

Our Women and Children

Conducted by Lucille Skaggs Edwards.

THE TRAINING OF CHILDREN.

Plato said long, long ago: "The best way of training the young is to train yourself at the same time; not to admonish them but to be always carrying out your own principles in practice." Every thoughtful student and educator has sounded the truth of this through all the ages since.

Not one denies that a child's first right is to its mother. If this be true, then surely every mother, in justice to her heritage of motherhood, should make herself fit to guide and to give of herself to the child she has borne. Your child may have a goodly heritage but how preciously it should be guarded, for the inherent good and evil tendencies give to each individual a conglomerate ancestry and make of man, a creature of great complexity. A child is born; he has a right to intelligent care. He grows and into a world of his own making. The spirit of investigation is within him. Let this be fostered and the trend of growth, even in the earliest childhood, be directed toward ultimate strength, both mental and physical. The underlying thought in the training of a child should be, not to destroy evil tendencies which have been developed, but to prevent them.

The foundation of high principle is laid in the early years, and the mother's responsibility in making the foundation a solid one is great indeed. A child may learn the great moral law of cause and effect. There should be no reward without effort. Moralizing is a small part of morals. Allow your child to have a standard within himself, not making it a detached thing, a thing apart.

Ignorance is responsible for a great amount of wickedness in this world, but bad example and parental neglect are responsible for vastly more. The greatest obstacle that obstructs the way to virtuous living and morality is the suffering which the lack of it brings.

Teach moderation; it is a great social virtue and indicates good sense and good taste. Allow your child the right of individuality. For every one, at some time before life is done, should "smite the chord of self; that trembling passes in music out of sight."

You may establish a code of etiquette which refines the manners, but it is the courtesy within which stamps the well-bred man and woman. "It is easy in the world to live after the world's opinion; it is easy in solitude to live after our own; but the great man is he who in the midst of the crowd keeps with perfect sweetness the independence of solitude."—Mrs. MacKlem, in Home Life.

Is True Freedom but to break
Fetters for our own dear sake
And with learned heart, forget
That we owe mankind a debt?
No! True Freedom is to share
All the chains our brothers wear,
And with heart and hand to be
Earnest to make others free!

They are slaves who fear to speak
For the fallen and the weak;
They are slaves who will not choose
Hatred, scoffing and abuse,
Rather than in silence shrink,
From the truth needs must think,
They are slaves who dare not be
In the right with two or three.

—James Russell Lowell.

KEEPING AT IT.

There is a very old but very good story about a boy who was engaged one winter day in putting a ton of coal into a cellar. His only implement was a small fire shovel. Noticing this, a benevolent old gentleman expressed his surprise and commiseration. "My son," said the old gentleman, "you surely do not expect to put in all that coal with that little shovel?"

"Oh, yes, I do," replied the boy, cheerfully; "all I have to do is to keep at it."

There is a lesson in this story for young and old, and it is exemplified in the lives of the great men of the world. It is a mistake to suppose that the best work of all the world is done by people of great strength and many opportunities. "Keeping at it" is the secret of success.

Never be in too great haste. Too many boys spoil a lifetime by not having patience. They work at a trade until they see about one-half of its mysteries, then strike for higher wages. Such men are looked upon as blotches and slouches.

When learning a trade, my boy, don't move like a rusty watch. Act as if your interest and the interest of your employer were the same. Employers will not willingly lose good employees. Be honest and faithful. There is the secret of success.—The American Boy.

DAWN'S RECOMPENSE.

By Margaret Houston.

He begged me for the little toys at night,
That I had taken lest he play too long;
The little broken toys—his sole delight.
I held him close in wiser arms and strong;
And sang with trembling voice the even-song.

Reluctantly the drowsy lids drooped low,
The while he pleaded for the boon denied.
Then when he slept, to dream-content to know,
I mended them and laid them by his side;
That he might find them in the early light,
And wake gladder for the ransomed sight.

So, Lord, like children, at the even fall
We weep for broken playthings, loth to part.
While thou, unmoved because thou knowest all,
Dost fold us from the treasures of our heart.
And we shall find them at the morning tide,
Awaiting us, unbroken, beautified.

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