

with a steady yet gentle hand. Let them see that the Divine law is honoured in their Home Circle. "Children obey your parents in the Lord for this is right." Let each parent see that his family constitutes an honourable exception to the common rule of family government in these latter days. "Sometimes people say," is the remark of a shrewd observer, "that government is not kept up in families as in former times. But that is a mistake. There is just as much family government now as ever there was. However, there is this difference, that in former times, parents governed the children, now the children govern the parents."

3. *The maintenance of a consistent Christian example.* "How shall I train my children in the way they should go?" was the question which a Christian parent once put to his Pastor. The reply was: "Just walk in that way yourself." The most powerful influence that parents can bring to bear upon their offspring, either for weal or woe, is that of *example*. It has been sometimes observed, that the children of the most plausible professors are not unfrequently the most profane and abandoned. Such a sad phenomenon in professing Christian circles may be ascribed, in many cases, to the deteriorating influence of parental example. The life of the parent is in no measure consistent with the profession. The children witness this from day to day, and hence they cannot resist the conviction that, whatever may be said in favour of religion at the fireside, or in the Sabbath school, or in the pulpit, such talk is no better than "sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal."

The case of Lot is well worthy of being pondered in this connexion. It does not appear that there was a pious person in his family but himself. His wife, his unmarried daughters, his married daughters, and their husbands, were all godless. How is this to be accounted for? Will it do to resolve it into the sovereignty of God, and then dismiss the subject? God is sovereign in His bestowments of saving mercy, but yet He is wont to accomplish His purposes of sovereign grace to sinners in connexion with their diligent observance of His appointed ordinances. Look at the choice Lot made when it became necessary for him to part company with Abraham on account of their herdsmen's disputes. He "pitched his tent towards Sodom." He did not consider the moral dangers to which his family would be there exposed. He considered the quality of the soil and the water rather than the moral character of the people. He made his choice on worldly principles, just as those do who "have their portion in this present life." This was palpably inconsistent with Lot's character and profession. He professed to be a worshipper of the true God, and to set his affections on things above and not on things on the earth. The members of his family could not but observe the incongruity between his profession and his every day spirit and conduct, and hence the sad phenomenon of a whole family of a righteous man leaving "the paths of uprightness to walk in the ways of darkness."

Above all things, then, let Christian parents endeavour to shine before their families with the splendour of a holy life. Let them endeavour to be themselves what they would like their families to be. Let them avoid those habits against which they would warn their children, and practice the virtues to which they would train them. Thus, their instructions, counsels and reproofs will have a moral weight which will tell on the