

opposition is without reasonable foundation, and that, if persisted in, it would seriously interfere with, if not destroy, their child's peace, it is their duty then to lay aside their opposition, and to show, by their affectionate acquiescence, that they love them and loving them, wish them to enjoy the happiness they propose. So much for the duty of parents in such cases. My text, on the other hand, says "My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother." The young are exhorted to do that as being part of their wisdom and their duty. When a young person finds, therefore, a determined opposition on the part of his parents to any settlement which he may be proposing to himself, it is his duty not to meet that opposition thoughtlessly with his, but to listen respectfully to their opinion and advice in regard to it. It is his wisdom, as well as duty, to bear in mind that his parents love him; that he owes much to that love, and that its aim is his happiness, and that their more matured judgment and experience may see things connected with the settlement proposed which he may not be able to see, and which may be incompatible with his happiness. This is a safe and wise rule for the young in such cases. It accords with the teaching of the text, "My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother." To follow this rule gives time for calm reflection, which is both necessary and valuable for youth. It is always the wisdom of the young to hear, and to hear respectfully, the instruction of their father and the teaching of their mother.

So long as death leaves the relationship between parents and children unbroken, the parents' love for the child does not cease to exist. It follows the child wherever he may go. Distance cannot weaken or destroy it. It sends a father and mother's prayer to the land of love for heaven's blessing on him. When death comes to remove the parent, his last thoughts on earth linger around the children he loves, and whom, he feels, he is leaving behind him in a world of evil. May we not believe, that a departed Christian father, and mother's love, pure with the purity of heaven, hovers over the children they loved and left on earth! What return does this never ceasing love of the parent call for from the child? A love, too, that cannot die. That love, when it exists, manifests itself in a compliance with a parent's will, even when contrary to the

child's; provided the thing required be not positively wrong, nor altogether inconsistent with the happiness of the child. It manifests itself in willing endeavours to promote a parent's happiness. The child who is actuated by true filial affection, seeks to allay the anxieties that may be disturbing the peace of his parents, he is their attendant in sickness, he contributes to their support when necessary, and he is able to do so, and bears with the infirmities of their old age. Where can old age find indulgence, and the kind and soothing acts of affection, if not in the piety of children?

Let me, in conclusion, entreat my young readers, for it is to them that my text is addressed, to hear with filial reverence and respect the instruction of their father and the teaching of their mother. Their teaching, my young friends, is that of the most affectionate regard for your happiness, as well as the teaching of experience. It is your wisdom, therefore, as well as your duty, to receive and esteem it. Love your parents, and let your love to them manifest itself in your obedience and the performance of those acts of kindness which love delights to confer. For your imitation in the cultivation of your love and respect for your parents, I can direct you to the highest and most beautiful example this world has ever afforded. I can point to the example of your Redeemer. When hanging on that cross on which he made expiation for the guilt of a guilty world, He, with a love that forgot its own sufferings in its solicitude for the welfare of a mother, looked upon His mother, and, pointing to His disciple whom He loved most, said, "Woman, behold thy son." Then He said to the disciple, "Behold thy mother." The disciple from that hour, we are told, "took her unto his own home."

You will find it to your wisdom, my young friends, as well as your duty, to hear the instruction of your father, and not to forsake the law of your mother. It is your duty to love and reverence them. By so doing you will ensure the approbation of your own conscience. Your conduct in so doing will be as an "ornament of grace unto your head, and chains about your neck," for it will cause you to appear amiable in the sight of men, and be honoured by them. It will ensure for you the approbation of your God, who hath said, "Honour thy father and thy mother," and "Hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother."