

But when we write of the early influences and teaching of our dear young friend, the record would be void of its most important factor were we not to speak of the mightiest moving force of his life—his early religious instruction.

He was watchfully governed, reared in a Christian home, and led to attend Church and Sunday-school regularly; but the careful religious training of a godly mother was the hallowed instrumentality that overshadowed all the others. That influence touched the springs of all his life and was felt throughout his being. Bible truth was instilled into the mind of Charles, and he was taught how to pray at his mother's knee. She was absorbed in the welfare of her noble boy, and for him her prayers never ceased to ascend. Hour by hour that devoted mother would read to her little ones from "Peep of Day," "Line upon Line," "Precept upon Precept," and "Here a Little and There a Little;" and Charley was always an attentive listener. He was deeply impressed by what he heard, and on one occasion, after hearing the magic story of the life of Joseph, he sat by the fire for a long time deeply meditating, and at length broke out with the words, "Poor Joseph! poor Joseph!" The faithful mother gave herself to her children, and refrained from any calling that would keep her from discharging her duty to them. She was always aware of the whereabouts of her son, and preferred to do for him herself rather than leave him in the hands of others more than necessary. The boys loved their mother, and home was attractive to them because she was the central figure. At times, when there were special calls for the heads of the house to be out in the evenings, as the shades of night had gathered the boys would say, "Ma, are you going out this evening?" and when a negative answer was given, they would exclaim, "Oh, I am so glad!" They knew what to expect, and were glad to gather about their dear mother and learn of the deep things of God. These eventide circles were the mother's "Holy of Holies," where a spiritual fire was kindled that never went out.

Beautiful and impressive supplication was heard from the lips of little Charles at these hallowed scenes, and a habit of prayer was formed which he faithfully observed in adult life.

In the year 1864, at the age of 16, Charles entered Victoria College, Cobourg, where he studied for two years. It was the year in