

to a child to be called hard names for the least fault, or for no fault at all. At least it gives pain, till the feelings are blunted by such treatment: but then, remember, *love* is blunted too! and you would not wish your children not to love you. Children are tender things. They ought to be spoken to gently, not as if they were so many stocks and stones. "Oh, but you don't know *my* children; they are such plagues, it's of no use speaking gently to them; they wouldn't mind it a bit." Not so fast,—are you sure they would not mind it? Have you ever tried it? It is plain your present plan does not answer; for your children, you say, are plagues to you. If you had always spoken kindly to them, instead of roughly, it might have been otherwise. Even now it is worth trying. Come, see what a kind word will do. Show them that you love them. Try leading, instead of driving. Let them hear "mothers' words," such as mothers' words ought to be.

3. But do not think I am all for kindness and petting. Perhaps in some cases I should be more severe than you. I would have you be *strict*, though kind. When they do wrong, punish them; not in a passion, so as only to make them think, "What a rage mother is in!" but justly, calmly, and firmly. Never threaten them, as that woman did. Let us have no nonsense about breaking their bones, and so forth; but tell them what you are going to do and why, and then do it. One such punishment as this will do more good than twenty angry threats or hasty blows. More good, did I say? Nay, these last do nothing but harm.

4. Try to make your children *love* you. A child's love is worth having; and if you do not get it while they are young, you are not likely ever to have it. Love to his mother has helped to keep many a young man right, and been made the means of bringing some back from an evil course. You love *them* though you do speak roughly to them sometimes: then try, by word and deed, to make them love you.

5. Above all, speak such words as shall lead your children to God. I do believe there is nothing like "mothers' words" for this, no means that God so blesses as a pious mother's words to her children. How deep they sink! how long they stay! Begin early. Speak to your little ones about sin, and eternity, and God, and Jesus. Show them the *love* of God in Christ, and try to lead their young hearts to the Saviour. Ah, mothers! when you speak to your children thus, and pray that the Holy Spirit may bless your words, you are doing more for them than if you gave them all the riches of the world. Long after you are in the grave perhaps, the seed you are sowing in their hearts will spring up and bear fruit a hundred fold.

Only, you cannot give what you have not got. You will never lead them to a Saviour whom you yourselves do not know. Mothers! for your own sake, and for your children's sake, learn to know Jesus, the only Saviour for you and for them. Ask for the Holy Spirit; seek the gift of a new heart; that so you yourselves may come to Jesus in penitence and faith, and begin to lead a new life. Then you will not be content that your children should be without Christ. "Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaketh." When once your heart has learned to love him, then your lips will have something to say for him, and you will delight to speak to your children of Jesus and his love.