

special attention. Of this class let  
 be taken as a representative, he  
 repaired the wall even over against his  
 house. It was the portion assigned him,  
 and he wrought with a will until it was  
 completed. Turning to the domain of the  
 spiritual we are reminded that God has  
 cause in the world, to advance the inter-  
 ests of which we should labour. And  
 on the one hand we must not be sel-  
 f-concentrating all our thoughts and  
 efforts upon ourselves—on the other hand  
 we must remember that the wall over-  
 against our house has claims which  
 cannot be ignored. Indeed in this case it  
 can only be given good heed to the near-  
 at we become prepared to aid the remote.  
 Every one should carefully attend to the  
 concerns of his own soul. Matthew Henry  
 justly says: "If every one will sweep  
 before his own door, the street will be clean:  
 if every one will mend one, we shall all be  
 mended." Look at the harvest field: each  
 stalk has for itself received nutriment from  
 soil and air, and the result is that the  
 whole field is ready for the sickle. Each  
 star emits its twinkling light, hence the  
 whole heaven is radiant with glory. Each  
 insect works for itself in the construc-  
 tion of a cell, and the result is a gigantic  
 edifice for the foundation of a magnificent  
 temple. So, if every one within the sound  
 of the gospel was faithful to his own soul,  
 a blessed change would come over our  
 churches! The present is a coöperative  
 age. Men work in societies. It is so in  
 the Church. And in many cases much  
 is accomplished for which isolated ef-  
 fort would be inadequate. But is there not  
 danger of forgetting personal responsi-  
 bility and of neglecting the soul's own inter-  
 ests? These things ought ye to have  
 done, and not to leave the other undone.  
 Every one must believe for himself, must  
 repent for himself, must for himself keep  
 his garments clean. The Bible is intensely  
 personal in its teaching. "Each one must  
 account of himself to God." Peter  
 says, "Repent every one of you." Paul  
 says, "This one thing I do." How sad if  
 we are working for others we are neglecting  
 ourselves! How mournful if at last con-

strained to say, "They made me keeper of  
 the vineyard, but my own vineyard I have  
 not kept." Dear Reader, how is the wall  
 over against your house?

The heads of families, too, should learn  
 here to care for the spiritual welfare of their  
 children. The importance of family reli-  
 gion cannot be over-estimated. It is foun-  
 dation work. Train up a child in the way  
 in which he should go, and when he is old  
 he will not depart from it. If the duty be  
 performed, the promise will be made good.  
 Yes, from this sweet fountain—family reli-  
 gion—have issued in all ages streams  
 which have made glad the city of our God.  
 As a general rule the children of pious,  
 painstaking parents become ornaments to  
 society. Eli's family has written for itself  
 a painful record; but let it never be for-  
 gotten that Eli was too indulgent. Hophni  
 and Phinehas made themselves vile and he  
 restrained them not. And so, too, did  
 some of the sons of David act very wicked-  
 ly: witness Adonijah's scheming ambition,  
 Amnon's incest, and Absalom's rebellion.  
 But David was faulty in the matter of  
 family government. We are told he never  
 displeased Adonijah by saying, Why hast  
 thou done so? These parents did not train  
 up their children in the way they should  
 go, and what other result could be expected?  
 The parent who is faithful to his children  
 in governing them well, in instructing  
 them in the fear of the Lord both by word  
 and example, and in praying with and for  
 them—never on any account permitting  
 the morning and evening sacrifice to die  
 out—is a man whose offering God has  
 pledged Himself to bless. If only all pa-  
 rents would act thus, then would our streets  
 be free from complaints, and our sons  
 would be as plants grown up in their youth,  
 and our daughters would be as corner  
 stones polished after the similitude of a  
 palace. Parents should not place upon  
 others a responsibility which God has laid  
 upon themselves. Sabbath-school teachers  
 are doing a noble work, but they do not  
 supplant the parent. Indeed, their labours  
 would be ten-fold more productive if they  
 could build upon a foundation which in the  
 case of their pupils was laid at home. The