

### TRAINING CHILDREN.

We sometimes hear it said: "I don't want to compel my child to attend church; I am afraid it will give him a distaste for it when he grows up;" and by the same rule, for the same reason, the reading of the Bible, the Sabbath-school lesson and the observance of the Sabbath are not required.

It is to be remarked, however, that the principle, or theory, is not applied to the work of the public school, the house, the farm, the shop. On the other hand, it is thought that the study, the work, the occupation of early life, is that which will be most likely to engage the attention and fill the ideal of the grown man or woman. The mother who requires and compels her daughter to spend two hours a day at the piano, does not require her to spend an hour and a half in the house of God, in attendance upon public worship, for "fear she will not love to go to church when she is grown up." The father who requires his son to follow a plow or handle a mechanic's tools during the six days of the week, is fearful that, if required to attend the Sabbath-School, or the public worship of the Sabbath, he may get a distaste for it. And so the daughter and the son grow up with no love for God's house, no idea of the sacredness of holy time, no knowledge of God's holy word; and father and mother perhaps wonder how it can be, and mourn over the waywardness of their children, asking brethren and sisters to pray for them.

Mrs. Harriet Beecher shows the fallacy of the theory that a strict observance of the Sabbath begets a distaste for it, when, speaking of the strictness with which it was formerly observed in New England, to the question whether it did not beget such a distaste, she replies "No, it did not," and adds.

"The effect of the system was to ingrain into our character a veneration for the Sabbath which no friction of after-life would ever efface. I have lived to wander in many climates and foreign lands where the Sabbath is an unknown name, or where it is only recognized by noisy mirth; but never has the day returned without bringing with it a breathing of religious awe, and even a yearning for the unbroken stillness and the simple devotion of the Puritan Sabbath.

Prayer is not conquering God's reluctance but taking hold of God's willingness.  
—Phillips Brooks.

### ONLY ONE DAY AT A TIME.

A certain lady met with a very serious accident, which necessitated a very painful surgical operation and many months' confinement to bed. When the physician had done his work and was about taking his leave, the patient asked, "Doctor, how long shall I have to lie here helpless?" "Oh, only one day at a time," was the cheery answer: and the poor sufferer was not only comforted for the moment, but many times during the succeeding weeks did the thought, "Only one day at a time," come back with its quieting influence. I think it was Sydney Smith who recommended taking "short views" as a good safeguard against needless worry; and One, far wiser than he, said: "Take, therefore, no thought for the morrow. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof."—Selected.

### CLOSE QUESTIONS.

Your tempers—how are they? Do you become impatient under trial, fretful when chided or crossed, angry, revengeful when injured, vain when flattered, proud when prospered, complaining when seemingly forsaken, unkind when neglected? Are you subject to discontent, to ambition, to selfishness? Are you worldly, covetous of riches, of vain pomp and parade, of indulgence, of honour or ease? Are you unfeeling, contemptuous of others, seeking your own, boasters, proud, lovers of your own selves? Beware! These are the sediments of the old nature. Nay, if they exist in you, in however small a degree, they are demonstrative that the old man of sin is not dead. It will be a sad mistake if you detect these evils within, and yet close your eyes to them, and continue to make professions of holiness. These are not infirmities; they are indications of want of grace.—Bishop Foster.

Dr. Deems, of New York is authority for the following:—"Last week a gay and beautiful actress was soliciting a member of our church to attend her performance. When the lady positively refused on the ground that as a church-member she could not go, the young actress applauded her and made the statement that whenever she was on the boards and saw a church-member in the house she despised that person as a hypocrite.