

are, there have been, and always will be, doubtless, here and there, families in city congregations, the spirit of whose piety is deep and influential. There is no mistaking the fact that they derive their daily inspiration from the Lord Himself, who dwells in them, and ministers to them richly of His grace. It is from such families as these that the small percentage of city students for the ministry comes. Our business is to deal with what is general, not exceptional. Hence the points on which we enlarge we believe to be generally true of the community of professing Christians. Why so few candidates for the ministry are furnished from the homes of Christian people in cities is largely due to the following causes:—

(1.) *A feeble religious life in the home.*—If it be asked how this is indicated, it may be answered, by the neglect of religious instruction. In many cases no attempt is made by parents to instruct their children in the Scriptures, one reason being, probably, that they are so ill instructed themselves; another, that they leave it to Sunday schools, day schools, and the pulpit. In other cases, the instruction given is not regular, or consecutive, and therefore not effective. A small percentage only of parents is faithful in this matter. Children are taught many subjects effectively, but not Biblical knowledge, and the result is just what might be expected moral and spiritual weakness in the character of the young.

It is further indicated by a greater or less neglect of family worship. In a large number of Christian homes it is not observed at all. In the case of many, it is had irregularly, twice or thrice a week, while but a few observe it daily, both morning and evening. And it is also seen in the generally worldly atmosphere of the home, manifesting itself in a lively interest in everything pertaining to the world, its pleasures, its pastimes, its frivolities, to the exclusion of religious matters. The warm genial influence of a growing spiritual life is far from general. There is much religious profession, but little religious life, much religious conformity, but little spiritual power, and little that suggests the presence and spirit of the gentle loving Saviour. Children growing up in such surroundings have little chance of becoming spiritually inclined. They are shaped largely by their environment, by what they see and hear, and hence there is ordinarily little, if any, probability of their hearts being directed toward spiritual things, or toward a spiritual calling.

(2) A second consideration, is the currency of false ideals.—