

children He laid the obligation of obedience, with the extreme penalty, lessening, however, as they grew in years and matureness. He thus consecrated the family, as St. Augustin says, "a private church in which the parents are priests, and the children the faithful." It is the rudimental society in which there is perfect union of the Church and State, and in which the children are brought up worthy members of both. "Do not abdicate, O ye kings and priests of the family! You holy race and royal priesthood, do not apostatize!" exclaimed lately a holy prelate addressing Christian fathers of families.

Alas! in our times, how many apostate families and fallen-away homes in which there is no one to fulfill the duties of priest, no sanctuary nor altar, no faithful, no *family prayers!* What kind of men and women can be expected to come from those apostate churches? The godless school is bad enough, but what can be expected from the godless home?

Where are those old-fashioned families in which age and youth, parents and children, masters and servants met together every morning before breakfast in petition to the Author of all blessings, and assembled again after nightfall in the sanctuary of home, to blend their voices and their hearts in prayer to Him who would from their slumbers keep? We shall have to seek them, perhaps, to our confusion, amongst sects in which Catholic traditions have been treasured and handed down with more affection and care than amongst the children of the Kingdom in Catholic homes. It is considered