

ed by supreme authority, it has the countenance of the most venerable and weighty precedents. "Ye fathers provoke not your children to wrath, but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."* "And the words which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart. And 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."† "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."‡ "For I know, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment, that the Lord may bring upon Abraham, that which he hath spoken of him."||

As we are bound to acknowledge and serve God in all the capacities in which we stand connected with him, so this will apply to us as families. While the recipients of his favors in many forms, we are often, in this relationship, the subjects of affliction and trial. Mercies and prosperity, of whatever nature, lay under obligations to gratitude and thankfulness; adversity and pain call for meekness and patience. Omissions and positive transgressions, demand contrition and confession. Thus the grounds of family religion become evident; and one of the leading expressions of piety in this aspect will be found to consist in what is usually styled "Family Worship." This ought to form a subject of the most strict and conscientious care; and to it, accordingly, we would affectionately invite the attention of all those, with whose spiritual interests we are entrusted. Let it be observed in its several parts, with deep solemnity of spirit, as an honor due to our Benefactor and Redeemer. Let it be estimated as a privilege, and performed as a service, in which we adore the divine majesty, thank him for

* Ephes: vi. 4. † Deut: vi. 6, 7. ‡ Josh: xxiv. 15. || Gen: xvii. 12.