

the influence of the instruction given to this family, and of the example set before them, it was their happy lot to spend the first years of their lives, and form their characters. The result is not surprising. In many other cases where there may be unquestioned, and even ardent piety in the parents, there is seen in their conduct a marked and eager grasping after the things of this world, and in their conversation before their children an importance is attached to them, which fills the youthful mind with false ideas of their value, and fixes the desires on them so inordinately, that they are not likely to seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness.

And where there is no defect, either in parental instruction or example, other pernicious influences may be brought to bear with ruinous effect, while the moral character is forming for future life and for eternity. "Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent towards Sodom. But the men of Sodom were wicked, and sinners before the Lord exceedingly." And while his righteous soul was vexed with the filthy conversation