

## GOD'S CARE.

“Even as a nurse, whose child's imperfect pace  
 Can hardly lead his foot from place to place,  
 Leaves her fond kissing, sets him down to go,  
 Nor does uphold him for a step or two,  
 But when she finds that he begins to fall,  
 She holds him up, and kisses him withal;—  
 So God from man sometimes withdraws his hand,  
 Awhile, to teach his infant faith to stand;  
 But when he sees his feeble strength begins  
 To fail, he gently takes him up again!”

*Quarles' Meditations.*

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## Family Reading.

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### NEW YEAR'S ADDRESS DELIVERED TO A SABBATH SCHOOL.

MY DEAR YOUNG FRIENDS: Let me bespeak your earnest attention, while I direct your thoughts for a little, to some of those truths to which you have listened during the past year, but which you may have neglected or forgotten.

A very celebrated painter, who bestowed great labour upon his work, and employed an immense length of time in finishing his pictures, was asked why he laboured so long and so constantly. He answered, “I paint for eternity.” He meant that he wished his pictures to last so long, and be so admired by everybody, as would make his name to be remembered to the end of time. Now, were any person to ask, after observing our exercises in the Sabbath school, why we spoke so often and so long about these important things, I would just answer, “I speak for eternity,” but with far greater certainty than the person I mentioned to you just now; for I know assuredly, as God himself is true, that if you do not hear as you ought what is spoken to you from time to time, it will be brought forward against you as a witness in the great and dreadful day of the Lord. When a person commences any sort of business, it is always in the hope of deriving some benefit; and after being engaged some time, he is anxious to know whether he is gaining or losing. Now this may be applied to us, only this difference, that it may happen at the year's end, the merchant, on looking over his affairs, finds he has neither lost nor won, but is just as rich, or as poor as when he first commenced. But this cannot be the case in the business in which we have been engaged. We must have won riches more than the world itself is worth, even the pearl of great price, the knowledge of ourselves, and of Jesus Christ, as our Saviour; then we are rich indeed!! Or we may have lost what all the world cannot give or restore, the precious opportunity of embracing Christ, and being saved from the wrath to come!! Now, my young friend, what improvement have you made during the past year? Have you been led to enquire what you must do to be saved; or are you still careless and thoughtless? But perhaps you think you are too young to trouble yourself about the offers of Christ. Then he will have nothing to do with you. He says “They that seek me early shall find me,” and you may be sure if you do not seek him, then you will not find him.

Beware, my young friends, of sin. It first entices, by the pleasure it has in its appearance, and the happiness it offers; and then it destroys by its dreadful consequences. You have heard of that great man, Socrates, who was the wisest philosopher in Greece. Some of his opinions not being agreeable to the people, he was accused, tried, and condemned to die. Two kinds of death were offered to him; one was to drink a quantity of poison from a golden cup; the other was to come near and embrace the figure of a man who was dressed in the most beautiful manner possible. His features wore the most engaging smile and he held out his arms to entice people to come near, in the most winning manner. But mark the consequences. As soon as any one came within his reach, his arms closed upon him, and from all parts of his body, out sprung a thousand lances, which pierced the person in every part, so that he died deceived by the appear-