

This question will be most readily answered by considering how the best development of young life is to be provided for. The best thought and purpose of the parents must become part of the life of the children. The family likeness apparent in the countenance must come out in the character. And this can be secured only in a natural way ; never in a forced way. It is easy to command or issue orders, but mere authority cannot gain the desired result. This can come only as a natural growth in the young life, aided by the genial companionship of the parents. Parental life and child life grow together, and they grow of the same type. There is no other law of growth and no other product than is implied in saying, "Like produces like." There is nothing worse than taking children by the shoulders and bundling them out of the way ; there is nothing better than taking children to your heart, and helping them on the way. But there is a plan in helping which must be understood and stuck to, if we are truly to aid as we wish to do. Let us give children outlet for their energies ; let us have regard to differences of physical constitution and sensibility and mental bias ; and, more than anything else, let us enter into the moral difficulties and conflicts of our children as if these were our own. Our eyes must see for them more than they see ; our understanding must measure the range of difficulty they do not comprehend ; our purpose must outstretch theirs, so as to work out a bigger result in the future than children consider, as they are engrossed with the present. These are the things that go to make up training—without these aids children are not getting "home training." If I could speak directly into the ears of the father and mother of a family, these last sentences, if taken in their full range of meaning, express what I

would desire to say. They indicate our real task as parents, provided it be recognized that the end of all the forethought is not money, nor position, nor fame, but character—a high life worthy of our nature, and of our calling as Christians. This is the grand end, and it is the common end for all parents, as it is for all children. All classes are on the same level in respect of the grandest things in life. If this only be clearly seen, and if the one grand end be honestly sought, we may walk trustfully as to "the good things of this life," when we so describe food and clothing, home comforts and social influence. If these things are settled and clear to the mind and heart of parents, the main requisite is secured for a wise home training.

Having so far passed by mere authority, as in a sense secondary to the ideal to be shaped aright, and represented year by year, I return upon it now to recall its real importance in its secondary place, which is still a necessary place in home training. An idea must be a practical working power, else it is an imagination, and nothing more ; in which case it will soon be regarded as a delusion or a dream. The ideal must work out in practice, else all our thought—and, we must add, all our prayer—will be in vain. God's blessing is promised to honest work, which must be persistent work, even when *divine agency is promised*, as it is in this case.

Government is everywhere the condition of order and progress. This law is for all life, individual and social. From the family to the State it holds, determining all results. Mere authority or force only puts down rebellion, clearing the ground for government. But wise government is essential for a true unfolding of life, and a steady advance in work. Love must fulfil the law ; but law