

arranged so as to permit them to meet without distraction. This assembling of themselves together daily at a stated hour, tends greatly, to teach and habituate children and servants to system and order—and the service itself if properly performed, tends to awe and subdue the giddy and turbulent—to reprove the disorderly and disobedient—to encourage the weak and fearful—to admonish and stimulate the indolent and careless. In the reading of God's word there are many facts and truths that are wonderfully applicable to the state and circumstances of both those who read, and of those who hear them read “they come home to their business and bosoms”—they sometimes reprove and admonish as well as counsel and encourage. Who has not felt this? They thus become motives exciting to duty, and very powerful principles of action. Where the Father and master is attentive to his duties, orderly and consistent in his conduct, both to his children and domestics—he is looked on not only as the head of the family to be loved and obeyed—but he becomes invested in the eyes of all—children and domestics—with the character of the servant “the priest of the most High God” the minister of Christ. If he is what he should be as the leader of their devotions, they will venerate him as such. Children naturally love and venerate their parents. They esteem them the wisest, the kindest, and best of human beings, they cannot conceive of any one more noble, benevolent and intelligent than they are—and this fond confiding thought, is cherished until they are aroused from their pleasing dream by some rude shock, caused by the glaring inconsistency of their parents' conduct. But this veneration to parents this respect for their authority will continue and grow, if their early predilections expand into sincere and earnest convictions, when they reflect that the holy consistent and venerable character—which captivated their young hearts—is still possessed and manifested by their parents. When they reflect on the daily and earnest prayers that have been so long presented before the throne of God, for their life and happiness, for the protection and goodness of God, for their pardon and acceptance with God, through our Lord Jesus Christ. The remembrance of these requests, must be very dear and savoury to their souls. They will feel in their souls that no object was so important in the estimation of their parents, as their spiritual well being. This will not only beget similiar desires in their minds for others, but continue that deep and cordial reverence in their souls for the memory of those who have thus borne them on their hearts at the throne of grace. We ask you to ponder this question. Think you, can it be, that a child who daily reads God's word, or hears it read by his parents, who is taught daily by example as well as precept, to prostrate himself before God as the searcher of hearts, can be “disobedient and rebellious and to every good work reprobate.” Can he, think you, read those threatenings recorded in the Scriptures against disobedient children—or those glorious and precious promises made to those who are dutiful and obedient who love honour and obey their parents—and yet after all, continue disobedient, stiff-necked and hard hearted? Such would be truly wonderful, such a moral, most unnatural, monster, may sometimes be found, but certainly they are very rare. We believe God's truth “train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it.” When men see what they regard as exceptions to this rule they lose confidence in God's truth. But if all the circumstances connected with those apparent exceptions were properly known they would see that some inconsistency in the conduct of parents—some grace or duty perverted or neglected, is the source of this great evil. We know, God has assured us, “that the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much” and shall the prayers of a righteous parent—solicitous for the salvation and happiness of his children, not avail much with God? We cannot entertain the thought that they will not avail much, it shocks our convictions of God's goodness, and faithfulness. It seems impious, the thought is sin. Let parents then be diligent and constant in the performance of their duty and God will not disappoint their expectations. We will conclude this.