

bers. They are all the while struggling under the law. They approve of the law, both in its precept and penalty, they feel condemned, and desire relief. But still they are unhappy. They have no spirit of prayer, no communion with God, no evidence of adoption. They only refer to the 7th chapter of Romans as their evidence. Such an one will say, "that is my experience exactly." Let me tell you, that if this is ALL your experience, you are yet in the gall of bitterness and the bonds of iniquity—you feel that you are in the bonds of guilt, and you are overcome by iniquity, and surely you know that it is bitter as gall. Now, do not cheat your soul by supposing that, with such an experience as this, you can go and sit down by the side of the apostle Paul. You are yet carnal, sold under sin, and unless you embrace the Gospel, you will be damned."—EDITOR.

ADDRESS TO MOTHERS.

CHAPTER III.—MATERNAL AUTHORITY—*Continued.*

UPON the subject of obedience there are a few other suggestions of importance to be made.

First, then, there is a very great diversity in the natural dispositions of children. Some are very tender in their feelings, and easily governed by affection. Others are naturally independent and self-willed. Sometimes a child gets its passions excited, and its will determined, and it cannot be subdued but by a very great effort. Almost every faithful mother is acquainted with such contests, and she knows that they often form a crisis in the character of the child. If the child then obtains the victory, it is almost impossible for the mother afterwards to regain her authority. The child feels he is the victor, and the mother the vanquished; and it is with very great difficulty that he will be compelled to renounce his independence. If, on the other hand, the mother conquers, and the child is subdued, he feels that the question is settled, and he has but little disposition to resume hostilities with one who has proved herself superior. I have known many such contests, severe and protracted, which were exceedingly painful to a parent's feelings. But when once entered upon, they must be continued till the child is subdued. It is not safe, on any account, for the parent to give up, and retire vanquished.

The following instance of such a contest occurred a few years since. A gentleman sitting by his fire-side one evening, with his family around him, took the spelling book, and called upon one of his little sons to come and read. John was about four years old. He knew all the letters of the alphabet perfectly, but happened at that moment to be in rather a sullen humour, and was not at all disposed to gratify his father. Very reluctantly he came as he was bid, but when his father pointed to the first letter of the alphabet, and said "What letter is that, John?" he could get no answer. John looked upon the book, sulkily and silent.

"My son," said the father, pleasantly, "you know the letter A."

"I cannot say A," said John.

"You must," said the father, in a serious and decided tone. "What letter is that?"