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FAMILY WORSHIP.

True Religion moulds the whole life. Having made its home in the heart, it becomes a duty to place in its hand the sceptre that rules the customs and observances of the family. It would be impossible to prove that religion casts a benignant smile on all our secret devotions, but frowns on the consecration to God of the sweet scenes of "domestic happiness," which the poet has described as, "the only bliss of paradise that has survived the fall." When God gives a home, shall an ungrateful hand shut him out of it? The presence of God in a house is to the pious mind the sweetest reflection. Jesus was *called* to the marriage-feast which he graced with his presence,—he was a bidden and a welcome guest,—thus with reverence be it said, we may invite the presence of Him who dwelleth not in temples made with hands, to visit with his mercy our homes. Family worship is that invitation. This hallowed custom has its basis in our social nature. He setteth the solitary in families; the bestowment of such a blessing implies the design to work out from the hallowed arrangement, results showing forth his glory. The link of connection with each other as fashioned by Him, does not unloose us from the chain that binds all to the eternal throne. To all his character is shown in his name "OUR FATHER." Man is not an isolation—an icicle—not a solitary cord—but the threads of love run through the web of society, to bring up in the pattern, something of likeness to Him, whose name and nature is LOVE.

The practice of family worship is time honoured. Ancient heroes who lived and walked with God, are mentioned as building altars to God on the spots where they sojourned. God said of Abraham his friend, "I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord." Joshua the victorious leader of the hosts of Israel, said, "as for me and my house we will serve the Lord." David from the public worship of God returned to bless his household. New Testament precept points in the same direction: Ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. The Bishop must be one that ruleth well his own house; for if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God? Of the deacons there is required a like qualification. The general commands "to pray without ceasing," praying always with all prayer and supplication,"—"whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever