

divine institutions vouchsafed for the well-being of humanity. Samuel the prophet was dedicated to the Church and to God by prayer and faith before his eyes beheld the light of day; Timothy was nurtured from infancy with religious knowledge by his grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice, and so, from those times until the present, men who have attained to positions of eminence as defenders of the faith, and of the rights and liberties of the Church, with but few exceptions, trace their inspiration to the truths and motives with which their young hearts were impregnated, not so much in their early years, as in the early months of their existence. Glorious things are spoken of Zion, the city of God, in the Scriptures; and why should we not speak of these glorious things to our children at the first dawning of consciousness, before the sham glories of mere earthly things have bewildered their vision, or youthful frivolity has incapacitated for an unreserved acceptance of spiritual realities. The representations of the Church in Scripture are alike numberless and varied, and when properly exhibited are exquisitely adapted to the youthful apprehension. She appears as a bride, a candlestick, a city, a dove, a family, a fold, a flock, a garden, a pillar, a temple, a lily among thorns; and then again, symbolized by the New Jerusalem, the Apocalyptic city, the Tabernacle, and the Burning Bush. What themes so rapture-producing; what pictures so attractive; what story so entertaining as the history of the Church—ever burning in the fires of six thousand years' persecutions, and yet, to-day, more verdant and vigorous in her youth than at any other period of her existence. The Church is not like a cloud surcharged with storm and disaster, and casting a threatening shadow over earth's beauties; nor is religion an impalpable ghoul treading the earth with muffled footfalls, congealing, or devouring the budding possibilities of youthful development and enjoyment; but the one is the receptacle of heaven's sunlight, intended to make earth itself divinely luminous and "every common bush aglow with God"; while the other is intended everywhere to replace despair and death, with hope and immortality, and to make the highest and best possibilities of life merge themselves into the probabilities, nay, into the certainties.

Alas! for the future of our race on this earth, if Zion's walls are permitted to be broken down, and her altars profaned; alas! for parental happiness in the present, and parental reward in the future, if the young life of the child be not *magnetized*, as it were, by this principle of "loyalty to the Church."

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True religion is the only remedy against sin—the best philosophy of the wise,—the comfort of the afflicted,—the strength of the weak,—the riches of the poor, and the support of the dying. It gives part of its reward in hand here below, and the best security for the rest above.

No moment should be allowed to pass unimproved;—for if *once lost*, it is *lost forever*.—Rev. R. Ray.

The closet is a nursery for piety; and wherever there is a declension in its duties, there will be a declension of religion in the heart.—J. R. Bond.