

But he knew the power and value of present communion with God ; and he maintained it by purity of motive and unselfish devotion to the service of men.

I have not spoken of the duties and opportunities of parents. I am by no means so confident of my power to instruct them as I was when a younger man, and when I had no children of my own. Sometimes a father or a mother asks the minister to talk to a son or a daughter. Sometimes, perhaps, they may ask a beloved and trusted Sabbath school teacher to do the same thing. This forms a good opportunity for a close conference with such a parent, and for a glimpse, otherwise not easily obtained, into the character and life of the young person under discussion. Such questions as these might be asked : " What are you doing to bring about the salvation of your son ? Have you laid his case before God ? Do you believe your prayers for him will be answered ? What hindrances do you meet with when you talk to him yourself ? " If we find that they admit carelessness

here we have them on ground where their own consciences will condemn them, and it may prove a means of grace to them to put forth some effort here. In like manner we may be able sometimes to use a godly child against a careless parent, always remembering the delicacy of the situation.

When those of us who are seeking to lead the young into the kingdom of God remember our responsibilities and the far-reaching results of success or failure we might well ask " What manner of persons ought we to be in all holy conversation and godliness ? " From the strong current of our own religious interest must come the main impulse to those whom we teach. Life all through nature can come only from life. It is therefore important that we keep near Him who gives it more and more abundantly. And we need to constantly remember our reward,— " And the teachers shall shine as the brightness of the firmament ; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars forever and ever. "

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