

RELIGIOUS TRAINING.

"MORE and more there is growing up a disposition among parents to permit all matters of religious observance to be with their offspring mere matters of choice or preference. Your child must learn French and German, and drawing; but he shall learn his catechism and his Bible lesson, and a reverent observance of this holy day, if he chooses, and not otherwise. A more dismal and irrational folly it is not easy to conceive of! I do not say that there may not have been folly in another and opposite direction. I am not unmindful that religious teaching has been sometimes made a dreary and intolerable burden. But surely we can correct one excess (not, I apprehend, very frequent, or very harmful) without straightway flying to an opposite and worse one. And so I plead with you, who are parents, to train your children to ways of reverent familiarity with God's Word, God's house, and God's day. Let them understand that something higher than your taste or preference makes these things sacred and binding, and constrains you to imbue them with your spirit. And that they may do this the more effectually, give them, I entreat you, that mightiest teaching which consists in your own consistent and devout example."—*Bishop H. C. Potter.*

COMFORT.

COMFORT! What a word is this! How strong, how full of meaning! It pays well to go to our dictionaries and study it, and to trace out its various synonyms. Each definition and application but adds to its beauty and power. When our Lord told His disciples that He would send a Comforter to take His place, and this Comforter should remain with them, He promised every thing which they could possibly need.

We all need comfort. Life is full of cares and troubles. We all have them. We are born to them. Now, what is our refuge, and where shall we find it? We rush hither and thither seeking comfort, but finding none. Multitudes try to drown their troubles by self-indulgence of every kind. But all in vain. Trouble pursues them like a blood-hound, and will not leave them alone. But there is a refuge, and it is nigh at hand. "Come unto Me," saith One, "and I will give you rest." The mercy seat, the Saviour's feet is the refuge. To that refuge we can all go; just as we are we can go. He bids us come—He entreats us to come. No money, no price, is needed. Ho, every hungry, thirsty, longing soul, come!—*Parish Visitor.*

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