

Be Ye Holy. Lord Help Me.

BY JAMES LAWSON.

1 Peter i. 15; Matt. xv. 25.

Lord, help me to be Thine.
 Help me to give myself to thee,
 From sin may I be now made free
 Entirely Thine henceforth to be,—
 Bought with thy blood divine.

Help me to come to Thee !
 Burdened and weak, for he p I cry,
 Behold me now with pitying eye,
 On Thee alone, I now rely—
 Lord, strengthen me.

Help me to trust in Thee !
 To me the power in mercy give
 That I may not alone believe
 Thy word, but now b faith RECEIVE
 The gift of PURITY.

Low at Thy feet I lie—
 O may I now from Thee receive
 That which shall fit me here to live
 Obedient to thy will and give
 A passport to the sky.

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Religious Rights of Children.

CHRIST in consecrating children, consecrated childhood ; Which is a state not to be lost in general christian sentiment, but having a peculiar place and individual rights. If we believe that Christ redeemed man's whole nature, if we really think baptism to be anything else than a social ceremony we ought to recognise that the admission of the little one by it into the visible church entails on both parents and pastors certain responsibilities, gives the child certain capabilities for improving those rights.

Yet how seldom is this position used in the religious training of a child ; for the incentives generally used to induce it to do well are a sweetmeat, a toy, a book, etc., instead of the love of God, the pleasing of the Saviour, the higher moral principles susceptible of cultivation in the youngest child. And yet we say that children are Christ's, bought by his blood, graciously gathered to his arms, heirs by right and favor of that kingdom we are to win through much tribulation. Is it not reasonable and natural that this state of grace

ought to be more distinctly evident, and more sensitive to cultivation in early years than the state of nature ?

While I am far from disparaging the frequency and the genuineness of childhood conversions, still ought there to be such a marked necessity for them ? Surely they ought from babyhood to be taught to consider themselves as lambs of Christ's fold, from which they never need wander, their privilege being to follow the Good Shepherd from strength to strength, without knowing any of that bitter experience—

“—That dreary space
 Between their present self and past ;
 But the full graces of their prime
 May, in their weak beginnings be
 Lost in an unremembered time
 Of holy infancy.”

Yet it is evident, that if children are not brought up in this way, but allowed to cultivate every evil desire and passionate temper, there must be penitential sorrow before radical reform.

The great axiom in bringing up children is, that they should “learn to do right before they learn to do good.” Consider, how the child called “Wonderful” grew up for thirty years in absolute domestic seclusion, learning in silence and obedience the great lessons which he afterward taught for all ages !

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Purity of Character.

Over the beauty of plum and apricot there grows a bloom and a beauty more exquisite than the fruit itself—a soft delicate flush that overspreads its blushing cheek. Now if you strike your hand over that, and it is once gone, it is gone for ever, for it never grows but once. The flower that hangs in the morning empearled with dew—arrayed with jewels, once shake it, so that the beads roll off, and you may sprinkle water over it as you please, yet it can never be made again what it was when the dew fell slightly on it from heaven. On a frosty morning you may see the panes of glass covered with landscapes, mountains lakes, and trees, blended with a beautiful fantastic picture. Now lay your hand upon the glass, and by the scotch of your finger, or by the warmth of the palm, all the delicate tracery will