

PASTOR'S STUDY,  
September 13th, 1896.

DEARLY BELOVED :

In a Pastoral Letter addressed to you sometime since, your attention was called to the great importance of sustaining the Family Altar. In connection therewith, a slip, similar to the one you find herewith enclosed, was sent out with a view to learning to what extent this invaluable means of grace is employed or neglected among us. It is gratifying to know that some who, from diffidence or peculiar circumstances, had not had family prayer up to that time, were led by the exhortation then given to resolve upon omitting it no longer. Others, who had allowed the fire upon the Family Altar to become almost or quite extinguished, had it rekindled. There was large response to the questions asked, although many, probably from regret that they could not report favorably, returned no answer.

Upwards of two years have gone since that epistle came to you, and it is fitting that inquiry should again be made about the same matter, that we may know what improvement, if any, has come within this period. How many who once had Family Worship simply on Sundays, have now come to make it a daily exercise? How many who once permitted circumstances a little out of the ordinary to push aside Bible reading and prayer with the members of the household, have so far advanced as to allow nothing to displace what is fraught with so much of spiritual blessing? How many fathers and mothers who were made to realize anew by our former communication that a Family Altar ought to be erected for their own good and their children's, have had the faith to set themselves to the discharge of this duty? And of those who then began to assemble their families in order to bend the knee before God,