

HOUSEHOLD.

Training of Children.

(By Mary C. Stetson.)

A great many mothers are worried and anxious about the wrong things; they are annoyed by earth-stains which a little patience and water will take away. If Jennie or Tom comes in covered with mud there is a great outcry, when really that should not be an unexpected event.

I wouldn't give much for the energy of a child who couldn't soil a dress; but—let me whisper it—what is a real cause for anxiety is a little deceit, a little lie, a little moral contamination of any kind. Mothers should rejoice that there is a time when all impurities are outward and can be washed away with pure water, and pray that they may never see a time when all their tears will fail to purify a soul. Since girls, as a class, are not physically so strong as their brothers, they are shielded in childhood by greater care, and the habit grows. It has really come to be a tradition that girls should be taken care of, but boys can take care of themselves.

The educated woman does not so much believe in traditions. She will study her children and their needs, as though they were the first beautiful experiment on earth. She will begin early, and not turn away her boy when the new baby comes. When she is able she will leave the infant, whose wants are only physical, and take her little boy up to bed, hear his little prayer, and sympathize a moment with his sorrows and joys. She will greatly desire that a feeling of dependence on her love and advice be kept alive, because she knows that if she sends her boy away from her when he is little, he will be beyond her call when he is grown.

I know the ordinary boy makes his presence felt. I have myself found turtles in unexpected places. I have been also obliged to serve fruit on a plate, because all the glass fruit-dishes were filled with little fishes from the river. I know too that one boy can furnish noise enough for his family, and also for the neighbors; but you remember what Burdette said about that: 'Let the boy go away and you may hire a brass band to fill the dreadful silence of your home; it cannot be overcome.' One tradition, the best followed, is to keep the girls in evenings, unless some one goes to take care of them; but it won't hurt a boy any to go alone. Why? Because he is a boy.

'But can't a boy have any fun?' he asks. Certainly; this is one of the important elements of his life. Let his father go with him to legitimate places of amusement; if that is impossible, let his mother go. His mother? Such a motley crowd is hardly the place for a lady. Perhaps it is time that the presence of a true lady along with her sons is felt in such crowds. Are you going to send your beautiful boy where you would rather not be seen yourself? If you desire a pure strong, manhood for your son, the foundations must be laid for it. He should be taught to have the same high standard of morals that you teach to your girls. A boy yearns for sympathy and interest as much as his sister; he needs the ties of affection more. The worst boy I ever knew, when he was lying on his death-bed, sent for a neighbor and asked if she would not sing to him, as she sang to her own children, 'I am so glad that Jesus loves me.'—'Woman's Home Journal.'

Family Government.

If one is bound to ruin his children, the choice should be to do it by kindness, rather than by brutality; but there is not the least need of hanging on either horn of this dilemma. Let every mortal child that is brought into this world be taught to obey its parents; let it be taught this while it is a little child, not humored and petted to death then, and taught hundreds of tricks which it must afterwards be beaten to be broken of. If you can teach your child obedience without whipping him, so much the better; don't whip such a child, it is cruelty; but if he won't fear nor obey without stripes, lay them on; but don't be looking and speaking blows at him for a week afterwards. While gentle, respectful and obedient children are the sweetest things on earth, there are few things more disagreeable and repulsive than badly managed and

unruly children. No one can endure them, and their parents are justly despised.

Once get that central idea of unqualified obedience well grounded in your family, and your government stands firm. You need not all the time be laying on commands. Do not fetter your children; within certain limits leave them free; teach them that their rights will be just as much respected as your own are; let them never have reason to doubt that you love them dearly, and that you punish them not for your own pleasure, or because you are angry and can safely vent your passion upon them, but for their good.

Children are clear-sighted and quick-feeling. They know well enough what feelings are apparent in the minds of those who correct them, and there is no possibility of beating a child when you yourself are angry, or when you don't care for the pain you inflict, without doing him an injury. If parents would spare some of their threats and then perform what they promise, they would find the benefit of it.

'You put your foot out of doors, and I'll whip you as sure as you live,' says a mother to her little girl. Pretty soon she sees Miss Lot out on the grass plot. Out she flies and jerks the baby in with—

'What did I tell you? Aren't you going to mind me? Now go out there again if you think it's your best way.'

Baby does think it her best way, for out she goes again, as soon as her mother's back is turned. After a time the long-promised whipping comes, but baby is very much astonished at it. She had no idea that mamma really meant to do as she said. She had heard such threats too many times when, like many a low-rumbling thunder-cloud, they had passed harmless by.

It is a pity that mothers will teach lessons of falsehood to their dear children; but such a course as this does it. Make your offspring believe thoroughly in you; and it is a long step, and a sure one, toward their belief in God.—New York Ledger.

The Bible in Character Building.

(By Sallie V. Du Bois.)

Three little children were playing quietly about the room, with scattered toys and a look of contentment, about them as they pursued their several plays, which spoke well for the loving care bestowed upon them.

'You are a happy mother,' said a friend, as she gazed upon the scene of love and purity. 'I might almost say,' continued the speaker, 'that you are a model mother, judging by the contentment I see pictured upon those infant faces. Might I ask what method or system you are using in their training?'

The young mother's face flushed as she answered, 'I am using the bible in character building.'

'Indeed; and how do you apply it to the individual lives of these children?'

'First of all,' continued the young mother, the happy light in her eyes deepening, 'I strive prayerfully to model my own character according to the word of God. My conduct must be strong, noble and beautiful, or I cannot train and instruct others therein. If I am not true to the best that is in me, I cannot teach the truth to even these children, they are so quick to discern the true from the false.'

'Ah, I see, you take scriptural truth home to be wrought into your very soul, and then, pondering and praying over it, strive to teach it to others. But these children are so young, Anna; why, Horace has barely turned six years.' 'Yet he has passed beyond the primer of religious knowledge, and his young mind is eager to know about the great and beautiful world created by God. He knows that sorrow came into the world because of sin, and is very careful

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lest he should grieve the tender, loving heart of God, in this respect. I have told him much of the glorious things beyond, and he is more and more eager to go on to learn them.'

'And little Anna there, what does she know?'

'Oh, the wee one loves God with all her baby heart. We talk about moral and physical training for the young, and often deplore the lack of it; but, dear friend, the bible in character building is the book upon which to found all true living. When the word of Christ once gets into the heart to dwell there, it transforms, but it must be through intelligent study and thought. These young souls now can be moulded into his image before the touch of the world has polluted them.'—'Christian Intelligencer.'

Household Sanitation.

Where does household sanitation begin? asks Mrs. H. M. Plunkett, in the 'American Kitchen Magazine,' for December. In the cellar, or in the attic? In the front doorway, or in the family well? It begins in the mind of the woman who is mistress of the house. She may be the wife of a laboring man, or she may have had what we call higher education, and know all about the strata of the rocks from the Alps to the Rocky Mountains, and yet not be aware that her house stands on a site so damp that it keeps the inmates in a bath of invisible vapor that is steadily sapping their vital forces, or that there may be an accumulation of vegetable debris in the cellar, that is breeding millions of microbes every hour, and sending them up through every crack and cranny, to prey upon their human victims. You say it is the man's business to take care of all that. It may be his duty to hire a man to lay a drain, or to clean out the cellar, but the woman must spur him on to do his duty, for it is she who stays at home, and must bear those ill effects perpetually.

If you do not believe that these vapors and emanations can rise through floors and walls and carpets, open a bottle of ether or boil a few onions in your cellar, and then go to your attic. Your sense of smell will convince you.

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