

**THE DOVE; AN
EXAMPLE OF
ATTACHMENT TO HOME**

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The Dove; An Example of Attachment to Home by Anonymous

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ANONYMOUS

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THE RING DOVE.

THE DOVE;

AN EXAMPLE OF

ATTACHMENT TO HOME.

Ask now the beasts, and they shall teach thee: and the fowls of the air, and they shall tell thee—Job xiv, 7.

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THE DOVE,

As an Example of Attachment to Home.

THE dove let loose in Eastern skies,
Returning fondly home,
Ne'er stoops to earth her wing, nor flies
Where idler warblers roam.

But high she shoots, through air and light,
Above all low decay,
Where nothing earthly bounds her flight,
Nor shadow dims her way.

So grant me, Lord, from every snare
Of sinful passion free,
Aloft through virtue's purer air,
To steer my course to thee.

No sin to cloud, no lure to stay
My soul, as home she springs;
Thy sunshine on her joyful way,
Thy freedom on her wings.

THE love of home is one of the strongest emotions of the human mind, and appears to have been implanted within us for the wisest and best ends. Home is, to most of us, the centre of our affections, and the place where our chief earthly treasure is to be found. Whether rich or poor, young or old, we all naturally feel a strong interest in everything relating to home; nor is that interest lost, when poverty or misfortune has stripped us of many comforts, and has left of home little more than the name. In childhood, home is the place where protection and sympathy are always to be found, where parental love is ready to soothe our sorrows and our fears, and where all our

wants and wishes may be freely poured out, and are sure to meet with ready attention. In more advanced years, to have a home of our own is the great object of ambition, and when attained, there is not only the feeling of affection for those who are associated with us in it, but there is likewise the sense of our own right and property in it, which makes it dear and pleasant to our eyes.

The love of home operates beneficially on the character. The examples and precepts of a good home are constantly before the eyes, and acting on the conduct of a right-minded youth. To win the approbation of those at home, is a sufficient motive for exertion, and to go back to them with the prospect of meeting their just and willing praises, is the dearest object of hope. A religious and well-ordered home affords, indeed, the

nearest approach to a state of perfect happiness, which this earth can present, and may be considered, without presumption, as a feeble type of the bliss of that Heavenly Home, where the Lord has promised to provide "a place" for those who love Him.

It is true, that there are some perverse and disorderly spirits, which can set at nought the counsels of parents, and despise all the sweet ties of home; while there are many more who are so unhappy as to have an evil instead of a good example set them at home, and have therefore no reason to love it. These are deplorable cases, and most difficult to be dealt with. Each one of us may, however, contribute his own share to the general well-being of society by faithfully fulfilling the duties, and thoroughly valuing the privileges of home.