

A MOTHER'S INFLUENCE OVER SONS.

I HAVE noticed in reading the biography of some of the most distinguished men, that in early life they were left alone, with their mother to watch and guide them in the path of duty ; and I cannot find one instance where a man distinguished for his abilities as a scholar, a statesman, or soldier, had a mother with imbecile mind. It seems to be not in accordance with the laws of Nature. The home influence will always cling to a child. Its mind may be compared to a sheet of white paper, on which it is a mother's privilege to stamp the indelible future of his career ; and, if through indolence, vanity, or fashion, she neglects it or delegates to another this very important duty, she forfeits all claims of love which otherwise would belong to her.

In no country is there as many instances where men have arose by perseverance and industry to fill the highest position in the gift of their fellow citizens as in America. This fact should be a powerful incentive action. If endowed by nature with superior intellect, and blessed with good maternal training, a boy's course will be ever onward and upward. If he ever deviates it will be only to return with renewed energy ; no obstacle will retard his progress ; no barrier but he will surmount ; no danger but he will brave in the discharge of duty. And as noble deeds have always characterized great men, so have gentleness and kindness of heart. The love and reverence due to faithful mothers is always forthcoming. Enshrined within the sacred recesses of the mind is a mother's memory ; time cannot efface it ; no earthly power remove it. If his course is upon the trackless deep, it is there ; if he ascends to the pinnacle of fame and write in gilded letters his honored name, still it is there.

This should encourage mothers to try and fulfil the all-important duties devolving upon them. First gain the confidence and love of your children ; let them know you are worthy of it ; be firm and determined carrying out any measures you undertake, and you will assuredly meet with success which your efforts deserve.

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