

and industry. This work of formation must be one of love, of tact, of prayer, of unceasing, untiring attention. It is therefore the work of the parent, not of servants or strangers.

Here it is that the humble home of the practical Christian peasant or mechanic, where the mother herself assumes the care of her own children, so often gives to the world noble, true-hearted men, whose integrity and perseverance make them worthy of our esteem and friendship, and not unfrequently raise them to positions of honor and trust in church and state. On the other hand it is not uncommon to find amongst those who have been brought up by governesses and tutors in regal palaces, knaves, libertines, and useless do-nothings, whose very existence is a burthen to the nation and a scandal to religion.

The case of Columbus forms no exception to the general principles which we have been laying down. Irving, indeed, says of him: "He was one of those men of strong natural genius, who appear to form themselves; who from having to contend at the very outset, with privations and impediments, acquire an intrepidity to encounter, and a facility to vanquish difficulties, throughout their career. Such men learn to effect great purposes with small means, supplying the deficiency by the resources of their own energy and invention. This from his earliest commencement, throughout the whole of his life, was one of the remarkable features in the history of Columbus. In every undertaking the scantiness and apparent insufficiency of his means enhance the grandeur of his achievements."

This however does not contradict the theory which we have been advancing. The "strong natural genius" of our hero would never have made him *all* the man that he was, had it not been moulded and strengthened and supplemented by the powerful aids of a thoroughly Christian training, before it was set adrift to steer its own course on the sea of life. His wonderful energy; his systematic habits of order; his cheerful, kindly temper; his solid, unswerving piety; his unaffected courtesy; his devotion to religion and humanity; his spirit of constant prayer which was the life and guide of his great enterprise; all these had been fostered, if not created in his soul, by the lessons which he had received at his mother's knee.

The family circle in which the future discoverer passed his early years must have been a happy one. Harmony, mutual love and mutual forbearance, frank, out-spoken familiarity and sympathy between the parents and the children, were surely amongst