

ingly useful have we ever found the preparation and season of confirmation among young people, at that period of their lives. Their hearts are tender; worldly feelings, and worldly habits, have not become fixed in their affections and pursuits; and when they are solemnly called upon at confirmation to make a *stand*, and in their own persons a deliberate choice for life, or death,—a decision for eternity,—their young and tender hearts often receive an impression, which (when rightly improved) can never be effected. Very many are the blessed instances we have witnessed of the wisdom of this appointment of our beloved Church. It has often appeared to be the turning point with many young persons, who are now by their devotedness to God, a blessing to those around them.

The ordinance of confirmation appeared to fix more deeply in Ellen's mind the all-important business of life, "the salvation of the soul;" and now, in our daily intercourse it was more encouraging to observe the steady and progressive improvement she made by the constant learning of God's Holy Word. She was ever delighted to converse with me (when an opportunity offered) on those subjects with which her young heart was filled. Though sometimes inconvenienced by the delay, it was impossible to find fault, while she occasionally lingered over her little duties in my chamber, to elicit some conversation about spiritual things.

Surely we do not sufficiently value those deeply important sentences in the Psalms, or simply act upon their suggestions. "I have more understanding than my teachers, for thy testimonies are my meditations," "I am wiser than the aged, because I keep thy commandments." "Through thy commandments I get understanding, therefore I hate all evil ways." "Thy word have I hid within my heart, that I might not sin against thee." If David so highly prized the Scriptures of his day, and spoke of the mighty results they produced, what might not we anticipate with such a glorious treasury in our hands if the same devotedness of prayerful study was bestowed upon them.

The blessed lessons of God's Word so loved by David, can also shed their powerful influence on the minds and hearts of children, and this was remarkably exemplified in the character of "Ellen Smith." The improvement of the reasoning powers—maturity of judgment—tenderness of conscience—sensibility of heart—and even a polite and graceful deportment, appear to follow as a matter of course from the steady cultivation of God's blessed Book. I write the sentiment without hesitation because I have so frequently observed the fact.

Most willingly would this young Christian have left all family connexions and her native land to have accompanied us, though comparative strangers, to a far distant home. But as many circumstances forbad this arrangement, poor Ellen looked forward to our approaching departure as the severest trial she had yet experienced. Very frequently,

as the time drew near, when she appeared in my chamber in the morning, I was grieved to observe her really looking ill, and often asked the question, "Ellen, dear, are you unwell?" "No, Ma'am, thank you," she would quietly reply. "Then why are you so pale, Ellen?" "I did not sleep much, Ma'am." And why did you not sleep, Ellen?" A melancholy shake of the head, or the tearful eye, was generally the only reply I could obtain.

I had arranged with her mother, who was a much improved person, that Ellen should remain at home after our departure to instruct the younger children, hoping that her example might prove a blessing to all her family.—Bitterly did this dear child feel the parting hour with my dear husband and myself. And yet, in the midst of her streaming tears, there was a look of resignation blended with an expression of the deepest sorrow. And I feel convinced that if she could have given utterance to her feelings, the sentiment of her heart would have been, "Lord, not my will, but thine be done."

The last account I heard of this dear child was from a gentleman residing near her parents, some years of her departure. He mentions, "that Ellen Smith is still to be seen Sunday after Sunday regularly leading all the young members of her family to the house of God." I shall meet her no more on earth, but, may it be, that alike "begotten by the incorruptible Word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever," and by his Holy Spirit made meet for "the inheritance of the saints in light," we may both at length reach our heavenly home. There will be no parting and no pain, and the "Lamb which is in the midst of the throne will for ever wipe away all tears from our eyes."

A CLERGYMAN'S WIFE.

POETRY.

A CHILD'S EVENING PRAYER.

BY SAMUEL TAYLOR COLERIDGE.

ERE on my bed my limbs I lay,
 God grant me grace my prayers to say;—
 O God! preserve my mother dear
 In strength and health for many a year;
 And, Oh! preserve my father too,
 And may I pay him reverence due,—
 And may I my best thoughts employ
 To be my parents' hope and joy;
 Preserve my brothers and sisters both
 From evil doings and from sloth,
 And may we always love each other,
 Our friends, our father and our mother:—
 And still, O Lord, to me impart
 An innocent and grateful heart
 That after my last sleep I may
 Awake to thy eternal day! Amen.