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Build Again the Fallen Altar.

It is high time that Methodism was building again the family altar. The time was when the family altar was a mark of family religion. Not to have the family altar discredited the religious profession of the members of that family. It is different now.

But, in all good conscience ought it to be different? Have we discovered anything that can really take its place? Can we have a religious Church with an irreligious membership? Is it not a fact that many pastors, true shepherds of the flock, are broken-hearted because their people have no family altars at all? The stones are fallen. The fires are gone out. Only ashes remain, and they are scattered abroad, leaving only the blackened stones of spiritual death.

Really would not the family altar solve many of the perplexing questions that are before pastors and people today; the amusement question for example? How many parents grieve to see their children losing interest in the Church, quitting its services, being lost to religion, when those parents ought to stop and reflect on the momentous fact that the children have never heard them pray. The Church steeple, the Sunday service, would mean more to the young folks and children in Methodist homes, if those children and young folks had been wont to hear the Bible read, and the voice of father and mother heard around the mercy seat of the family altar. The family altar is what holds; it is the cable and anchorage. It is the efficient means that holds families to the Christian life, and to the services and life of the Church that in turn builds the Christian life up in character and beauty.

We have let that altar fall down at the peril of all the household, yet, at the peril of the eternal welfare of each member of the household. Shall not the family altar be rebuilt?—Central Christian Advocate.