

daily conversation vivacity, variety, and elevated sentiment. Let young minds grow up surrounded by a spirit of intelligence which reads, which investigates; not mere news of the day, but that which is of substantial importance—the very kernel of truth. It is dangerous to the happiness of a family, if its leading members sink into mental sluggishness. Many a young mind has sought low and vicious excitement abroad, for want of proper mental employment at home.

8. Cherish the social affection.

Nothing can supply the want of these. They give to domestic life its bloom and fragrance. Under their influence every burden is light, every employment cheerful, every care sweet. Without them all mutual service is a kind of task-work, and life itself cold and cheerless. A sense of duty, however strong, is not sufficient. A determination to do just what one is obliged to do in the thousand little cares of domestic life overtasks the conscience, and leaves little room for the play of the affections. These are not altogether spontaneous. They may be cherished—directly, by little attentions and kindnesses which feed them; indirectly, by avoiding whatever drinks up their life—seeking pleasure abroad, apart from the family—self indulgence, too absorbing pursuit of wealth or honor—anything which does not give room for the growth and play of the social affections. We are too much a restless, outgoing, worldly people. There is a wearisome plodding which exhausts the body, depresses the mind, hardens the sensibilities, and drinks up the warm, the playful, and the affectionate, those heart-smiles which are the sunlight of home. What is stern, overreaching, and ambitious in active life preponderate over what is cordial, confiding, and affectionate, in social life. We need a more tropical atmosphere to breathe its blandness and transparency through our feeling and manner. Our social character wants depth, and warmth, and

simplicity, and genuineness. We are too calculating, selfish, unsympathizing, heartless. We should be more ready to rejoice with them that rejoice, and to weep with them that weep; to look, not every man on his own things, but also on the things of others; to be kindly affectioned one to another, in honor preferring one another. And until that religion which comes from the atmosphere of heaven shall breathe its own true spirit in our hearts, to temper our worldliness, to deepen our feelings, and to open the fountains of sympathy, we shall have a wintry climate; the frost will creep in to the very hearthstone of domestic joys, and freeze up the fountains of social happiness.

Of what pure affections and warm sympathies has a kind Providence made us capable! And He instituted the social relations for them, that they might grow out from them, and, like blossoms on our sterner nature, shed their sweetness upon human life. Tender and precious are the ties that bind us to the dear circle of home. Husband and wife, parent and child, brother and sister—the nearest, the sweetest ties that earth can know; and these, gathered up and sheltered under one roof, and blending together all their endearments.

If one have a happy home, he will carry its cheerful spirit with him in the world; it will shine out in the smiles of his countenance, and others that sit not by his fireside will feel its warmth. It matters not so much that in the jostle of a selfish world one sometimes meets its stern competition, its coldness, or even its treachery, if he can turn daily to refresh himself in a home of true smiles and genuine virtue, and warm affections. There is in this world no place like a happy home! There is no computing its influence on happiness or character. Nothing has such a shaping power as home influences. They are first and deepest, and habitual. They are penetrating and all-pervading. They touch every spring