

bound to circumcise their children; but they were to teach them the commandments, the statutes and the judgments which God gave them, "Thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up." DEUT. VI. 7. It is impossible to suppose that, with these specific directions, they did not instruct their children in the nature of circumcision, which sealed all covenant blessings to them. Now, parents who baptize their children engage to teach them the principles of the religion of Christ. But how many do so? How many endeavor to impress upon their children, that by their baptism, they were consecrated to God,—had the blessings of the covenant sealed to them—and are henceforth to be regarded as members of the Church? how many seek to show their children, the duty of publicly acknowledging their baptismal obligations to serve God? This great work is to be done at the fireside, *but it is not done*. It will not do for parents to plead Sabbath School instructions as an excuse for neglecting this duty. It is extremely difficult to teach children in the Sabbath School when they are neglected at home.

If children were rightly educated by their parents, and the Church; few cases, it is believed, would arise requiring severe discipline; and these remarks are made in the hope that parents will endeavor to do that which they have solemnly engaged to do, "bring up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord," EPH. VI. 4. As a guiding principle on this whole subject, let the Church never lose sight of its infant members, nor cease to regard them as candidates for full communion.

There is another matter to which it is necessary to call the attention of the young and office-bearers of the Church. Many of our baptized young people leave our congregations, and go to reside for a season abroad, where they are no longer under the guardianship of those who know them. Now, as God, and the Church and moral obligation, are the same everywhere; the same principles should everywhere govern the young. But it is not so. Often those who are exemplary at home, are otherwise abroad. They neglect the house of God,—spend the Sabbath, either in manual labor, or in sinful amusements, and after a time return, with loose principles to pollute others. Now, it is the duty of the Church to take cog-

nizance of such doings. It may be said, "it is difficult to ascertain the facts of such cases." Not, if the Church pursues a right course. Let every person who is entitled to a testimonial of character receive such when he departs, and return bringing a similar testimonial. Not a few of the young men of this Province go where they are exposed to evils of various kinds; and who, unknown and unwarned, make shipwreck of faith and a good conscience. Were they to pursue the course recommended; they would be brought under the influence of Christian society, and the means of grace, which could not fail to be attended with beneficial results, both for time and eternity.

To the young and old, who are members of Christ's Church, I say in the words of Paul "obey them that have the rule over you and submit yourselves, for they watch for souls as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief, for that is unprofitable for you." To the office-bearers I say in the words of the same Paul, "Take heed therefore unto yourselves and to all the flock over which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the Church of God which he hath purchased with his own blood," ACTS, XX. 23.—Also in the words of Peter, "The elders which are among you I exhort. Feed the flock of God which is among you, talking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not of filthy lucre, but of a ready mind, neither as being lords over God's heritage, but examples to the flock 1 PETER, 1-3.

Suppose a man, who is the owner of a valuable flock of sheep, to engage a shepherd to whom he gives abundance of suitable provision to feed his flock; and that shepherd, through neglect, allows numbers of that flock to perish, will the owner not hold him accountable? And will not God, whose flock consists of immortal beings, young and old, hold those whom he has appointed to feed them accountable, if through their neglect any of them should perish? He certainly will. To the solemn question "where is the flock that was given thee? JER. XIII, 20. we must one day return an answer.

Tender shepherd, never leave them,

From thy fold to go astray;

By thy warning love directed,

May they walk the narrow way;

Thus direct them, thus defend them,

Let them fall an easy prey.