

know that you do not pray in your closet. You evade it, because you know that your life is such that family worship would, in your case, be a mockery, and would only add hypocrisy to sin. Or you are under the influences of that false shame which will be felt to be the most shameful of all things, when the Son of God comes again in his glory. Is it so? And are you about to throw away this advice with your purpose unchanged? Then I can only say that the day is coming, when you will wish that you never had any brethren,—(Luke xvi. 28,) that the Lord had written you childless,—that you had been a poor outcast with no roof to shelter you, rather than the ungodly husband and father, and master, which you this day are,—for then you had been free from guiltiness in the case of others' souls.

The considerations by which I have tried to urge you to a discharge of this duty are, the obligations which you owe to yourselves, to your children, and to God: to yourselves, who will never have the same inward happiness, nor the satisfaction in your family circle, till once the voice of rejoicing, the melody and praise, which are heard in the tabernacles of the righteous, be heard in your own: to your children, who will rise up and call you blessed, if you guide their feet into the way of peace: to God, who offers to become the never-slumbering keeper of you and yours, and to uphold your going out and coming in from this time forth for ever. These are the considerations I have used. Some of you may think that I would have succeeded better, if I had dwelt on the beautiful and picturesque of family religion. I might have done this; and I might have planted you amidst the worshipping household, and invited you to listen to the cordial music of their