

to whom one must perforce confide himself in the end, let us choose this divine Raphael without hesitation, let us keep close to His side, let us undertake nothing without consulting Him, let us carry on nothing without His concurrence, and give to Him with unbounded confidence and childlike trust the direction of our lives.

The character of the elder Tobias is a very wise and saintly one. Fidelity to the law of God, even in exile, charity carried to a heroic degree, patience in trial, are its notable features and form a combination of virtues that compels our admiration. One is specially impressed by his wisdom and care in the education of his only son, who bears his name and inherits his virtues.— The Scripture tells us of the early training of this dearly loved child, in a few words which parents of our own day might well lay to heart. For above all learning and the graceful arts that would win for the child the admiration of friends and acquaintances and which we may be sure were not neglected, the father set the spiritual training of his little son. "*From his childhood,*" says Holy Scripture, "*he learned to fear God and to keep from sin.*" *Quem ab infantia timere Dominum docuit et abstinere ab omni peccato.* One cannot read without emotion the wise counsels of this loving father, when feeble, blind and old, he deems himself about to part with his son forever. In the testament of his wisdom and paternal love, are summed up the principles upon which he had formed the character of the child, now grown to early manhood and ready to face the dangers of the world for the first time.

"Listen to my words, my son," he says to the young Tobias, and lay them as a foundation in thy heart. When God has taken my soul, do thou bury my body; and thou shalt honor thy mother all the days of her life, being mindful of the perils she hath endured for thee. All the days of thy life have God in thy mind. Take heed thou never consent to sin, nor transgress the commandments of the Lord. Give alms according to thy ability, and turn not away thy face from the poor. Keep thyself pure in heart and suffer not pride to dominate thee in word or action. Ask counsel of the wise. Bless God at all times and beg Him to direct all thy ways and all thy