

The gentleman continued, "Suppose your mother were here now, what advice would she give you?" The tears rushed into the eyes of the poor sailor; he tried for a moment to conceal them, but could not; and hastily brushing them away with the back of his rough hand, rose and said, with a voice almost inarticulate through emotion, "I'll go to the meeting." He crossed the street, entered the door of the chapel, and took his seat with the assembled congregation.

What afterwards became of the man is not known. It is, however, almost certain, that he must have had a mother who had given him good instruction; and when the gentleman appealed to him, hardened as the sailor was, his heart melted. Perhaps this interview checked this man in his sins, and led him to the Saviour. However this may have been, it shows the strength of maternal influence. It shows that years of wandering and of sin cannot erase from the heart the impression which a mother's instructions and a mother's prayers have left there.

It is a great trial to have children undutiful when young. But it is a tenfold greater affliction to have a child grow up to maturity in disobedience, and become a dissolute and abandoned man. How many parents have passed days of sorrow and nights of sleeplessness, in consequence of the misconduct of their offspring! How many have had their hearts broken, and their grey hairs brought down with sorrow to the grave, solely in consequence of their own neglect to train up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord! Your future happiness is in the hands of your children. They may throw gloom over all your prospects, embitter every enjoyment, and make you so miserable, that your only prospect of relief will be in death.

That little girl, whom you now fondle upon your knee, and who plays, so full of enjoyment, upon your floor, has entered a world where temptations are thick around. What is to enable her to resist these temptations, but established principles of piety? And where is she to obtain these principles, but from a mother's instructions and example? If, through your neglect now, she should hereafter yield herself to temptation and sin, what must become of your peace of mind? Oh mothers! little are you aware of the wretchedness with which your loved daughter may hereafter overwhelm you.

Many illustrations of the most affecting nature might here be introduced. It would be easy to appeal to a vast number of living sufferers, in attestation of the woe, which the sin of the child has occasioned. You may go not only in imagination, but in reality, to the darkened chamber, where the mother sits weeping, and refusing to be comforted, for a daughter is lost to virtue and to heaven. Still no person can imagine how overwhelming the agony which must prey upon a mother thus dishonored and broken-hearted. Thus is a sorrow, which can only be understood by one who has tasted its bitterness, and felt its weight. We may go to the house of piety and prayer, and find the father and mother with countenances emaciated with suffering; not a smile plays upon their features, and the mournful accents of their voice tell how deeply seated is their sorrow. Shall we inquire into