

affection, which render this connection a state of contention, discord and misery.

But this is not all. The example of parents is ever carefully watched and imitated by their children. If the injunctions of the Gospel are habitually disregarded by the parents ; if the words of profanity, and falsehood, and passion often fall from their lips ; if the trifles of earth, the failing of acquaintances, the tales of passing scandal, the means and measures of acquiring popularity and wealth ; and the follies, and fashions, and amusements of gay life constitute the chief subjects of conversation ; if the supply of animal wants, and the gratification of vain desires, and the promotion of temporal aggrandizement are made the principal objects of attention and pursuit ; if no decided respect is shown for undeviating rectitude and moral goodness ; if the word and ordinances of God are slighted ; and they attend the sanctuary only in compliance with fashion, or habit, or a love of excitement and display ; — if the Christian instruction of their children is neglected ; if the good seeds of virtue are never implanted on their tender minds ; if the pernicious weeds of vice and ungoverned passion are suffered to spring up and flourish unchecked ; if they are permitted to resort to places of idleness and dissipation for amusement and companions ; after such an education, if they become useful and religious members of society, it will *not* be in consequence of the example and instruction of their parents. They may indeed, as some few have done, break the shackles of ignorance and irreligion, and become ornaments in our Christian community. But this is scarcely probable. For they will be peculiarly exposed to so many temptations ; to temptations from their