

the parents may stand to her. Her duty is to preach the gospel to every creature—to gather as many “lambs” as possible into the folds of Jesus and give them the benefits of a christian training. But she has a special and peculiar interest in her own baptized children. They have been consecrated to God; the Church has taken charge of them and has recognized them as in her communion; and she holds the parents responsible for the training of these children. The *Home School* is, of course, the most important of all. The character of the child will in a great measure depend on the moral and spiritual atmosphere of the home circle. It is the duty of the Church to impress parents with the very solemn responsibilities which they incur. The vows of God are upon them; they have promised in the sight of men and of angels and of God to train up that child for Christ. The neglect of such vows involves inexpressible guilt, and moral consequences of the most deplorable description.

How shall the parent train the child? The way is very clear.—Teach your child the plan of salvation—the effects of sin—the love of Jesus. Teach your child to read in his own tongue the Word of God, and furnish him with every facility for understanding it. What you learn from the minister or from books, teach with all simplicity and earnestness to your children. Teach them the “Shorter Catechism” as early as possible, and explain it to them patiently and perseveringly. As they grow older let them study the “Larger Catechism” and the “Confession of Faith.” These “Aids” are of vital importance and no Presbyterian should neglect them, no Presbyterian can neglect them without most serious detriment. FAMILY WORSHIP can be made the occasion of much instruction as well as devotion; and that exercise should be made so interesting that children would delight in it.

But when can the time be secured to teach all these things to the children? Is it not enough to send them to the Sabbath School, to a good day school, and bring them to public worship every Lord's day? No, this is not enough! Nothing can supersede

home instruction, and the influence of home piety. You will find time if you try in earnest. Are there not a few hours of every Sabbath Day available? Every hour of that day should ordinarily be devoted to “the public and private exercises of God's worship.” Nothing should be allowed to interfere with the parental charge and instruction of children during certain hours of the Lord's Day. “Therefore we highly disapprove of paying unnecessary visits on the Lord's Day, admitting strangers into the families, except when necessity or charity requires it; or any other practices, whatever plausible pretences may be offered in their favour, if they interfere with the above important and necessary duty.” (*Directions of Old School Presbyterian Church.*)

While parents have the primary and principal charge of their own children, the pastor must never forget his duty towards them. They are the “lambs of the flock,” and Peter was commanded by the risen Lord to “feed” them. The neglect of parents will not justify or palliate neglect on the part of the Church; on the contrary the worse the condition of the child the more need that the Church should interfere in mercy and love. We are bound to train these “lambs” for Christ and heaven.

The Sabbath School is an institution in connection with the Church and evidently owned by God; let us by all means send our children there; but this does not excuse us from attending to home instruction.—The Sabbath School is, or should be, mainly intended for those who are without the Church; it is a Missionary institution; and as such it has a most important bearing on the extension and prosperity of the Church. While the children of the Church should attend the School let it never be forgotten that one main, if not the main object of the School is to benefit children who have not the advantages of home training.

One of the surest safeguards against heresies of every sort—against defections from our Church—is to imbue the minds of our children with sound doctrines—to familiarize them with the Bible, and the subordinate standards of the Church. It is