

is nothing, perhaps, which unites the social and the religious so beautifully as family worship: it increases family affection, it secures family obedience, it (especially in the evening) composes the mind, and prepares for sleep. Oh! brethren, the family altar should be surrounded as regularly as the family table: Verily such are the brightest spots upon the page of life which we spend in communion with Deity—the most useful—the most joyful—the most edifying. Oh, what can be more lovely to the eyes of piety, what more pleasing to the ears of devotion, what more cheering to the heart of the Christian, than to see the father of a family reading a chapter of holy Scripture, while his wife and children and servants are attentively listening to the “joyful sound,” which makes wise unto salvation, and learning their duty to God and their fellow-men, and then the way to Heaven? then joining their cheerful songs in praise to God for his mercies, and falling upon their knees, humbly implore God’s pardon for their transgressions? Let, then, the offerings of family prayer and praise go up daily to the giver of all your family mercies and blessings, with a constancy and a zeal like that anciently manifested in offering the morning and evening sacrifice.

The fourth and next subject which we bring before you is the necessity for a proper support of your Ministry; it is a fact and one to be lamented, that many of your Ministers do not receive a *competent* support. Even those who are averse to the splendor of a richly endowed Ministry will readily concede that to the Ministers of religion should be secured a proper maintenance, that they should not only be raised above actual want, but that they should also be placed in a position of decent independence. And if the superabundance of wealth be injurious to your Ministers, the extreme of want is still worse, for our holy Christianity is then shamefully degraded in the person of its teachers. If Ministers are lowered into pauperism they will have only the spirit of paupers, and will forfeit the respect of others, by being robbed of their own. And further, if the

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