

A MOTHER'S TRAINING.

There were six children in the household—three sons and three daughters. The mother was a cheery, quiet, religious woman, thoroughly bound up in her household. The husband, was a resolute, defiant outspoken unbeliever. He was a journalist, and lost no opportunity to have his fling at Christianity. Unbelievers, bitter as himself, were frequent guests at his table, and made themselves merry with the Bible and religious faith before the children. The mother seldom bore any part in the conversation. Not one of the children entertained the opinions of the father. As they grew up, one after another came into the church. The sons, especially were noted for their intelligent piety. I felt a great curiosity to know how Mrs. Long accomplished her difficult task—by what means she had neutralized the influence of her husband, and how she had led her entire flock into the fold of the Redeemer. I asked Mrs. Long to give me some clue to her method. "Well," she said, "it is a very simple matter. I never opposed my husband, never argued with him, nor disputed on the subject of religion. I never belittled him in the eyes of the children. But I never allowed them to go bed without reading a few short verses of something the Saviour had said. I put his words over against the words of men. If the devil cast in the tares and went his way, might not the truth be as potent? And that's the whole of it.—*Matthew Hale Smith.*

PLEASURES WHICH THE CHRISTIAN MUST FOREGO.

1. Those as to the propriety of which you are in doubt.—Rom. xiv. 23.
2. Those in which you cannot indulge without danger that your example may lead others into sin.—1 Cor. viii. 9; Rom. xiv. 15.
3. Even those in which, if you engage, you will grieve weak Christians, who disapprove them much more than those which Christians universally condemn.—1 Cor. viii. 12, 13; Rom. xiv. 15; Mark ix. 42.
4. Those which have the taint of sin upon them.—Jude 23.
5. Those which, if indulged in, would place you in a false position. (1 Thess. v. 22; 2 Cor. viii. 21), and seem to identify you in taste and life with a sinful world, from which you should be separated.—Rom. xii. 2; 2 Cor. vi. 14–17.
6. Those which might gain the mastery over you, which would interfere with anything of more importance.—Eph. v. 18; Phil. iv. 5; 1 Cor. vii. 31.
7. Those into which you cannot carry your religion without incongruity (1 Cor. x. 31), on which you cannot ask God's blessing (Col. iii. 17), in which you cannot shew forth the shining graces of a Christian character to the honour of God (Matt. v. 16), and in which you cannot breathe the atmosphere of Christ's presence.—Col. iii. 11; Phil. iv. 8.