

as imitative as monkeys," and no doubt we all agree in this.

The instinct of imitation is one of childhood's greatest assets,—if the adults with whom they are associated are willing to make themselves worthy of copy : otherwise, it is one of their great dangers. Therefore, if we would train the children in service for Christ, it is first of all most important, that we set them a good example in our own lives.

Our aspect of life colors theirs. If we look on money making as the important thing, how can the children do otherwise ? With the least little bit of encouragement how early they learn to try to get something for nothing. We have all seen children try to shrink themselves when parents have been endeavoring to escape paying a car fare for them.

Again, if putting on a good front to society is our aim, the children cannot help thinking that this is the necessary thing in life. One day I heard a little girl of six years beseech her mother, with bitter tears, to let her go without dinner or to whip her, rather than punish her by making her go to the table wearing a kimono, so important was dressing for dinner in the child's eyes. Surely the punishment fitted the crime, which was that of taking off her gloves in church on a warm Sunday. What a distorted view of life ! Another child, of very different training, was almost equally distressed because he was compelled to go to Sunday School without an offering for insisting on rolling his ten cent piece on the floor when, after warning, it had disappeared in a crack beyond recall. It is possible to give the children almost any view of life we may choose to.

If father and mother are interested in helping the poor and weak, in giving of their plenty, or otherwise, for the uplifting of the down-trodden and the heathen ; if they are noble and true in what we sometimes call the little things of life and have high ideals and strive to attain them, the children will, as a rule, follow them, and in any case, cannot fail to be influenced by them.

We may help the children to desire to serve Christ, by "suggestion." Show pictures of other children engaged in doing what you would have yours do. Tell stories or read

to them with the same object in view. This is really only another form of bringing the power of example to bear upon them. Frequently it is just a suggestion they need to start them in the right direction. Then see that opportunity is provided for them to "do" or carry out the suggestion, that they may experience something of the joy that comes through loving service. The important thing is to begin early, or, as someone has said, "catch them young," for difficulties usually increase with outside influences.

A Letter to the Little People

DEAR LITTLE PEOPLE :—

Summer is over. Holidays at seaside, lakeside or farm are over and you are again at your lessons, and back in your own dear Sunday School class.

We have seen beauty everywhere—the sea, the lake, the river, the woods, the rocks, the hills and the valleys, all clothed in beauty for our pleasure.

We have seen God's bountiful gifts to us in flower and fruit and grain. How loving God is ! How mindful of all our needs and pleasures !

We shall soon be looking forward to the Christmas time when we especially remember God's love in sending Jesus our Saviour.

We have watched God's people from the very beginning of the world,—from the very first man and woman, and we have seen God's love to men in teaching, punishing, rewarding, guiding, blessing them. In our stories this Quarter we shall think especially about God's love to His people.

We listen to Moses crying for and receiving help from God ; we see sinners punished and pardoned ; we watch the spies returning from the Promised Land bearing the great bunch of grapes to show that the land is a fruitful one ; we see that God's servants sometimes do wrong, as did Moses and Aaron, we see Balaam sent to meet Balak, king of Moab, and keep him from harming the children of Israel ; we hear God telling us to set a good example.

Then we think of the lonely grave in the land of Moab, where God laid His servant Moses to rest, and we see the brave soldier