

A MOTHER'S PRAYER.

Among the students attending the academy at E——, in 1851, was one whose diligence and good standing and devoutness attracted attention. He was the only son of a farmer who lived near the academy, and his mother had been for several years in poor health, laboring under what was pronounced a very threatening disease of the heart. They were an intelligent, cultivated family; and with the parents and their two children their mutual attachments were peculiarly tender and affectionate.

James, the son, had attended the academy several winters, had been hopefully converted, and found his heart going out toward the ministry. But it looked as if the parents needed him at home. And with the mother's very delicate health it was thought to be perilous to even mention to her the subject of James' preparation for the ministry. Such was the view of James' father, and also of his pastor; and to this the young man gave in his adhesion. Some months later, however, he again became exercised in mind on the subject of duty, and again sought counsel of his father and his pastor. After consultation it was agreed, not without much hesitancy, to consult the mother. A day or two later the father broached the subject to her as delicately and prudently as he knew how. Did mother know that James sometimes thought a little about studying for the ministry? No. She was not aware of it. Well, mother, James wanted me to ask you, whether in case Providence opened the way for him to go to college and to the seminary, whether you would be willing. Do you feel as though you could give him up? "Give him up, husband, why that is just what I have been praying for—that God would incline him and fit him to be a minister." The mother's prayers were answered and her gift accepted. Providence smiled on all their arrangements, blessing them with health and competence and long life. Some twenty-four years later the aged parents celebrated their golden wedding, and soon after crossed the river to the Holy City. And for a quarter of a century the son has been a glad reaper in the great harvest, with the prospect of many "sheaves in the day of rejoicing.—*St. Louis Evangelist*

Every duty we omit obscures some truth we should have known.—*Ruskin*.

FAMILY WORSHIP.

For the Maritime Presbyterian.

In the last number of the MARITIME PRESBYTERIAN is an excellent article headed "A Call to Family Worship." Heads of households should read it carefully and seriously ponder over it. There are many families within the bounds of our church who neglect this duty. Some observe it on the Sabbath day and not a few irregularly.

In the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces there was a column in the statistical returns in which was entered number of families observing family worship. In looking over the tables of 1870 out of 130 congregations reporting there are only six, all in the Presbytery of Pictou in which every family is reported as observing this duty. If the same column was still inserted in our blank returns it might be attended with good.

SING:

There is another matter in connection with this subject that needs attention. In a great many families the exercise of singing is dispensed with. This is not necessary should be for family worship consists of three parts, reading the Word of God, sacred song and prayer. The singing should not be dispensed with if it can be conducted. In the olden time it was never neglected, and does it not seem inconsistent for a Christian family to do away with the singing.—D.

THE SERPENT AND THE ADDER.

The East is woefully cursed with poisonous reptiles of all kinds. The special point to be observed in the present instance, however, is that the comparison of wine to the serpent begins in the thirty-first verse rather than the thirty-second. This may be seen better in the following rendering of the two verses: "Look not on the wine when it reddeth, when it sheweth its eye in the cup—glideth smoothly. After that, it biteth like the serpent and stingeth like the hissing-serpent." The word translated "adder" in the ordinary version is elsewhere rendered "cockatrice." It means literally, he "hisser," and it may refer to the small and venomous hissing-serpent found in various parts of the East. Forskal, cited by Smith, mentions among the animals of Arabia, a small serpent answering the description of the biblical "hisser." The breadth of this serpent, he declares, produces irritation upon any part of the body exposed to it. The breadth of wine is the breadth of the serpent.—*S.S. Times*.