

The Home.

PROV. 30:26

They conies are but a fettle folk,
yet make they their houses in the rocks

A nation within a nation, a world within a world is that place we call home. A nation gets no higher than the homelife and no lower than the home. The home is the foundation of church and state. On it we draw for our Presidents and statesmen, from it we ~~draw~~ ^{select} our soldiers for the suppression of our wrong, to it we look for our preachers of the Gospel, and out of the home come the great army of missionaries that are pushing their way into the very heart of heathendom. In the home are now being trained the parents of the next generation. The text is of fullest meaning, "~~but the conies are but a fettle folk~~ ~~yet make they their houses in the rocks~~" etc.

How immensely are the responsibilities that lie on those have homes. In the old races of Greece the start the races got in the first leap was often cheered as loudly as ~~at~~ the finish and of the race. ^{The victory} depended on the start. Days and months before the ~~race~~ ^{contests} they trainers would practice the runners on starting on time and in

right way. There it was a ^{race} ~~struggle~~ in which only one could win, here in the home is the preparation had for a race in which all must run and all can win. What a thrilling sensation ~~there~~ must surely run thro the ^{nerves} ~~veins~~ of every parent as he contemplates the kind of preparation he is to give his child. The home is not a hot house in which the children can be placed in so many boxes varying in depths of and left to stand for so many days till grown. It is not only a place where we spend 18 or 21 years, it is that and infinitely more. It is a mold into which life is poured and character is shaped. In the home a child learns economy or extravagance, ^{attentiveness or} carelessness, honesty or dishonesty, truthfulness or falsifying, in the home he catches a glimpse of the vision that is born of high thinking and good reading, or in the home he sets the traps in which he is to be snared years afterwards.

The home is the greatest institution in the world. Its depths are unfathomable, its

breadth has never ⁽²⁾ been measured.
The human ^{race} seems to be the dullest thing
on earth, for daily men and women are
setting up ~~new~~ houses for the first
time without knowing or trying to
learn the ~~not~~ first principles of the
mysteries of the house. Years afterwards
the parents see that something is
wrong and that the child of whom
they had such great hopes is making
a shipwreck of ~~their~~ ^{its} youth. And to
stop a child after it has gone on a
certain way for a few years - it
is easier to stop the sun in its
course. As a rule young people
are so engrossed with the idea
of getting a house that they never con-
sider anything but their work, while it
is not a house for which they are laboring.
They think it is but it is hard on what
to build a house and a house in
which to build a house. Some never
get beyond a house and call that

"home". No mere walls, - but they sit with
the finest jewels and gilded with
gold and turned with ivory and hung
with the finest of pictures - yet
has a right to the title home. There
must be a touch of personality, -
love and patience must pull the bow
over the heavy strings of the home life.

The history is not much more than
the flashing out on the reflective bosom
of heaven the actions of home and
home influences, and how ~~ever~~ much there
~~is~~ ^{may} be learned from those who have
preceded us - yet there can be no
~~codified~~ system of rules telling us
just how ~~to~~ many times a child with
black or white hair should be punished
between the ages of three and 18. yet
children differ as ~~often~~ ^{often} as one is born.
Some parents turn their children loose
as ~~early~~ ^{early} in life as possible. No wise
shepherd would turn little lambs
down in a pasture of wolves, yet
there are thousands of people who

do similar things ³ with their children.
We do not wish to prejudice them one way
or the other. Let them grow up to man-
hood and womanhood. Then they will
know how and what to choose. And the
children grow up outside of the church
and oftentimes are lost forever. Better
make narrow minded children (if they
have not the brain for broad mindedness) and
have them believe in Jesus Christ and
let them think that your denomination
is the only true one than to let them
drift off into sin. You need not
think it a sin to have your children
believe that they are actually members
of a denomination of it. That Jesus
organized and named. It will take
only a few steps thro the gates of
heaven till they can see with their
eyes what their brain was too weak
to comprehend here below.

"The cones are but a feeble folk;
yet they make their houses in the rocks."
It is because they are a feeble animal,

bring about the size of our smaller sized rabbits with more delicate bodies that they build houses among rocks. Why should not we build our houses in the rocks? Man is more feeble than animals. An animal walks ^{within} a few minutes after birth, man labors and toils for weeks and months before he can sit alone. Animals comes are in possession of their cognisance in a few days, man is two or three or four years ~~old~~ of age before he knows that all fire burns. Comes are matured at six or 8 months, man at 25 or 30 years. Is not mankind more feeble than comes? Why not build wisely as the comes?

^{Attractiveness}
There is one rock upon which to build the home. Let it not be costly yet well and tastefully furnished. Let nothing but good pictures hang on the walls. Let the children feel glad to invite their friends to ^{visit} the home. Make it most attractive of all by the love that permeates and fills the soul and ^{softens} touch of every one.

Encouragement is another rock in the

to build. Home ⁽⁴⁾ should be the re-
creation spot of earth to every member
of the family. Mutual and ready
helpfulness is a step in the right-
direction toward a well founded home.
A helpfulness of sympathy that eagerly
listens to another's joy, patiently bears
another's sorrow, willingly and gladly
lifts another's burden. A helpful-
ness of counsel that directs and
steers one thro' the breakers of
life.

Discipline ~~and order~~ is another stone
for a house. Not the discipline that
beats and provokes the child and
makes it long to get away from
home, but the kind that makes
the child walk more upright and
binds it to the home. A discipline
that leaves the child with the feeling
that it is loved and it has not
the punishment on itself.
The great corner stone ~~is~~ respect

every house should rest is the old
time family altar. A place where not
alone the family gathers but where
the servants, white and black, come
for their portion of new power, every
morning and evening. It is dif-
ficult work to get a cannibal to wear
clothing. He would rather go naked.
It is for less trouble - so patching
and darning and washing to be done.
But once let him get accustomed to
civilized ways and manners and
no one can induce him to return
to his old ways. I am told that it is ^{with}
the greatest difficulty that the Indians
are kept from appearing in feathers
and paint. It is hard for man
to change and see the need of better
things. Every man who has his
right faculties feels that he knows
what is best for him. To appreciate
and feel the necessity of family
prayer by one who was not accustomed

to it in childhood days ⁽¹⁵⁾ requires a long time and faithful continuance in the prayer life.

Now I know you have in mind some acquaintance who has daily prayer in the home and yet the home life of that family is a failure. Is it the fault of the one who prays or ~~of~~ of the prayer influence that makes it so? A prayer that does not draw you near into the heart of God is no prayer. There may be ~~a~~ ~~be~~ repetition of beautiful ~~sentences~~ ^{words} but words are a hollow mockery if they do not tumble with the beat of a warm heart back of them.

Oh! the power of prayer. A man walked into ~~the~~ the office of one with whom he had a grievance, his face ~~was~~ all a quiver with anger, he wanted to fight and told the gentleman in the office that it had to be settled there and there. "Is that so?" says the man, "well it is my custom to always ask God's direction and help in trouble. You are in it, man."

not let us pray." After the prayer the
surged man ~~had~~ not a word of condem-
nation against the other. He said "I am the
one in the fault." How many such
troubles might be settled at the family
altar, ~~how~~ many breaking and wounded
hearts might be healed had you a
prayer in your home night and
morning! There are some troubles
that can never be settled elsewhere.
You are troubled about your children
not doing the best. You would not
think of putting a rose bush in a
dark room but you have kept your
children in ~~the~~ a dark room away
from the sunshine of God's presence
all their days. You and Christ are partners
in the setting up of your house. You
build, Christ sustains, you provide for temp-
oral needs, Christ for eternal needs, you give
counsel and advice but it takes Christ to change
the heart of your child. If you do not have
him to help you, your work will fail and your
children will sooner or later come to a bad
end and disgrace you. Build your house in
the rock of prayer. The corners are but a further
walk yet they build their rock houses in the rocks.