Gut namily Circle.

[Written for the American Presbyterian.] THE STREAM OF LIFE.

BY EDWIN H. NEVIN. We are sailing on, brother, Onward to the sea; Thence there's no return, brother, None for you or me.

Round our little boats, brother, Tempests sometimes sweep; But the sun breaks forth, brother, And the tempests sleep.

Sometimes it is dark, brother, As we sail along; But the light soon shines, brother, Night is never long.

Sometimes we are sad, brother, Sorrow springs within; Then we look above, brother, And our joys begin.

Though our little boats, brother, Seem to be apart, We can still be near, brother, When we're joined in heart.

Brighter grows the day, brother, As we onward sail; Nearer to our home, brother, Presses every gale.

Soon we'll shout "The Sea!" brother, Blessed sea of love; Storms are never there, brother, All is peace above.

THE UNSEEN FRIEND.

"Do come, Ned, only this once, just to see how you like it; it is first-rate fun, and not a bit of harm in it—do

The boy thus addressed shook his his companion had placed entreatingly the room unnoticed by either of the on his shoulder, moved back from him, boys. saying, "No, George, I cannot; I promised I would not play billiards, and I won't break my word."

Promised!" echoed several voices: "who made you promise? Your aunt, Louppose? Who would mind what you never saw! yoman says? What do they know apout billiards? You are too much of a man, Fairlie, to be in leadingstrings to a woman, surely!"

Well, I hope I am too much of a man to think of going against my aunt's wishes," was the spirited reply; subject; but my uncle asked me to promise that I would not, and I did; and I am sure you would all think me a mean, wicked fellow to break my word."

Some of the boys, on hearing these words, turned away, shrugging their shoulders; only George Miller lingered a moment. "Didn't know, Ned, you the boy's shoulder. "What if I tell had an uncle," he said; "I thought you that you have a Friend in a far you lived alone with your aunt in that old-fashioned house."

how you can do that, when you don't know him."

"O! but, George, I do know him by his deeds. He is the very kindest friend I have. Why, everything I have I get from him. You can't think what costly presents he sends me; and then his letters are so full of love; and I who have no father, owe him much

George hesitated a moment, then

old-fashioned house, at some distance Readers, do you love Jesus? He lenium was near." from the town. Ivy seemed to abound has loved you with an everlasting love everywhere. It covered the heavy loved you so as to die for you. Do

beautiful pony scampered up to them. seen me, thou hast believed blessed "What a beauty! Ned, is he yours? are they that have not seen, and yet William F. Arms, for a time a mis- their family services equally interest-And so tame, too! Is he your own?"

"Yes; there he is, a present from

As they opened the house-door, a pretty little King Charles spaniel, with long ears, jumped upon Ned, in great joy at seeing him. "Another of uncle's presents, George," said he; "isn't he a real beauty? and so well trained, comes at the slightest call, and is up to so many tricks."

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Ned's aunt, Miss Fairlie. She asked George to remain to tea, which would soon be ready; and, till then, advised Ned to take him to the library, and show him some of his Chinese curiosities. George thought there seemed no end of these beautifully carved boxes, puzzles of all descriptions. Chinese lamps hanging from the ceiling, Chinese mandarins on the tables, no end of chop-sticks; and O! above all, such a beautifully carved model of a Chinese junk, enough to gladden the heart of any boy in the world!

George felt no jealousy of all these things, for Ned was so kind in showing them-not in a boastful way, but for his friend's pleasure. "And did you get all these from your uncle?" said he. "No wonder you like him; he must be a kind gentleman; but it seems so odd to love any one you have never seen."

"Well, but, George, how can I help liking him? Month after month receive new proofs of his love for me. And then I seem to know him from his letters also; and I hope to see him one day; for, when he wishes me, I am to go to China, to live with him; and already he writes to me that he has prepared rooms for me, and fitted them up with everything he thought I would like. Op I shall like so much to be with him!"

"I dare say you will," replied George; "vou are a lucky fellow to have such a friend: Still, I say it is very odd."

"What is very odd, dear?" said a gentle voice; and George started as he head, and, removing the hand which saw Miss Fairlie, who had come into

"O, ma'am, Ned was telling me about all his uncle's kindness to him, and saying how much he liked him, although he had never seen him; and I said it was very odd to love a person

"But, George," said Miss Fairlie "do you not? Is there no Friend whom you have never seen, and yet whom you love?"

"I! O no, ma'am! I love my father, who is very kind to me; but then I see him daily; and my mother "but I made no promise to her. In died when I was quite a baby, so I deed, I never heard her speak on the don't even remember her. And of course there are several others I likegrandmamma, for one; but then I see her often also. But I have no unknown friend, like Ned, who showers presents on me, or perhaps I would love him, even though I had never seen him."

Miss Fairlie laid her hand gently on country, who gives you many more presents than Ned's uncle gives to him; So I do, George. My uncle is in who never forgets you, never ceases to China. I never saw him in my life; do every thing for your good; who but, for all that, I love him dearly, and | writes to you letters kinder even than shall do nothing to vex him, if I can | those Ned receives from his uncle, and |

"Dear boys," Miss Fairlie said, Twich have no father; owe him much able gift. 'He gave his only Son, from the church to which they be for all the kind advice he gives me that whosever believeth on Him should longed, and even lacked the sympathy Gres, I do love him, though I have not perish, but have everlasting life! of their excellent pastor, in their new not seen him. I'll tell you what, In comparison with that gift, all others and yet doubtful enterprise. They lime and mysterious imagery of the George; come and spend the evening seem as nothing. Kind, loving Jesus were, at one time, locked out of the apocalypse; or to one of those subtle In comparison with that gift, all others, and yet doubtful enterprise. They lime and mysterious imagery of the tions to them. with me. Aunt will be glad to see to leave the glory and come to earth school-house, and as they went about doctrinal disquisitions in the epistles. a part of the family worship especially you, and I'll show you all my uncle's to suffer and die for us! Surely when, inviting the children of the poor to To him it is all a field of ripe ears for them; and if the family consists we think of that, we can say from our come and be taught, they were jeered Straight through it he goes, entering of little children only, it would be

have believed."

"There, beside you crystal river,
"There, beneath life's wondrous tree,
There, with nought to grieve or sever,
Ever with the Lamb to be; Heirs of glory, that shall be For thee and me!" Christian Treasury.

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AN EXCUSE AGENCY.

One of our Southern exchanges contains a circular purporting to come from an establishment for the manufacture and sale of excuses. It is very well gotten up, and calculated to set the reader to thinking. We give the concluding paragraphs, with the names of the firm.

Send us a notice, as explicit as possible of the duty, and the corresponding excuse will be promptly forwarded. One of the firm will always be in,

and customers will be waited on at their homes, when preferred. All communications strictly confidential. Terms easy.

We have a list of some of the more common excuses, such as we always keep on hand, and we subjoin a few of those most likely to be needed by your readers; premising that we are ready to prepare, at a short notice, any others that may be ordered.

1. For failure to attend church, especially in unpleasant weather, or at prayer, conserence, or other minor meetings twenty-five select excuses, well-arranged and indexed.

2. For not joining the Sunday. school, Missionary Society, etc.—fif teen excuses in package. 3. For dinking—one hundred and

fifty excuses, mainly new. 4. For neglecting family worshipseven good and sufficient excuses, well

tried and warranted. 5. For not becoming a Christianthree packages, one marked "World," another "Flesh," the third with the name of one of the firm, each containing twenty choice excuses selected from a large number, and every one of guaranteed excellence.

6. A miscellaneous assortment, containing, among others, excuses for not giving; for inattention in church; for preaching poor sermons; for not visiting the sick; for Sunday visiting, sleeping or strolling; for worldly conformity; and many more, besides a few standard excuses of wide applicaoility, for wrong doing in general.

Bear in mind that we can furnish an excuse suited to any case whatever; and when you find it hard to do right, remember that next to doing right is the being able to present a good excuse for doing wrong, and give us a call.

B. L. Zebub, Prince, &c. DIA BOLUS, M. D.

WHAT A SINGLE SABBATH-SCHOOL

ACCOMPLISHED. In 1814, two young ladies opened a week-day mission-school at Norwich Town. The following year, a class of and round which should gather the colored boys was taught in a room sweetest associations of the day. But near the present centre of Norwich look at a picture of it which has too City. In 1816, the First Church Sabbath-school was commenced by two young ladies, one of whom was, later, ately. This, at least, is well underwho is preparing a house in the the wife of Rev. Dr. Myron Winslow, with himself.

Well, Ned," he said, "you are a but could he say he had ever thought organize similar schools for the chil-strange fellow, to care about offending of Him in that light? God did indeed, dren of their neighborhood. Associtiventy-fourth chapter of Chronicles, worship. an uncle you never saw, and yet you lavish many gifts on him; yet how say you love dearly it Can't make out little he had loved Him, how little had were the present Mrs. William C. Gil. Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithahe striven to please Him, as Ned did man, and the wife of Rev. Dr. William mar; how there were sixteen chief ones—the children of four, five and his uncle, by obeying his commands! A Hallock, of New York. Such an men of the house of their fathers, and six years of age. Ol how seldom Ned had crept close beside his aunt innovation on the old Sabbath routine eight among the sons of Ithamar; and does the family worship touch them the light in his eyes telling he knew as the gathering of a school of home how they were divided by lot; and at any point. How many years do something of that Friend, also, and neglected children, was not likely to how the first lot came to Jehoiarib, they kneel each morning beside the pass unnoticed in a New England and the second to Jedaiah, and so on mother, studying the pattern of her community, and the young disciples through the whole twenty-four. Or, dress or the figures of the carpet, or think one moment on God's unspeak- had to encounter positive opposition it may be, he has come round to one peeping between their fingers at the longed, and even lacked the sympathy Ezekiel, of cherubim, coals and wheels they grow into a consciousness that better than going with these boys to learts, 'Whom having not seen, we at as "female select-men." But they with the utmost zest into discussion, well to conduct the devotions chiefly persevered in their Christ-like work; or kindled, by the imagery, walking with a reference to them. Instead of borned in their Christ-like work; or kindled, by the imagery, walking with a reference to them. Instead of some days after the events we have and when at length their pastor, Rev. resolutely over the hard names, with reading a chapter simply because it is eagerly accepted the invitation, saying, written of, George received a small Dr. Strong, gave to them his configuration, in course, select for the little ones me promise not to do so."

The boys then set off toward Ned's were the words; "Jesus Christ, whom courage, and as one of them afterward ters interchange amused glances when story, respecting those great element.

pillars on each side of the massive iron you love Him in return? Earthly ladies, God hath brought great things. ered laugh and a solemn reproof. Fisuch great things for you. Hear his in China; Rev. Dr. Augustus C. the chapter read. As they walked through the park, a words: "Thomas, because thou hast Thompson, of Roxbury, and Rev. Dr. One day we shall see Him face to man, pastor of a Presbyterian Church site knowledge nor the ability to in the repetition of the Lord's Prayer. "Yes; there he is, a present from Une day we snall see Him face to man, pastor of a line lizabeth, New Jersey; Rev. Fred-impart entertainingly what they have, he goes first-rate, and vet so gentle. This objection is not without weight, he goes first-rate, and yet so gentle, enter the home and the land that is erick Charlton, pastor of a Baptist Rev. Zebadia Mansfield, an Episcopal of it rests on a misconception. The years would come bringing the Bible clergyman; Rev. Henry Case, who interest and value of family worship in its arms, and begging to hear some distinguished himself as Colonel of an do not depend solely upon the learn-Illinois regiment during the late war; ing or ability of him who conducts it. the greatest of the day's disappointand Rev. Messrs. Thomas L. Shipman, Nor should its interest be made to ments to be refused. And the story Daniel W. Lathrop, David R. Austin, centre in the gifts of a single person of the morning has lodged in the little Edward W. Gilman, Myron N. Morris, It should be diffused. The desired heart, and been carried into its plays, Those who quit their proper charmany tricks."

Those who quit their proper charmany tricks."

The boys remained some minutes acter to assume what does not belong known clergymen of New England.

Of lawren there appear such names there in the matter: that the blessed seed of the amusing themselves with little Frisk; to them, are, for the greater part, igno- Of laymen, there appear such names personal share in the matter; that the word was resting in the tender fur-

Churches; George E. Porter, for a time | has_something to do to contribute to superintendent of the Sabbath-school its interest and profitableness. Family of Mount Vernon Church in Boston; worship need by no means be confined Alfred Thomas, now superintendent to reading and prayer, though these, of a Sabbath-school in Columbus, reverentially performed, are invalu-Ohio; George E. Sterry, active in mis- able in their effect. Why cannot the American poem ever written: sion-school movements in New York family altar be made a place for the City; Jared W. Tracy, also of New mutual interchange of thought? Why York, and other earnest workers for cannot the superior advantages of certhe historian and poetess, was an early turned to the common good? Why and tried friend of, and teacher in, the should not the head of the family, as school; and the lamented Mrs. Sigourney was a member of the church, and may have been in the Sabbath-school, although her name is not mentioned in its records.

When it is considered that Miss Lathrop (afterward Mrs. Winslow), the founder of the Norwich school, was brought to Christ in childhood, connecting herself with the church at thirteen years of age, the importance of every thoughtful mind. Her parents were not previously church members. They came with her to Jesus. She mission work, into which she was followed by three of her sisters. A reported the church and school in Ohio growing so speedily out of the Norwich enterprise, while another brother died in college, preparing for the ministry. The entire family of Miss Lathropparents, brothers and sisters-all en-Jesus. "Are there any," says Dr. Arms, "who can still speak disparagingly of the conversion of children, or one of the founders of our school fur- Thompson's "Land and Book?" nishes, in her own history, such an illustration of what one child may accomplish, who enters the vineyard in the early morning?"—S. S. Times.

HOW TO CONDUCT FAMILY WORSHIP.

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[From a recent tract called "The Family Altar," by Rev. M. R. Vincent, published by our Publication Committee.]

We discover in much of our family worship a want of tact and adaptation. Many most excellent parents, with the clearest appreciation of the duty of household devotion, succeed in making it one of the most unedifying of all barely tolerable, or to save it from others. being positively unpleasant. On the contrary, the family altar ought to be a shrine to which the youngest of the household should daily turn with joy, stood, that the household worship is

But it will here be said at once, that

where they were kindly received by and of the character they assume. London, whose praise is in all the well as the family at large; that he vest in the future.

the Master. Miss Fanny M. Caulkins, tain members of the household be well as the rest, be quickened by these streams of fresh thought? Why may not the very difficulties raised awaken an interest that shall set even the children at consulting books, or conversing with their pastor or Sabbath-school teacher, so that they may bring their knowledge to bear at the next hour of worship?

To-morrow, perhaps, you will read the account of the healing of Jairus's youthful conversions is magnified in daughter, or the parable of the ten virgins. Set that bright-eyed boy or girl at looking for some information on oriental weddings or funerals, and founded this school for all time, and when you come together again, let became, herself, a pioneer in the foreign them tell you about the hired mourners, with their clashing instruments and hideous wailing, or show how our brother devoted himself to the Chris- Lord's parable finds its perfect countian ministry, and is the laborer, who terpart in the marriage ceremonies of the East. Make their common-school education tributary to this. Press their geography and history and grammar into service. Make that lad of sixteen or seventeen, well advanced in his college studies, bring his Greek Testarolled themselves under the banner of ment into use, and give you the inspired word fresh from its original Can you not have a map hung in your room, or a well-selected volume of of labors which look to this end, when plates and descriptions, such as Dr.

Music, too, is a most powerful auxiliary to the interest of family worship. It will be strange if you cannot put your piano or cabinet organ to good use here. The value of this exercise is apparent in many ways.

1st. It is always attractive. There are very few who do not love to sing, or to hear singing when they cannot sing themselves.

2d. Most of the members of a family can join in it. Care should be taken to facilitate this by the proper selection of books, hymns and tunes. The simpler the better. Where the family is composed chiefly of young children, religious duties. Bear in mind that their Sabbath-school and even infantit is not enough to make this exercise class hymns are to be preferred to all

3d. We have the authority of Scripture for making this a part of all our worship. We are exhorted to praise Jehovah with songs, with stringed

instruments and organs. 4th. This is the best possible preparation for harmonious and intelligent many counterparts in reality. The participation in the music of the sancfamily assemble solemnly and deliber tuary, especially in those churches where this part of the worship is not George gave a strange sort of laugh; far-off country for your reception, when the missionary to India, and the other no trifling matter to be hurried through and where the one who sings in he meant it to be one of derision; but it is His will to take you to live with the wife of Pelatiah Perit, Esq. A There is a deep and awed silence. church" is not made the focus of the visit to New York had interested them Even the little prattler feels the influ frowns of the entire congregation. Fairlie was no object of derision, At these words a light flashed on in the newly-opened Sabbath-schools changed it into one of dissatisfaction the boy's mind; he saw, Miss Fairlie's of Divie Bethune and Katy Ferguson, the father turns to the family Bible, form of congregational singing can

But we cannot leave this subject without a special word for the little of those strange prophetic visions in gambols of the household pets, before and wings and faces; or to the sub- the family devotions have any rela-

some simple and comprehensive petitions, in the simplest possible lan-God at the family altar. A good prac-

then went into the drawing-room, rant both of the character they leave as Hon. Henry P. Haven, of New well as the family at large: that he

THE CLOSING SCENE.

BY THOMAS BUCHANAN READ.

The following is pronounced by the Westminster Review to be unquestionably the finest Within the sober realms of leafless trees,

The russet year inhaled the dreamy air; Like some tauned reaper in his hours of ease, When all the fields are lying brown and bare. The gray barns looking from their hazy hills O'er the dun waters widening in the vales,

Sent down the air a greeting to the mills, On the dull thunder of alternate flails. All sights were mellowed and all sights sub-The hills seemed further and the stream sang

low, As in a dream the distant woodman hewed, His winter log with many a muffled blow.

The embattled forests, erewhile armed with gold, Their banners bright with every martial hue, Now stood like some sad, beaten host of old, Withdrawn afar in Time's remotest blue.

On sombre wings the vulture tried his flight: The dove scarce heard his singing mate's complaint;
And, like a star slow drowning in the light,
The village church vane seemed to pale and

The sentinel cock upon the hillside crew— Crew thrice—and all was stiller than before; Silent, till some replying warder blew
His alien horn, and then was heard no more.

Where erst the jay within the elm's tall crest Made garrulous trouble around her unfledged

young; And where the oriole hung her swaying nest, By every light wind like a censer swung;

Where swung the noisy martins of the eaves, The busy swallows circling ever near— Forboding, as the rustic mind believes, An early harvest and a plenteous year

Where every bird that waked the vernal feast Shook the sweet slumber from its wings at morn. To warn the reaper of the rosy east-

All now was sunless, empty, and forlorn. Alone, from out the stubble, piped the quail;
And croaked the crow through all the dreary

gloom; Alone the pheasent, drumming in the vale, Made echo in the distant cottage loom.

There was no bud, no bloom upon the bowers; The spiders wove their thin shrouds night by night; The thistledown, the only ghost of flowers, Sailed slowly by—passed noiseless out of

Amid all this—in this most dreary air, And where the woodbine shed upon the porch Its crimson leaves, as if the year stood there, Firing the floor with its inverted torch;

Amid all this—the centre of the scene, The white-haired matron, with monotonous Plied the swift wheel, and with her joyless mien Sat like a fate, and watched the flying thread. She had known sorrow. He had walked with

Oft supped, and broke with her the ashen crust, And in the dead leaves still she heard the stir Of his thick mantle trailing in the dust.

While yet her cheek was bright with summer bloom, Her country summoned, and she gave her all and twice War bowed to her his sable plume—

Re-gave the sword to rest upon the wall. Re-gave the sword but not the hand that drew And struck for liberty the dying blow; Nor him who, to his sire and country true,

Fell 'mid the ranks of the invading foe Long, but not loud, the droning wheel went on, Like the low murmur of a hive at noon: ong, but not loud, the memory of the gone

Breathed through her lips a sad and tremulous tune. At last the thread was snapped—her head was Life dropped the distaff through her hand

serene; And loving neighbors smoothed her careful While death and winter closed the autum scene.

A JEWISH MARRIAGE SERVICE. Sabbath afternoon we stepped into

the new and magnificent Jewish temple, and found ourselves so favored as to see a marriage ceremony performed, which we might, doubtless, have seen in America just as well, but which had never fallen to our lot. It was not very peculiar in many respects, but in others quite laughable. It was still broad daylight, but there were some dozen lights burning on either side the altar, which doubtless belongs to the ceremony. In the altar stood the 'marriage canopy," a kind of square tent covered over with crimson damask, printed with gilt and hung with gold fringe. Under this stood bridegroom "Well, to say the truth, you have parcel, which, on unfolding, he found dence, prayed for a blessing on their without a word of comment or explation never inequality, and an aggistant who are priced as the more pictures and an aggistant who are priced as the priced and an aggistant who are priced as the priced and an aggistant who are priced as the priced and an aggistant who are priced as the priced and are aggistant who are priced as the priced as the priced are priced as the shamed me; for I know quite well to be a prettily bound Bible—a gift that my father would not like me to play though he had not actually made of an anchor, was slipped in at the first commendation to teachers and children to teachers. The other to the teachers are the teachers and the teachers are the teachers and the teachers are the teachers and the teachers are the teachers. The teachers are the teachers are the teachers are the teachers are the teachers. The teachers are the teachers. The teachers are the teachers. The teachers are the teachers are the teachers are chapter of first Peter, and underlined dren, they thanked God and took ignorance. The older sons and daughsome simple moral lesson from the only all the men wore their hats, but remarked, "almost felt that the milsome unusual name or word occurs. ary truths which even very young the obildren are lost at more and children can understand the greatness man and Hebrew, to the bridegroom Out of that humble beginning, of may be fall into some by play among of God, how he sees and knows all and bride respectively, and the placing seven children taught by two young themselves, which results in a smoth things, how he loves us, and loves of the ring on the finger of the bride, gate; it encircled the old trees, and imparted a fresh beauty to their gnarl. kinder. "Every good gift and every ters of the Gospel are shown to have father kneels and offers a fervid, solting or another scholars and the property of the wickedness of disobedience and solutions are presented as fresh beauty to their gnarl. The wickedness of disobedience and solutions are presented as fresh beauty to their gnarl. The wickedness of disobedience and solutions are presented as fresh beauty to their gnarl. The wickedness of disobedience and solutions are presented as fresh beauty to their gnarl. The wickedness of disobedience and solutions are presented as fresh beauty to their gnarl. The wickedness of disobedience and solutions are presented as fresh beauty to their gnarl. The wickedness of disobedience and solutions are presented as fresh beauty to their gnarl. The wickedness of disobedience and solutions are presented as fresh beauty to their gnarl. The wickedness of disobedience and solutions are presented as fresh beauty to their gnarl. The wickedness of disobedience and solutions are presented as fresh beauty to their gnarl. The wickedness of disobedience and solutions are presented as fresh beauty to their gnarl. The wickedness of disobedience and solutions are presented as fresh beauty to their gnarl. The wickedness of disobedience and solutions are presented as fresh beauty to their gnarl. The wickedness of disobedience and solutions are presented as fresh beauty to their gnarl. The wickedness of disobedience and solutions are presented as fresh beauty to their gnarl. The wickedness of disobedience are presented as fresh beauty to their gnarl. The wickedness of disobedience are presented as fresh beauty to their gnarl as fresh beauty to their gnarl as fresh beauty to the gnarl as ed trunks, and clung lovingly to the perfect gift is from above." He is preabounded, so did roses and flowers; country. He has purchased it for you and, with the golden sunshine streaming with His own blood. Surely, unseen, Rev. Dr. Myron Winslow; Rev. Dr. Erastus Wentworth, formerly expressions, of which the children prayer, it will be well to embody and one could but feel that his main and one could but feel that his main effort was to sing or rather halloo at William Thompson, his brother; Rev. all men cannot be expected to render feel that they are brought close to so that often the sound of his voice sionary in Turkey; Rev. Robert Aiking. That many have not the requitice is the uniting of the whole family convulsive laughing about me-likely in Elizabeth, New Jersey; Rev. Fred-erick Charlton, pastor of a Baptist Church in Sacramento, California; but is far from conclusive, since much Rev. Zebadia Mansfield. an Episconal of it rests on a misconception. The After the priest pronounced a blessing upon them and a few friends had greeted them, the couple, preceded by the officer with the three-cornered hat, walked down the middle aisle, followed by a group of very handsome and richly-dressed Jewish maidens, with splendid. black eyes .- Correspondent Pittsburgh Advocate.

EVERY temptation is an opportunity

of getting nearer to God.