

and the certainty of their finding Him whom they love. The distance between the great God and the creature man all disappears in our Father's love and our Father's call.

We therefore direct the attention of parents to this excellent method of family teaching. Better than all else is the simple instruction of the Divine Word. It is within the reach of all. Little children who are beginning to lisp can repeat these brief proverbs. When once committed, they can be recited over and over. In time they can be explained, and they will become the powerful factors of a true spiritual life and active godliness.—*The Workman*.

Home Sins.

Of all the spots on the Christian character, the most obvious is temper. Each individual Christian is, we trust, endeavouring to perform carefully and faithfully his or her work in the world around for the Lord: each and all, we hope, desire to be like Moses, faithful stewards of the home charge, but they fail sooner in the latter than in the former; there are more difficulties in shining for Jesus at home than in the world outside our home.

One great hindrance to a home shining is home sin. We may call some sins distinctly home sins, because they are never exhibited, perhaps never guessed at, outside our own circle. And again, I repeat, the most terrible of all home sins is temper. Too often we find Christians all graciousness and sweetness in society, appearing (as Rowland Hill puts it) to be engrafted upon crab-trees in their own houses.

The most visible aspects of this sin—violent outbursts, sullen fits, and angry remonstrances—are so odious in themselves that a Christian possessed of such an evil spirit is generally on his guard, and watches and mourns because of it. But there are various lesser degrees equally dishonouring to the Lord Jesus, which are often permitted and yet constantly sully the fair page of Christian testimony. The want of gentleness in tone and look, the implied sneer, the discourteous retort, the undue regard to our own dignity when offended, the maintenance of our own opinions simply because they are our own, and in spite of the irritation we know they will cause, the painful allusion or ill-timed jest, are all fruits of the crab-tree.—*Selected*.

Letter from Aneityum.

Some of our young people will remember that Dr. Geddie, our first missionary and Rev. Mr. Inglis from Scotland both labored in Aneityum. Rev. Joseph Annand is now in Dr. Geddie's place while Mr. Lawrie, an evangelist, supplies the place formerly occupied by Mr. Inglis.

The following letter from Mr. Lawrie is taken from the *Children's Record* of the Free Church of Scotland:

ANEITYUM, August 29, 1880.

During the month of June I attended the meeting of the Mission Synod, held at Efate this year. We were away from Aneityum over a month, more than half that time being spent on sea.

After the Synod meeting, we had the opportunity of visiting some of the northern isands of this group. I landed on Togoa, a real heathen Island, where a missionary was settled last year. In the course of our walk to the mission station which stands upon the face of a hill, we passed through a native village, where a number of astonished natives came out to get a sight of their strange visitors; for we would probably seem as strange to their eyes as they did to ours. In the centre of this village there were about a dozen immense logs of wood set up on end, and hollowed out in the trunk. On these were carved all kinds of fantastical figures, rudely painted in various colors. These logs are public property, and are used as drums when there is great feasting, or a heathen ceremony is being performed. The method of performing on these drums is simply beating time with a small piece of hardwood. The drums being of various heights, produce a variety of sound, and this with the dancing and singing keeps up the excitement. Our prayer is that the enthusiasm of these people may soon be stirred rather by singing the "Songs of Zion."

We also landed on Api, where a new missionary and his wife have been settled this year. They have been sent by the Presbyterian Church of Victoria. The people were anxiously desiring a missionary, and are not nearly so savage-looking as the Togoans. There are other islands nearer Aneityum which I could speak of, if you had any extra men to send to the heathen field.