

THE  
**CHRISTIAN SUN.**

**"The Lord God is a Sun and Shield."**

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**FAMILY GOVERNMENT.**

BY THE REV. BISHOP ANDREW.

[Continued.]

Or, if you please, take another case, which is not by any means a fancy picture. I have seen a young man, reared in respectability, nurtured in the lap of piety. During all his youth, he was industrious, sober, temperate, and entirely amiable. His parents regarded him with honest pride, and his sisters loved to call him brother. He was looked upon by his youthful associates, with respect and admiration; all loved him, and all praised him, and his friends supposed that he had crowned his earthly bliss when he led to the altar a lovely and accomplished bride. But whence is it that he so early gives evidence that a strange change has come over the spirit of his dream? Why is it that his home has lost its charms? Why do his feet wander in the way of forbidden pleasures? Why is his eye red, and his countenance bloated? Why does the midnight hour find him so often the companion of bacchanalian revellers, and why so soon laid in a drunkard's grave? I answer, he was *mistaken*! He had wedded a lovely form, but it enshrined the temper of a demon. He had staked his all of hope and peace and comfort on this union, and all is lost, and his soul has perished in the wreck. In conclusion, on this point, we say to our young friends, be sure to marry, but take very special care whom you marry. Are you seeking a wife? Look well to her temper, her tastes, her habits. Let her be discreet, good-tempered, sober in her conversation, prudent in her associations, industrious in her habits, an obedient daughter, an affectionate sister, one who can find ample enjoyment at home, and is not dependent for happiness on company or fashion,

either as to its wardrobe or public amusements; one who is not always seeking after, or delighted with, the flatteries of the other sex; one who is much more anxious to deserve commendation than to receive it. And finally, and above all, let her be unaffectedly and habitually pious. I would not (said one who was not himself pious) marry any woman who was not a Christian. I should feel it such an honour to share a heart in which God dwelt. It was a fine thought, and deserves to be specially remembered.

You want a friend in whom you can have entire and unlimited confidence; one who can be your counsellor in all circumstances of difficulty or trial; one who is to be identified with you through life, in hope and fear, in joy and sorrow. She is to be a sort of presiding divinity at thy family board, and her countenance the mirror in which must be reflected the faithful image of thy domestic bliss or woe; one who will be discreet, affectionate and firm in governing her children; in short, who will love you for your own sake, be happy with you in a cabin, and who will cleave the closer to you when storms of adversity or persecution shall have swept away or withered every vestige of earthly comfort from about you. Now bear all these things in mind, and then to your prayers and the exercise of a becoming prudence, and you will not be likely to fail.

To my fair friends a word of advice and admonition. First of all, lend no ear to the wooing of him who is an unbeliever or a skeptic on the subject of religion. The Bible is the great charter of woman's rights. Where this book is not known, she is a slave. Its influence exalts her to the proper station, and the man who, in this land of light and vision, can impudently question the authority of this the great and only charter of your rights, gives