

"MOTHER, WHERE ARE THE GIRLS?"

In my journey through life, instances of the lamentable neglect of mothers in the training of their daughters have sometimes crossed my track and called forth an exclamation nearly allied to the question above, "Mother, where are the girls?"

Take for instance the following—and similar instances have occurred no doubt, in the experience of almost every one: "Well, wife, you look rather tired to-night," said Mr. B., as he seated himself by the basement fire, after returning from the store. "Yes," said the care-worn mother, "I really think we shall have to employ a washerwoman soon, as it occupies Betty's whole time, for almost two days in the week, to get through our washing, and then all the ordinary work of the house for that time must devolve upon me." "Devolve upon you, my dear! Why, where are the girls?" "O, you know they are always busy about some of their own matters; you would not have them in the kitchen, cooking and washing dishes, would you?" "Well, wife, I will tell you, it is a subject which has troubled my mind exceedingly for some time past, and as you have asked me a plain question, I feel at liberty to speak more plainly than I have hitherto done. I would have our girls in the kitchen. I consider that the proper place for them at proper times, and I can see no objection to their taking a week by turn in performing kitchen duties. It will not prove a serious inconvenience to them, if they should know how to cook, wash dishes, mix bread, &c.; but come, the tea is waiting, we will talk over this matter again. Come, little ones, get your chairs; but, mother, where are the girls?" "O, they are going out to an evening party, they won't be down to tea to-night."—Tea is over, the husband returns to his store, and the wearied mother, with her three or four younger children to undress and put to bed, without any assistance from her girls.

How well qualified think you, will those girls be, to become the wives of mechanics or tradesmen? The probability is, however, that each has made up her mind never to marry a mechanic, but—as the result may prove—unite herself to some worthless fellow, who passes for a gentleman on account of his unpaid-for superfine broad cloth coat, and delicate hands, unstained by vulgar toil.

Or, look at another picture,—a daguerrotype from life. A family of girls, their parents wealthy it is true, their mother thinking the trouble of two servants undesirable, performs the lighter duties appertaining to the house herself; her daughters, instead of rendering her all the assistance they can, do not even make their own beds; but the mother, yes, the mother of almost six, performs this part of their duty for them.

Think not these are extreme cases, quite the reverse; for rather than arouse your incredulity, I have given but every day occurrences. I will, however, relate one case more, the sad reality of which is often brought to my recollection.

"My dear," said Mrs. M. to her husband, while seated at the breakfast-table, "Can you spare time to visit our friends at L—, to-day, returning to-morrow or next day?" "It will somewhat interfere with my business arrangements," said the indulgent husband, "but I will endeavour to attend to them in time to leave the city in the afternoon." Mr. M., who by the way, is a highly respectable deacon, and his wife a member of the church, dispatches his business as quickly as possible, and ordering the carriage to be ready at three, returns home. At the appointed time they are ready, but the question is asked,—"Mother, where are the girls?" "O, they prefer remaining at home, as they expect some friends this evening." "And are we then, to visit L—, unaccompanied by our children?" "Why, yes, as they did not wish to go, I could not compel them." The visit is paid, they return; and it is not long before a younger daughter, not yet sufficiently versed in deceit to keep secrets, lets it leak out that they had had company, and there was music, and dancing too, and such beautiful things; and, then, 't was almost morning before they went to bed. Yes! and mother knew well the arrangements beforehand, and aided to carry out their plans, in getting father out of the way, whose strict notions did not suit them. She, who should have trained them to virtue and usefulness, was conniving at what must end in their eternal ruin! It were well if the question should continually ring in her ears, "Mother, where are the girls?" till she more faithfully discharges her duty towards them.

But how pleasant to turn to families where the father need not ask, "Mother, where are the girls?" for their handiwork is

around him, their cheerfully rendered services are ever at hand, and mother, instead of being worn out by waiting on them, begins to realize the blessing of having children trained up in the fear of the Lord.—*Advocate of Moral Reform.*

JOSEPH JOHN GURNEY, ESQ.

BY THE REV. E. HICKLSTETH, RECTOR OF WATTON, HERTS.

A great and a good man has fallen asleep in Christ. The Israel of our God has lost the labours on earth of one of its beloved brethren, and the Paradise above has received another increase of its happy number. Our limits allow us to give but a brief notice of this excellent man, and in doing so we shall avail ourselves of some particulars in a very beautiful sketch of his life given in the *Norfolk News* of January 16.

Joseph John Gurney was known, not only to most of our readers, but through Christendom, as a most able, well-instructed, learned, largely benevolent, and pious Christian of the Society of Friends. The writer has been more or less acquainted with him for thirty-five years, and greatly esteemed and loved him as a faithful Christian brother, giving himself, his time, property, and influence to the diffusion of Evangelical truth, and the temporal and spiritual good of his fellow men, of every name and of every class.

He was born in August 2, 1788, and brought up in the principles of his own denomination: but his education was matured at Oxford, under the Rev. John Rogers. He there attended the lectures of the professors, and enjoyed many of the valuable privileges of the University, without becoming a member of it. Having come in early life under the power of Evangelical religion, and deliberately preferring the denomination of the Friends, he devoted all his talents and energy to every plan of spreading divine truth that his principles allowed. His glowing benevolence, indeed, made him ingenious in finding ways of helping others. Thus he gave liberal sums to the schools of the Church Missionary Society, when he could not consistently with his denominational principles support its missions. In 1818, he became an acknowledged minister in his own denomination. Wisdom, truth, and love, eminently distinguished his character. His labours were endless for the good of his own county and city. He was the main spring of almost every effort for improvement, and specially applied himself to the advancement of education, and to the general moral and religious welfare of the middle and lower classes.

On a large scale he exerted himself in promoting the efforts of the *Bible Society* not only through this country, but throughout the world. That greatly honoured and much blessed Institution, which has circulated, or helped to circulate, in 160 languages, dialects, and versions, to the extent of thirty million copies, in all or in part of the inspired Scriptures, had not a warmer friend than our departed brother. May the Lord raise up fresh standard-bearers to carry on its important work.

From 1810, in each successive year, on the anniversary of the Norfolk Auxiliary Bible Society, delightful gatherings of his friends used to assemble at Earham. Besides the former Secretaries, Owen, Hughes, and Steinkopf, and its present Secretaries, such men as Waterhouse, Buxton, Fry, Richmond, Pratt, Wilson, Simeon, Melville, Horne, Marsh, Goode, the Cunninghams, the Noels, Kinghorn, Alexander, and very many that it would be a pleasure to add, assembled in a happy anticipatory Evangelical Alliance, enjoying the most delightful Christian and social intercourse, as the writer can speak from happy experience.

He was much blessed of God, as an eminent instrument of reviving pure religion in the Society to which he belonged. Having first published a treatise on the peculiarities of that Society, they were prepared to welcome from him deeper and fuller views of Evangelical truth, and God honoured his own truth, as brought forward by him and his beloved sister Mrs. Fry, to the quickening of vital godliness, through their efforts, generally in their denomination.

He took a lively interest in all the labours of his sister Mrs. Fry, and his late excellent brother-in-law Sir T. F. Buxton, for the improvement of prison discipline; and his exertions for the abolition of slavery were unceasing.

We cannot but quote one paragraph from the sketch to which we referred at the beginning as beautifully illustrative of those mingled Divine dispensations which form the Christian charac-