

## PIETY AT HOME.

“It was a good counsel which Paul gave through Timothy with regard to providing for aged relatives that people should ‘show piety at home.’ In a great many ways this is the home duty, and by its proper fulfilment large good may be wrought.

“Many homes are not happy homes because, whatever piety its members may show in the church and society, they manifest so little of it within their own dwellings. Many seem to act as if without they wore a mask which they were at liberty to throw off at home, yet nowhere ought there to be more consideration of the feelings of others, more exact justice, or forbearance, than among those who are bound to each other by the ties of human relationship. A great deal of injustice is frequently done by want of proper thought. Even children are misunderstood and their words and actions misrepresented, while their explanations are not received with the proper courtesy and faith they should command. Some persons are grossly and habitually unjust, and manifest most unworthy prejudices. In the discussion in households an argument frequently leads to a war of words which results only in anger and tears. Far too often it is to be feared that a hasty and ill considered word is defended or excused when its injustice should be frankly acknowledged. Many a parent, in a moment of anger, makes an unjust allegation against a child, which is a life long memory of wrong, because he has not Christian grace enough to confess his own fault.

“To strive to make others happy is one of the best ways in which we can show piety at home. It may call for self-denial, but it has a rich reward. It is well when the memory is used to retain the story which will bring a smile around the table, when praise is given without stint where it is deserved, when a word of kindly appreciation heard outside the family, of any one of its members, is mentioned with pleasure. In many homes the mutual holiday gifts do much to cement affection, and if there were throughout the year more of this kindly feeling, how good would it be!”

You are unkindly treated, and are tempted to cherish feelings of revenge against the person who has so treated you. You may, perhaps, remember the command, “avenge not yourselves”; but in trying to resist temptation there comes over your mind a more constraining thought than this. There passes before your mind the vision of a face marred more than any man’s—spit upon, bruised, bleeding—from the brow of which no frown of vindictive hatred lowers upon His torturers, although the brow is pierced with thorns. Love beams from the suffering eyes, and from the bruised and blackened lips come only the words of prayer—“Father, forgive them.” This is the vision that passes before your mind as you are hesitating between the desire of revenge and the promptings of conscience. Something within says, He has bidden thee follow His example; and with that example before you, you do not find it impossible to forgive.