

to thy children." The Bible in the *School* can never be a legitimate substitute for the Bible at *Home*. The introduction of the Catechism into the Sabbath school can never justify its removal from the fireside. If Sabbath schools in the present day are doing a great and glorious work, in one direction, it is to be feared that, through the subtlety of the great Adversary, they are made the occasion of much evil in another. The evil is, that many professing Christian parents leave to the *Sabbath School* the work that properly belongs to the *Home*, and which they cannot evade without much guilt, and ruinous consequences to themselves and their children.

Further remarks on this subject may be desirable at some future time. In the meantime, it may be proper to observe, in passing, that this parental instruction should begin *early*. Satan very early begins to sow tares. Parents should begin early to sow the wheat of Divine truth in the minds and hearts of their children. "*From a child*" Timothy knew "the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."

2. *The exercise of scriptural discipline.* The admonitions of God on this subject are very numerous and explicit. "Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying." "Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him." "Withhold not correction from the child; for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die." "The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame."

Eli, the priest of the Lord, neglected these admonitions. "His sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not." The result was, his two sons Hophni and Phinehas became more and more vile, until they were at length smitten down by a stroke of Divine vengeance, and the marks of Jehovah's anger were visited upon Eli, and were entailed upon his children and his children's children. "I said indeed," was the utterance of the Lord God of Israel, "that thy house, and the house of thy father, should walk before me for ever; but now the Lord saith, Be it far from me; for them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed."

A very different line of conduct was pursued by the "father of the faithful." Abraham felt the responsibilities that cluster around the parental relationship. He felt that something more was necessary than that he should merely instruct and counsel his children. He felt parental authority to be a very essential element in that "godly upbringing" that would secure blessed results. He would, therefore, not only instruct and counsel, but he would also "*command* his children." In this he had the marked approval of the God of Abraham. "Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do; seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment, that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which He hath spoken of him." Let all Christian parents do likewise. By the sad results of Eli's negligence, and by the Divine commendation of Abraham, let them be persuaded to hold the reins of government