

But early religious instruction has some results peculiar to itself. It informs the conscience;—it fixes in the mind those great principles of right and wrong;—of duty to God and to man, connected as they are with time and eternity, in such a manner, that they are seldom eradicated. It may not immediately produce the effects which we so much desire—a real conversion of the heart to God, yet it seldom fails to exert a powerful restraining influence. In the hour of temptation, those instructions form an invisible shield to quench the fiery dart of the tempter; or if this should not be fully effected, how often do they lend to conscience a weight of authority and rebuke, which are irresistible? How many and how affecting are the instances in which a disobedient son after years of profligate indulgence, has, at length, been arrested by a mother's warnings and a mother's prayers, and brought in deep contrition to the foot of the cross? With what heartfelt gratitude does he take up the long-neglected Bible which was presented with many benedictions as a token of parental love? From instances of this sort [and they are many] let parents learn to "cast their bread upon the waters," trusting that it will there be found again "after many days." "In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thy hand, for thou knowest not whether shall prosper either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good." On whom, Brethren, devolves this momentous charge, if not on us? Who will interest themselves in teaching the rising generation the way of life if we do not? And if the rising generation is not taught, what a moral desolation do we leave behind us? I say unless God should avert it by miracles, what a moral desolation must the world soon present? What excuse can we offer for neglecting so manifest and so important a duty? One in which ourselves and our posterity, the world at large and especially the Church of Christ is so deeply concerned? Is it not high time to awake out of sleep, to look abroad on the growing interests of the Redeemer's Kingdom, to consult in earnest for its more rapid advancement and gird ourselves for the work?

Are you a parent, a *christian* parent? Do the retributions of eternity ever rest with solemnity on your mind, and bring you to the throne of grace on behalf of your beloved offspring? And is it possible, that you can neglect those instructions which alone can make wise unto salvation? O unnatural father! O more than unnatural mother! Tell it not in Gath. What must be your reflection in a dying hour? Could the faltering tongue still give utterance to the emotions of an agonizing heart, what arguments, what entreaties, what exhortations, should we have in favour of teaching the young the fear of the Lord! More, dear Brethren, we trust need not be said. With our individual and our collected might and with