

# CHURCH and HOME

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## Family Prayers.

There is one mark of a household in which God is known and loved, which is too often wanted in our day, I mean the practice of family prayer. Depend upon it, the worth of a practice of that kind can only be measured by its effects during a long period of time; and family prayers, though occupying only a few minutes, do make a great difference in any household at the end of the year. How, indeed, can it be otherwise, when each morning, and perhaps each evening too, all the members of that family—the old and the young, the parents and the children, the master and the servants—meet on a footing of perfect equality before the Eternal, in whose presence each is as nothing, yet to whom each is so infinitely dear that He has redeemed by His blood each and all of them! How must not the bad spirits that are the enemies of pure and bright family life flee away—the spirit of envy and pride, and untruthfulness, and sloth, and the whole tribe of evil thoughts, and make way for His presence in the hearts of old and young alike, who as He brings us one by one nearer to the true end of our existence, so does He alone make us to be “of one mind in a house” here, within the narrow presence of each home circle, and here-

after in that countless family of all nations and tongues, which shall dwell with Him, the universal Parent of all eternity.—*Canon Liddon.*

## The Sunday Newspaper.

It would be hardly possible to invent a more destructive method of undermining public ministrations of the sanctuary than the Sunday secular newspaper. The secular is made to supercede the spiritual; the currents of business carry the soul far out into tumultuous seas, away from God's sheltered harbour of needed rest. The whole scheme is fraught with peril to souls.

Said a professed Christian in our hearing recently: “I became so absorbed in my daily paper this morning that I failed to observe when the hour for public service came.” The response of a friend at his side was a terrible rebuke: “You missed an excellent sermon and a rich blessing in the sanctuary.”  
*Selected.*

## The Apparition of the Spring.

“He causeth the grass to grow.” To the patient watcher who has waited through the slow weeks of winter for the glorious apparition of the Spring, and who has yearned for the first glimpse of that forerunning