

God is the God of order, as we may see from the blessings that attend it. By means of order, a fence is cast up along the path on which the young and the inexperienced are called to walk. The fence may, indeed, be overleaped by the wayward and the evil, but it prevents all who are well-disposed from wandering out of the right way. The evil effects of a disruption of habits of domestic order, are often seen illustrated in the history of young men, who leave their fathers house to reside in large towns. It is no uncommon thing to find youths who, while under their father's roof, and within the restraints of an orderly household, manifest great circumspection of conduct, and bid fair to earn for themselves the respect and esteem of the good; nevertheless, when in a strange place, and surrounded by other associates, relapse into the ways of sin and folly. Faithful ministers in large cities are so impressed with the frequency of such lamentable occurrences, that they have earnestly courted the means of winning around themselves *the attendance of immigrants from the country*. I remember once hearing Dr. Chalmers in a public sermon, lamenting the frequency of departure from the ways of holiness by young men, after leaving their homes, and coming to our large towns.—So numerous were such instances, that they swelled the tide of corruption that rolled down our streets, and another and another victim dropped in, and were speedily beyond the reach of recovery. One case of this nature, if duly considered, were sufficient to rouse from their lethargy, both our ministers and legislators.—Edmond was a young man of the most promising genius. He was the ornament of his family. When he accompanied his parents and sisters to the sanctuary, he might be viewed as one of those olive plants, that was soon to bless and to gladden all around him. His parents cherished the most sanguine hopes of his future prosperity. His sisters already clung to him as their dearest friend and protector. His companions tendered to him their confidence and their love, and the aged seemed already to joy with him, as if the prize had been won, when he had not yet entered on the course. It was needful, so his friends imagined, for the sake of his future glory, that he should go to a city, that might be some fifty miles from his fathers abode. He was now removed from a father's love, a mother's tears. The restraints of the paternal roof and pious neighbors were removed also. He received new companions. He became pleased with their gaiety. He imitated what was light, he forgot what was serious. He swerved farther and farther from the

paths his parents had taught him. They were narrow-minded, and their views must be enlarged, rather than his contradicted. His love to his sisters became cool. They were too unlike the gay world that surrounded him, to meet his views. He spoke slightly of family worship. And the habits of economy and prudence which he had learned, he began to ridicule. By and by, he associated himself with companions who encouraged him in dissipation, and he became at length a source of grief and sorrow to his family and friends.

Now the same causes which operate in leading astray an individual, tell in like manner upon a community. It is much to be feared that families of immigrants, who had been characterised for sobriety at home, after coming into a foreign land, are no longer so. They may have in their houses that book, in which their fathers found their "title to a treasure in the skies." But it lies on the shelf unopened and unread, and the dust which covers it, is a witness against them. They had been zealous for the observance of the sabbath, while at home, but their zeal is now cooled. They had prized, while there, the ministry and ordinances of the gospel, but these are prized no longer. They are now ready to say that their highest good is to be found in the possession of the things of this life. What shall we eat, and what shall we drink, and how shall we be clothed, are all that seem to concern them. Such persons may fancy that they are emancipating themselves from the thralldom of early prejudice. Like Israel of old they are saying "we will be like the heathen, like the families of the countries," and this is their sin. Oh! that they were wise, that they understood these things, that they would consider their latter end. There is a tendency in moral evil, to propagate itself in an encreasing ratio. The men of one age relapsing from the paths of truth and righteousness, bring forth children, who following out the principle of their fathers, depart farther from the good way, until at length in the third generation, every trace of godliness is obliterated. I was struck with the truth of this principle, in turning over the leaves of a printed journal of the late Matthew Miller, a missionary in this country, he gives indeed neither name nor place, and so far I can say to no one "thou art the man," nevertheless, seeing the evil thing is within our territory, it justifies me O reader, in asking the question, whether thou mayest not be the man; and if our hearts witness against us, let us cease to follow a multitude to do evil.