

secondary question. There are various sects which have distinguishing peculiarities but there is a great foundation—'repentance toward God, and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ'—on which they are agreed. Now, your first consideration should be to get a safe standing on that foundation, and then you will be able without danger, more deliberately to determine with which sect to unite. You may lose all, even the precious life of your soul, if you wait in your present perilous situation to settle this really secondary question. Look at that vessel trembling under the power of the gale, her sails rent, her seams opening, her rudder lost, and she driven helplessly toward the rocky shore. Of what are her crew thinking? Is it not the main and absorbing object with every one to secure a safe footing on shore? Suppose one of them, with death staring him in the face, should refuse to make an exertion for his safety, because he had not determined whether he should be entertained at this house, or that which he describes on the land. This is your case. Get to shore first, set your foot firmly on the rock, then you may safely take time to decide to which house you may repair."

"MOTHER! WHERE AM I GOING?"

"I AM a sceptic now," said the wretched young man; "and it was what I saw and heard in my early home that hindered me from being a disciple of Jesus. My father and mother must answer for my being just what I am. My heart was sometimes stirred within me at the Sabbath school, and I often went home resolved to become a young Christian; but ridicule and quarrelling soon drove away such thoughts. There was no peace for any who cared for their souls in my home.

"At one time we lost a dear little brother. During his illness, I used to teach him the hymns I had learned at the Sunday school. One day he was singing, 'There is a Happy Land,' when my mother came into the room. He lifted his bright dying eyes to her, and said, 'Mother, I am going to the happy land, wont you come?' She did not answer for a short time, as the tears seemed to choke her,—she was not gone beyond weeping then,—and then she said, 'Alas! my boy, I fear I shall never reach that happy place!' The dear little fellow quickly replied, 'Jesus will love you too, mother, if you ask Him.' These were his last words, but they seemed to have no lasting effect upon the household. Some little time after, we lost a sister, and that was an awful scene. She was constantly crying out, Oh! mother, mother, *where* am I going?" and she died without knowing. Oh, we had a miserable home! All manner of evil ways were present before us. How *could* we, amidst all this, find our path to heaven? They must answer for it, whom we call father and mother.

"My mother is dead; and the scene drove my father mad; and I do not think my brain has been right ever since. All the sins of the past seemed to rise up before her mind, particularly the way she had brought us up. She called us all around her bed; and when we were all assembled to see her die, she said, in a voice that went through our very souls, 'My children, oh! my children, do, I entreat you, seek the Lord, then you may hope to reach heaven; but you will never—no, never—see your poor mother there! I have neglected all the most important duties of life, and I have led you all wrong. For *me* there is no mercy now; but there may be for you, if you seek it.' She then was constantly telling us that she was lost for ever and ever. If Christian friends talked of the mercy and the love of Jesus, her only reply was, 'Too late! too late!' and she died while telling my father he had helped her to die 'a lost sinner.' Her last words were, 'Lost, lost for ever and ever!'"

Fathers—mothers, if you care not for your own souls, surely you will pity the souls of your beloved children. Let them never have it to say, that they would have sought the Lord, but you hindered them. Ere your day of grace is past, plead—where this cry of faith was never repulsed—for mercy to yourselves and for your children. Hear the voice of Jesus—"suffer the little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of heaven."—*Mother's Magazine.*