

ticular in our holy religion:—the necessity of asking in order that we may receive.

And, here, I must be allowed to express a regret that prayer generally, but more particularly family devotion, is so much and wilfully neglected by many around us. To masters and fathers of families, this duty attaches itself with most reasonable obligation. Whether they be pious or whether they be not, the obligation remains the same. They live in the midst of Gospel light and liberty. The means of grace and salvation are within their power. The invitations of the Gospel extend to all: "Come unto me all ye ends of the earth, and be ye saved." It rejects and discourages none: "whosoever cometh unto me," saith the Almighty, "I will in no wise cast out." Under such circumstances, with such advantages, impiety is criminal; and, if we are not what we should be, the fault is ours and not God's; and, depend upon it, if we do not reform, we shall at last, with the residue of unprofitable servants, be "cast into utter darkness, where is weeping and gnashing of teeth."

The obligation, therefore, is reasonable, and unalterable; and nature and religion call on us to perform it.

We are, to a certain extent, to our families, what the Patriarchs were of old; prophets, priests and kings. To the father, the whole family, and more particularly the younger part of it, look up for counsel, for example and direction. In this relation, then, what can be more his duty, what ought to be more his study, than to instruct them in those things which relate to, and provide for, the everlasting salvation of the soul? If we feel it so imperiously our duty, and are so extremely solicitous, to see our children comfortably established and provided for, during their temporary stay on this subliminary abode; how much more is it our duty, how much more should it interest us, and how much nearer our hearts should it be, daily and hourly to train them up in the "nurture and admonition of the Lord," "as vessels made for honor," both by our instruction and example; that, thus being fellow worshippers here, scions grafted on the same stock, even the Lord Jesus Christ, we may at last, in our respective seasons, be translated from the vineyard of earth to the garden of heaven.

If there is one spectacle pre-eminently interesting in the eyes of the Angels of God, unquestionably it is that of a father in the midst of his family, pointing out, and preceding them in, the narrow path to the foundation of life; adapting to their young, but increasing capacities, the sincere milk, and then stronger meat, of the Gospel of peace, until, from the condition of babes, they attain to the "full measure of the stature of Christ." Happy spectacle! and thrice happy family, where he, who is first in authority, is first in example too! Are we moved by the representation? May the impression abide, and its influence increase,