

the one under consideration, as a standard of the English language—a language copious and scientific, and destined to be a medium of the greatest blessings to the world.

The public are informed that an abridgment of the American Directory, by J. E. Worcester, of Cambridge, Mass. is nearly completed and stereotyped. The abridgment will be a super-royal octavo containing about a thousand pages, in nonpareil type, comprising all the words in the quarto, with the chief Etymologies and full definitions. To this will be subjoined a synoptical view of the differences of pronunciation between the author and some of the latest English orthoepists; and Walker's Key to the pronunciation of classical and scriptural names, with some notes of emendation.—Price six dollars.

The public are also informed that the author has prepared a smaller abridgment of his dictionary for the use of the counting house and for primary schools; and a new elementary work, or spelling book, both in uniformity with the quarto, in spelling and pronunciation. In preparing the latter he has consulted the most experienced instructors, and so classified the various words of irregular formation, as to enable the pupil to surmount most of the difficulties of the language, with the help of this little book alone. To complete the scheme for facilitating the acquisition of the language, and rendering the pronunciation less liable to fluctuation, the author has devised points or marks to be attached to the anomalous vowels and consonants, which points will serve as a certain guide to the true pronunciations.

In addition to these books, a small book of First Lessons, containing the easiest lessons of the spelling book, will be published for the use of beginners. These works are to be forthwith stereotyped in this city, under the inspection of the author; and being uniform in orthography and pronunciation, will relieve the teachers who use them from the perplexities to which they are now subjected by the diversities and discrepancies of elementary books. Between forty and fifty of the principal teachers, male and female, in this city, have already manifested their cordial approbation of this system of elementary instruction.—*N. Y. E. Post.*

MISCELLANY.

STUDY OF THE BIBLE.

"I know of no way in which we can so effectually impart to children a knowledge of God and their duty, as by instructing them in the history and precepts of the Bible. A new era, in the religious condition of mankind, will commence, when parents, universally, seek to govern their children by the influence of the Bible; and to form their opinions upon the principles which it inculcates. This is not to be done by occasional, or stated exhortations upon the subject of religion. The morality of the Bible must be applied to their daily conduct, and by this unerring standard, we must habitually teach them to judge of their feelings and behaviour. The remarks which I have been made respecting the golden rule, will apply with equal force, to a great number of scriptural precepts. I have seen the petulance of a little child instantly checked, by being reminded of this text: "Be ye kind one to another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, even as God, for Christ's sake, hath forgiven you."

Almost the first wish, expressed by a little one, after he can speak intelligibly, is to hear a story; and with none are children so delighted, as with those narrations which abound in the Scriptures. We should avail ourselves of this desire, to pour divine knowledge into their tender minds, and thus open to them the fountain of religious truth. If we perform this duty with fidelity, we shall be abundantly repaid, at every step, not only in the pleasure with which we shall be heard, but also in the benefit derived to our own minds.

It is very important to communicate these histories in a gradual manner; making them perfectly familiar with one, before you relate to them another. Carefully observe, also, whether you are understood by your little auditors. The pains taken by many parents to instruct their children are often lost because they do not understand the meaning of the words which are used. If they appear listless and inattentive, we must be sure (unless they are fatigued

by prolonged attention) that our language is above their comprehension; and this error, if continued, will not only defeat our object in teaching them, but give them a distaste for religious instruction, by which we shall be deprived of the means of access to their minds and thus of the opportunity of doing them good."

The above excellent remarks are equally applicable to the teachers of Sabbath schools and Bible classes as to parents.

A WORD TO THE MIDDLE AGED.—Middle life, ah! how soon will its fleeting years, its sabbaths, its privileges and mercies, be past, even if God should not weaken your strength in the way, and cut you off in the midst of your days. And then old age, with its frosted locks, and palsied limbs, and wavering purposes, and (may I add) its unchanging moral character, will come upon you—a season that God never gave man to live in, but to die in. May the strength of your days be so spent, that if that period should, with respect to you, ever arrive, it may not come unwelcomely. What time hand now findeth to do for God, for thine own soul, and for the best good of thy fellow men, that do with thy might, remember that there is neither work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom in the grave whither thou goest.

THE IMPORTANCE OF ATTENDING TO CHILDREN.

I have often wondered that ministers are not more vigilant and unceasing in their attentions to children and young people. The word of God, the dictates of nature, and all experience conspire to show the importance of these attentions. I could detail facts in reference to this matter, which, if they were properly weighed, would make a deep impression on the minds of some who have been hitherto negligent.—Allow me to give a specimen of two of those to which I refer.

I once knew a minister, who, in the course of his pastoral visitation, went into the house of a parishioner of respectable character, who, with his wife, and several amiable and promising children, were all destitute of religion. They were gay and thoughtless, and from the results of preceding efforts, he had little hope of making much impression on their minds. Yet, as he passed along, he could not rest satisfied without dropping in, and making another attempt to reach their hearts. He sat for a short time, conversing with the parents alone; but without being able to mark the smallest appearance of any favourable impression. At the end of this time two of their children, about eight and ten years of age, of remarkably lovely countenances and manners, entered the room, and politely accosted the minister. He addressed them respectfully, and with marked affection; laid his hands on their heads, and (among other things) said, in his most paternal and happy manner. "God bless you, my dear children! O that he may be the guide and protector of your youth, and make you happy here and hereafter! O how much these dear children need the prayers as well as the instruction of their parents!" He added little more; but all that he said was in the same strain of deep, tender, paternal interest.

The pastor perceived, at the time, that what he said made a favourable impression on the minds of the children. He saw, too, the big tear standing in the eyes of the parents, and an exhibition of feeling which he had never before witnessed in them, and soon withdrew. Many days had not passed before he learned that these parents were deeply serious, and would be glad to see him. You may well suppose he was not long in calling. He learned from their own lips that it was the short and tender address to their children which had been made the means of reaching their hearts. They informed him that when he uttered the words, "How much do these dear children need the prayers as well as the instruction of their parents," the reflection came upon each of them, nearly simultaneously, like an armed man—"Pray for our children! why, we have never prayed for ourselves!" The issue was, that their exercises became more deep and distinct, until they were both enabled to cherish a comfortable hope; and they have, for a number of years past, adorned a profession of religion. Both the children referred to, also, in process of time, became hopefully pious, and are now members of the church.—*American Pastor's Journal.*

CONSTANCY.—What is more honourable than to possess firmness sufficient to execute the dictates of reason and conscience; to support the dignity of our nature and the station assigned us; to withstand adversity with magnanimity; and meet with tranquility, poverty, pain, and death. To act thus is to be great above title and fortune.

The boldest effort of friendship is not when we discover our failings to our friend, but when we discover to him his own.

The winds and thunder set forth God's power; the firmness of the rocks, and the incorruptibility of the heavens, are an obscure representation of his unchangeableness; but holiness is the most orient pearl in the crown of heaven, and only shines in reasonable creatures.

Do not put off serious thought about your eternal state to a death bed, when pain of body and distraction of mind may render you quite incapable of thinking.

Prayer suits every employment and sanctifies every enjoyment. This maxim is verified in the following instances. Dr. Doddridge observed that he found by experience, the more earnestly he was engaged in secret prayer, the more progress he always made in his studies. That eminent physician and amiable Christian, Herman Boerhaave, used to say, an hour in the morning, spent in meditation and prayer, gave him spirit to go through all the business of the day. Gustavus Adolphus, King of Sweden, when once found on his knees by one of his servants, told him not to wonder at seeing him so employed, for none had so much need to pray as kings.

ANECDOTE.

A gentleman travelling in Cornwall, observed a strange dog following him on the road, which, notwithstanding every effort he used to drive him back, claimed an acquaintance with him.

Being benighted in a lonely place, he called at the first inn he met with, and desired to be accommodated with a room. After supper the gentleman retired to rest. No sooner had he opened the room door than the before-mentioned dog rushed in.—After some fruitless efforts to drive the dog away, the gentleman permitted him to stay in the room; thinking he could do him no harm.

When the gentleman began to prepare for bed, the dog ran to a closer door, and then ran back to him, looking very wishfully at him. This the dog did several times, which so far excited the curiosity of the gentleman that he opened the closet door; and, to his great terror, saw a person laid with his throat cut. Struck with horror, he began to think of his own state. To attempt to run away, he supposed, would be unsafe. He, therefore, began to barricade the door with the furniture of the room, and laid himself on the bed with his clothes on. About midnight two men came to the door and requested admittance; stating that the gentleman, who had slept there the preceding night, had forgot something, and was returned for it. He replied, the room was his and that no one should enter his room till morning. They went away, but soon returned with two or three more men, and demanded entrance; but the gentleman, (with an austere voice,) threatened if they did not desist he would defend himself. Awed apparently by this bold reply, they left him, and disturbed him no more. In the morning he inquired of a barber: one was immediately sent for, when the gentleman took the opportunity of inquiring into the character of the host. The barber replied he was a neighbour, and did not wish to say any thing to his disadvantage. The gentleman still urged his inquiry, assuring the barber he had nothing to fear, till the barber said, "Sir, if I must tell you the truth, they bear a very bad character, for it has been reported that persons have called here who have never been heard of afterward." Can you, said the gentleman, keep a secret? On his answering in the affirmative, the gentleman opened the closet door, and shewed him the person with his throat cut; he then directed the barber to procure a constable, and proper assistance, with all speed, which was done immediately, and the host and hostess were both taken into custody, to take their trial at the next assize. They took their trial, were found guilty of the murder, condemned and executed.

N. B. The dog, which appears to have been the principal instrument in leading to this discovery, was never seen by the gentleman after.