

make a family happy ; that makes duty easy, alleviates trials, smooths difficulties, and softens harsh and angry thoughts—when we consider how soon and how certain sickness, separation or death may come in the midst of all its earthly joys and hopes ; we ask, should no acknowledgment of God and of religion be made, and openly and fully recognized in its dwelling ? Should no communing bethere with the sacred page as a source of relief, of comfort, and of strength ? Ought no altar to be set up there to the hopes that are immortal ; no voice of praise to ascend to the author of all comfort and of all consolation ?

There, all powerful for good or ill is the influence of Parents ; there the mental powers of infancy can be moulded into any form by the plastic hand of parental ascendancy ; there it is that the bias is formed for weal or woe, which all future life cannot alter. Thus domesticity has an omnipotent charm. Therefore, should not religion there be lifted up visibly with its irresistible and familiarizing influence before its eyes, as an avowed hope of a happy life, and of a blessed immortality ?

Why should it not be so ? A want of time, a want of competency on the part of the heads of families, or the difficulty of acting so new a character before his or their dependents are too puerile to be discussed. Circumstances never assume their proper character, things never take their just place in our families, till religion is elevated to its rightful supremacy among its professors. Is it not suitable that religion, Heaven's chief agent, interpreter and guide, stand forth prominent before us ? Or shall we labour to arouse in our dependents a spirit of emulation, directly and feelingly talk to them, and by rules and regulations endeavour only to train them to our secular purposes ? Should a family have no other cherished and beloved interest at stake, than for the meat that perisheth ? Ah ! the time is hastening when these beggarly pursuits shall be as the images of a dream. When afflictions, sickness and death shall come, and the eye of affection fixes its last earnest gaze on the consistent Parent, it will not be to wealth nor splendour to which it shall turn, but to the records of Heaven on which the eye of memory shall linger : and in the happy fruits of pious prayer, of parental teaching, and tender voice of love and authority, anticipating as within reach the blessed haven where are rest and safety.

Can it be believed as possible (I speak to matters of fact) that there are heads of families, professors of religion, members of churches, whom the thoughts neither of flying time, nor of boundless eternity, arouse to any permanent emotion either serious or sublime ; and consequently are living in the neglect of this christian avowal of character ; in a total neglect of domestic devotion ; as if there were neither an absolute nor a relative necessity for such a testimony to the sincerity of their profession and faith ! No wonder that such *Prayerless Christians* ! in their conferencial meetings are as raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame, in complaints of their stupid and confused state of mind ; or in the language of the Prophet, " They are consumed with hunger, and bear the shame of the heathen." Although they have been planted together in the likeness of Christ's death, are they plants of the Lord's right hand planting ? Are they God's husbandry ? are they