



FAMILY WORSHIP.

HERE is a story told by a man of business about himself with regard to family worship.

When he first set up a household, having felt the value of religion in his own soul, and being convinced alike of the duty and advantage of family worship, he resolved to observe it regularly; and he did so for a great many years. He had apprentices who lived with him, and he required them, as well as his children and his servants, to be always present.

Through the blessing of God he prospered greatly; but his prosperity was by no means without its snares. His thoughts became more and more occupied with his business, and the day seemed too short for all he wanted to press into it. This led at first to the omission of family prayer now and then; but before very long it was left off entirely, and he contented himself with a few words of prayer along with his wife before they left their bedroom in the morning.

This state of things had continued for some time, when one day he received a letter from a young man who had formerly been an apprentice with him. The letter was respectful and affectionate, the grateful outpouring of the young man's heart. He spoke in it of his own welfare and prospects, but, having done that, he spoke with the deepest thankfulness of the religious privileges he had enjoyed whilst a resident under his master's roof, and especially of that of family worship. Eternity, he said, would be too short for him to praise God for what he had learnt through the service, and for the hallowed impressions it had made on his heart.

He then besought him most sincerely on no account to give it up; for there was every reason to hope that it might prove to others, as it had proved to him, the means of everlasting life.

The letter came to the man's heart as a message from God, and it overwhelmed him with shame and deep sorrow. He took it with him to his secret chamber, and there he spread it before the Lord, confessing his neglect and sin, and humbly imploring the Divine forgiveness.

Nor was that all. He gathered his household together, and declared to them his intention to resume the service and to hold it regularly. He would give up, he said, a part of his business, if that were needful, rather than omit the service. And he held by his resolve.

Are you, friend, who read this the head of a household? If you are, let us kindly ask if you observe in it family worship? If not, will you consider a few thoughts we have to offer you on the subject?

Every man should pray alone, entering his closet, and there praying to his Father who is in secret.

Every man should go to the house of God, especially on the Lord's own day, that he may join in public worship, confessing with his fellow-worshippers their common infirmities and sins, offering with them common prayer and praise, and listening with them to the teachings of the Word of God.

But, besides all this, every man who is the head of a family should gather wife and children and servants about him, once a day at least, but, if possible, both morning and evening, that he may read with them