

ties, their hopes and their fears, their sorrows and their privileges; the Christian husband sustaining with peculiar effect the comely and venerable character of a king and a priest in his own house; and the Christian wife, sitting beside him in week and matron-like submissiveness, and hearing, in the accents she loves best, the words of eternal life. It should of course be carefully remembered, that this implies the exercise of foresight and previous arrangement, to prevent worldly cares and sometimes worldly visitors, from intruding on their sacred seclusion, and also much prayerful fidelity in appropriating the Sabbath of the Lord to its own sacred employments; but when it is thus wisely provided for, and faithfully devoted, how often is it found, even from the influence it sheds on the days that follow, to have been a day of the Mediator's power, and a season much to be remembered!

But this naturally leads to another view of the subject closely connected with the foregoing. To christian parents it belongs, not only to comfort, and edify one another, but to train up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, to watch for their souls, as they that must give account. Interesting and momentous charge! Awful responsibility! The thought of which might well discourage the most assiduous, were they not abundantly furnished with God's own instituted means, and animated to the diligent improvement of them by his exceeding great and precious promises. But here again, it cannot be but evident, and the most faithful and diligent parent will most readily verify the assertion,—that were it not for Sabbath advantages and Sabbath opportunities, the result of all other efforts would be unsatisfactory indeed. Here, however, let me again guard myself, and that most carefully, against misconception. I do not mean to insinuate—and far be the thought from every Christian parent—that there should not be, as far as possible, amidst all the activities of life, the daily use of means and appliances. That would be a strange engrossment with the concerns of a present world, that would lead us to withhold from our tender offspring what is needful, from day to day, for their bodily sustenance: and surely, it will scarcely be denied by any genuine Christian, that the health of the soul of his offspring is, at least, as precious and important as this temporal life. And accordingly, in pious and well-ordered families, the daily employment, as far as may be, of the following simple, but important, means of grace, will not be neglected. In addition to reading by themselves a short portion of the word of God, as a strictly devotional, and not merely rational or scholastic exercise; (and to this, children should be trained, as soon as they

can read at all; and that they may feel religion to be a strictly personal concern, no domestic duty, however sacred, should be allowed to supersede this exercise;) in addition to this, there ought to be the daily reading, in the presence of the assembled household, of a portion of that holy word, from which parents derive their authority, and children their encouragement, which is the appropriate means of spiritual nourishment to a Christian family as such, and which, in order to the right discharge of every relative, as well as holy duty, they all constantly stand in need of for *a light unto their feet and a lamp unto their path*. Besides, also, secret prayer, one of the first and most precious lessons that the young can be trained to, and which they will not easily forget altogether, if early and duly impressed on them with the sacredness of a father's authority, and the tenderness of a mother's love—there should be stately offered, on the domestic altar, however humbly, the morning and evening sacrifice of prayer and supplication with thanksgiving; old and young bowing together at the throne of the heavenly grace, and pleading with united hearts for all that they stand in need of, from Him who is their Father in heaven, the Maker, the Preserver, and the Saviour of them all. And in addition to that blameless example which every parental movement should exhibit to the filial eye there should be seen, at all times, a practical and intelligible reference to Him who is the guide of all his people's footsteps, the strength of their hearts, and their everlasting porportion.

But here again, it must be equally obvious, as in the case formerly illustrated, that, without the advantages of a Sabbath, shutting out the cares of a present world, and affording time, and quiet, and seclusion for more sustained and concentrated efforts and more abundant supplication,—it must be evident, especially to parents themselves, and that exactly in proportion to the experience they have had in the discharge of their heavy responsibilities, that without the protection, the opportunities, and the precious privileges of the Lord's-day, all their other efforts would be extremely apt to be given up, and, while they continued to be put forth, would be of little avail.

Wherever the Sabbath is honoured, there are associations of sacredness, arising from the very return of that day which is called the *Lord's*, and is devoted to his service, which tell powerfully on the tender minds of the young, and which, among other endeared associations, recur frequently even to those who have bid adieu to their native country, when they travel back in imagination to the scenes of their early days in this chosen land of Sabbaths and of ordinances. This feeling is capable of being turned to the very best

account by pious and judicious parents; not, indeed, by making the blessed day a season of gloom or of melancholy, (an error to be sedulously avoided,) but by strictly guarding it against the intrusion of worldly cares and occupations, and associating it in the youthful mind with all that is attractive and interesting in the discharge of pious obligation, in the knowledge of a once crucified but now risen Saviour, and in the experience of the powers of the world to come.—When in the morning of life the Lord's day is thus rightly understood, and truly honoured, it is often the happy means of producing impressions which are never afterwards effaced; and then, what a wide and effectual door does it open for the full influence of all that is most precious and venerable in the domestic economy—parental instruction, parental authority, parental wisdom, parental piety, and parental love! Sacred, indeed, is a parent's authority, and more than usually depraved is that youthful heart which is not alive to its sacredness; but, assuredly, it has double efficacy, when the evil influences of the world being for a season altogether suspended, the domestic king and priest, in the name of the Lord of the Sabbath, commands his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord, and lead them to the mount of ordinances, *to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple*. Venerable and lovely indeed, is the example of a pious parent, and fitted at all times and in all circumstances to exert a most salutary influence and that in many different ways; for it is one of the admirable provisions of the domestic constitution, that he whom God has placed over them, invested with a portion of his own authority, and whom they are to *"obey in all things, for this is well pleasing unto the Lord,"*—supposing him to be a Christian indeed, conformed to the image of the Great Master of the household, and behaving himself wisely in a perfect way,—is an object in every way fitted to tell powerfully and beneficially on the tender affections of the young; at once commanding their veneration, engaging their undoubting confidence, inspiring them with gratitude, awakening their strongest sympathies, and by all these concurring influences, attracting them to the imitation of those virtues which are the daily objects of their admiration and love. Of all this, every one knows, the influence is proverbial, and peculiarly fitted to impress the minds of the young, both while the loved example lives and moves before them, and still more when he whom they trusted and venerated comes to be laid in the silent grave. But now, of all that is interesting and sacred in a parent's worth and a parent's tender love, what, I would ask those who can speak from experience, affect the young so strongly at the time,