

his kindness, solicit his forgiveness, seek his protection, commit ourselves to his care, and resolve, in the strength of his grace, constantly to live to his praise. Let his word be read with the most profound reverence, and with an humble, but ardent desire, that it may be rendered, to ourselves and to our families, "profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness." Making it our study to act thus, we may, in humble dependence on God, anticipate high degrees of spiritual profit. The father of the family conducting these services, naturally forms, in the view of all the members of his household, an object of respect, esteem, and affection. He is a centre of influence and union to all that reside under his roof, and occupies the rank for which he was intended. Such exercises ought never to be tedious, as it is their *quality* rather than their length, which the object of worship regards. At the same time, never let them be performed in an indecent hurry. It will conduce to order and solemnity, and consequent edification, that a certain hour, morning and evening, be appointed for such duties. Thus the members of the family will be careful so to arrange their secular affairs, as to be present, and, with due composure, take their part in those employments. As his part of Christian obligation is faithfully fulfilled, and attended with divine efficacy, so will it prove a powerful means of supporting throughout the week, vital godliness—maintaining in vigor salutary impressions already produced by public ordinances, and of preparing for others of a kindred nature. As the religion of the family prospers, so will each of its members, as the "Lord's day" recurs, be prepared to say—"I was glad when they said unto me, let us go up unto the house of the Lord." If worship in this form be neglected, or seldom, irregularly, and only in a formal manner observed, we do not perceive how genuine piety can flourish. Without entertaining towards you any unjust suspicions, still we would, on