

she kept the sheep and lambs from wandering, she ought not to forget to put up a prayer to God, for Christ's sake, to keep her heart from wandering from his commandments.

Just then Betsey's mother came up to take the child, so Betsey and I walked together to the river side, where some sheep were being washed. The sheep were penned up together with hurdels, close to the water. A man stood in the middle of the river to wash them, and another man brought them to him one by one from the pen. When the man in the middle of the river laid hold of a sheep, he threw it on its back, taking care to keep its head just above the water; he then splashed the water about, and washed away all the dirt that he could from the wool on the sheep, and then left the poor animal panting, and half frightened to death, to swim out of the river in the best way it could; and glad was the poor sheep to reach the land. "Betsey," said I, "we should pray to be cleansed from our sins, as the sheep are washed in the river. The little child looked innocently up at my face, and said that she would do so.

At no great distance from where we were, Betsey's father, the shepherd, was shearing some sheep which had been washed the day before; for it is proper that the wool should be quite dry when taken from the sheep's back. Betsey went to speak with her father, and I walked with her. Two large sheets were spread upon the barn floor, and the shepherd and another man were shearing away the wool from two sheep which lay on their backs, panting on the barn floor.

At one part of the barn two men were employed in examining the teeth of the sheep which had been shorn, and in drawing out such as were decayed. I asked the shepherd if it was a general custom with shepherds in other parts to examine the teeth of their sheep. He replied that he believed it was not, the greater was the pity. "A sheep," said he, "cannot get fat unless he eats well; and no sheep can eat well while he has bad teeth in his head." There was a good deal of sound sense in this remark of the shepherd.

Betsey had sat down on one corner of the sheet on the barn floor, to mend a hole in her pinafore; for she was brought up in habits of industry, and never lost time in idleness which might be usefully employed, and she always carried her thimble and needles and thread in her pocket.

"Do you not think, Betsey," said I, "that the poor sheep will go on their way more comfortably this hot weather, when the wool has been taken from their backs?" "Yes, sir," she meekly replied. "And do you not think that we should pray to have every thing taken away from us which at all hinders us from getting forward towards heaven?" "Yes, sir," again said Betsey, her mild blue eyes raised up to my face.

The sheep which had been sheared, and had their teeth examined, were now driven into another pen, where a man dipped an iron with some letters upon it, into a kettle of hot pitch; he then pulled the iron out of the pitch-kettle, and pressed it against the sheep's back, leaving the mark of the letters there in pitch. I asked Betsy why they put the pitch letters on the sheep's backs? "That people may know that they belong to master, sir," was her reply. "Ought we not then, Betsy, to pray that God would put a mark upon us, that we may be known to belong to our heavenly Father?" "Yes, sir," replied she; and again went on mending the hole in her pinafore.

The shepherd sent home a few things by his little daughter Betsey; and just before I parted from her, near the gate which leads through the wood, I asked her what she should pray for when night came, and she kneeled down by her bed side.

"I shall pray, sir," said she, "to God, for Christ's sake, to keep me from wandering from his commandments; to wash away my sins; to take away from me every thing that hinders me in my way to heaven; and to put a plain mark upon me, so that every body may know that I belong to him."

Oh, that every child who reads this account would put up, with the same simplicity, this prayer of Betsey Jones; and like her, every night, when she prays to God, think over what has passed that day which may remind her of him. Then she may say, in the words of the hymn—

"Sprinkled afresh with pard'ning blood,  
I lay me down to rest,  
As in th'embraces of my God,  
Or on my Saviour's breast."

## YOUTH.

When certain renowned matrons of Sparta were exhibiting their ornaments to the admiration of beholders, one noble woman presented her four sons, and said with triumph, *these are my treasures*. She had spent many years in instilling into their minds principles of virtue and patriotism—she had watched the first dawning of reason to avail herself of the opportunity for giving a proper bent to their feelings and inclinations—she had labored until they received and adopted her sentiments, and made them a part of their own. Their principles thus early formed had grown with their growth and strengthened with their strength, until these young men were now ready to go wherever duty called, and to engage vigorously in whatever required their services. Well then might the heroic mother exult in view of her treasures, and challenge comparison with the possessions displayed by associates. Justly might the palm of victory be awarded her, for who performs a higher duty than the parent who educates children properly, who trains them up in the way they should go?

It cannot be doubted that to the influence of parental example and precept on the tender mind we owe those illustrious personages whose names adorn the pages of our country's history. No question but the pious instructions which little George received amid the pastimes of childhood were instrumental in laying the foundation of that greatness which distinguished Washington. The pious and devoted Dr. Payson is believed to have been indebted in a great measure under the blessing of heaven to the instructions of a godly mother. Such examples show youth how much they should prize the instructions and counsel of parents, seeing that if attended to, they may lead them to respectability, happiness and usefulness; and especially do they show the children of pious parents how highly they are favored. Youthful friends that have pious parents who are accustomed to teach you the way of life, whose hearts are bound up in you, and whose voices you have often heard in supplication for you, go kneel before the Lord and thank him for this his loving kindness.

Parental instruction is of the first importance in forming the youthful character, and nothing can supply the place of efforts made by the kind parent in the family circle; but there are also other invaluable means of cultivating the moral powers. The most important of these means is afforded by our Sabbath schools. In them the principles of the Bible are inculcated and made interesting; a habit of punctual attendance upon divine worship and a love for the Sabbath are acquired which will probably make these youth ornaments to society. So many good influences are exerted on the minds of Sabbath scholars, those who attend any considerable time are, generally speaking, obedient, orderly and virtuous children; and they usually become respectable and useful citizens. Universal observation and experience confirm the truth of these remarks.

Youth and children are our country's hope. They will soon occupy the stage of active life, and to them we must look for the completion of the great work of benevolence already commenced. Much has been effected with the present generation in the cause of temperance, but thousands are so accustomed to do evil that they will never learn to do well. King Alcohol has encircled them with a three fold cord not easily broken. Children are bound by no such chains, they have acquired no such evil habits: let then a correct sentiment on the subject be imbibed by them, and the cause of intemperance is soon ended. Who does not see that if achieved at all, the victory must be achieved by them, and that upon them great labor should be bestowed? The same holds respecting every other evil which infests us, and every species of reform which it is desirable to advance; our children must bring them to a termination. Now these children's minds must be rightly