

again into sin. O, it was an edifying Christian spectacle to see the affectionate, praying mother, with the whole household, rush to his relief. Sympathy filled every bosom. There was a continuous concert of prayer for his restoration, "Thousands of tears," observed one of the brothers, "were shed for him." At length the lost sheep was restored; and saints and angels, friends and relatives, rejoiced over him with exceeding great joy. And now this happy family, the fruit of faith and prayer, walked in the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. Their light so shone before men, that others saw their good works, and glorified their father in heaven. They were a pattern in Christian households.

Several intervening years passed away. I heard little of the devoted mother or her pious children. Not long since, however, I happened to meet with one who proved to be connected with the family. I eagerly inquired after their welfare; and from what I heard, my heart was filled with joy and gratitude to God. The venerable mother was yet alive, waiting peacefully till her change should come; the ten sons and daughters were all living to God, and members of the Methodist society; seven out of the ten held different offices in the church, and were making themselves variously useful; all had entered the "honorable estate" of "holy matrimony;" and every one had "married in the Lord" with a member of the same christian community! Thus the aged mother, her sons and sons-in-law, her daughters and her daughters-in-law, were all moving heavenward together. To the God of "all the families of the earth" be the glory. Let pious parents mark the interesting, instructive, striking fact, and be encouraged and stimulated to pray *earnestly* for the salvation of their children.—*English Periodical*.

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## THE VASTNESS OF THE UNIVERSE.

In contemplating the immensity, as well as the eternity of God, we feel we have a truth which irresistibly forces itself upon the mind, but yet surpasses all our powers of comprehension. Whatever numbers and symbols we call to our aid, they fall infinitely short of the reality. Science has, indeed, greatly enlarged our conceptions of the vastness of the universe, and yet the whole dwindles into a point, contrasted with the ubiquity of the Divine Being. To gauge the extent of the universe, miles and leagues are too short; and even the velocity of light estimated by time and that time stretched to millions of years, affords but a faint idea of its magnitude. Light, the swiftest body in existence, travels at the rate of nearly 200,000 miles in a second. Compared with other bodies, the sun is near to us, yet it takes eight minutes for a beam of light to pass from that sun to our planet, a distance of 95,000,000 of miles. The planet Neptune, though belonging to our system, is said to be distant 2,900,000,000 of miles, and it takes a period of four hours for a ray of light to pass from the sun to that planet. The great comet of 1680, at its aphelion, wanders to a distance about twenty-five times more remote than the planet Neptune, and it would take light above four days to travel from that distance to our world. Yet that comet belongs to our system; it is one of the group belonging to the solar family. But vast as must be the circum-