

“Yes, father,” I said, and I felt melted a little with seeing his evident sorrow; “and I wish you to pray for me.”

“Well,” he said, “I should like to pray for you, and with you now.”

We had knelt together an hour before, at family prayer; but we all knelt again; and my father prayed very earnestly and very touchingly for his “dear sailor-boy,” as he spoke of me to his God.

Now, I have sometimes heard persons in family prayer, and in public as well, who have been very much excited and very eloquent, and perhaps very sincere at the time, who yet have not made much impression on my mind—partly, I believe, because I knew their lives were not consistent with the expressions they have uttered. It was not so with my father. His life and his prayers went together; and every word he uttered made itself felt, because there could be no well-grounded suspicion that it did not come from the heart.

Well, my father prayed for me with many groans and tears; he seemed to be wrestling with God for me, and he continued praying long, as if he would have said, “I will not let thee go, unless thou bless me!” He prayed much for my soul, that it might taste and drink deep into Christ’s precious salvation; that I might no longer delay, nor halt between two opinions as to whom I would serve; that in the voyage on which I was entering I might be kept from following the evil example of the careless, profligate, and profane. He prayed that I might be kept from danger, be prospered in all my ways, and be returned home, in God’s own good time, in safety;—that God would bless me indeed.

There was not much more said that night: we soon separated; and none of us went to bed, I think, with dry eyes, or thoughtless minds.

*(To be continued.)*

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## ON DANCING.

It may, perhaps, be the case, that some children have often wondered that their godly parents should have prohibited them from taking part in this amusement. But a few minutes’ serious thought may enable any one to see the propriety of such a prohibition. You know that your parents wish you to avoid whatever may incline to the immoral: they would have you engage in recreations suited to an intellectual being; the desire to prevent you