the great army of the unwashed, unchurchgoing heathen that abound throughout our land, and especially in our towns and greater centres of population. As a church, we must either train our children or die. And if we have not religion in the *home*, we will not have it long in the *pew*; and yet many homes are criminally neglected by those who have taken the most solemn vows to teach their children by both precept and example. There is a sharply marked tendency among parents to turn over the whole matter of the religious instruction of their children to the Sabbath-school; and if our schools are made the substitutes for home training, they will prove to be hindrances and not helps in preparing the way of the Lord. "The curse of the Lord is