

ence, charity, conscientiousness and a devout regard for the things of God? Do you practice them in self-denial—in the exercise of faith? Do you teach them to pray, and are you careful that they perform the duty daily in a regular, uniform manner? What influences are allowed to bear upon them? Are they constant attendants and assiduously taught in the Sunday School?

If you are not using means for their growth in grace; if you are not seeking by discipline and method to ripen them into consistent, faithful, devoted servants of Christ, if you are not withholding them from error and evil—think you that according to the known order of Providence, they will contribute towards a high general character of the Church, or that they will even be nominal Churchmen? You are not securing them for the Church, you are not fitting them to serve Christ in their maturity, are you not binding their affections either to the Cross or to the Church. You are making it likely that they will be carried away by any vain blast of false doctrine.

Impressed with the thought of how much for good or evil they may—nay, *will* do, we are anxious that parents should timely consider and realize the fact in the degree of its importance. Nor should they stop with thought and feeling on the subject, but use means to have their offspring grow up as the young plants—to be trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that His Name may be glorified. To secure this, they must train and educate, while the early dew is yet on, and not wait till some indefinite period, which, in such a case, generally never comes. Let parents begin at the earliest moment of intelligence—accompany the momentous work with prayer, patience and perseverance, and thus bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. So, as grown men and women, they will be examples of godliness, holy and beloved, and efficient to do the Church some service.

A few years—only a few—and those children now trundling the hoop beside you, or chirruping in gleesome infancy on your knee, will be marked persons—be as books known and read of men, who without help of index, will form a favorable or unfavorable opinion of them. They cannot hide themselves from scrutiny; they cannot escape the mark which knowledge of their character affixes upon them, a mark of glory or shame. Parents, through your present care or neglect of them, they will be haters and despisers of what is good and true—of what you believe, love and revere; or they will be pure and conscientious, holding the faith in its integrity, and striving for its dissemination throughout our land and the whole world. You cannot shirk the responsibility of your position, and you will have something to answer to God for even their deeds of evil or of good. May He in His mercy grant, that in that awful day, you may rejoice over your past faithfulness, and rejoice too with them over their reward, as good and faithful servants.—*Gospel Messenger*.