

So, also, tastes and inclinations of the young should be ascertained, for "the nature of the boy" as Plutarch observes, "is the material to be worked upon, the soil in which the seeds of knowledge and virtue are to be sown."

The increased refinement and cultivation of all classes in the present day, renders it necessary, to use a simile of Sydney Smith's, —that the mind be accustomed to keep the best company, if only to avoid the mortification of being deemed ignorant and inferior. But there are more powerful reasons for selecting the books which are to be put into the hands of the young with great judgment and caution, for there are numerous writings which prove as destructive to the mind of the young reader, as the volume presented by the physician Douban, is said to have been to the body of the Grecian King, who, as the Arabian tale relates, imbibed fresh poison as he turned over each fresh leaf, until he fell lifeless in the presence of his courtiers.

The books which are most suitable, are such as, without forcing the tender intellect, lead to enquiries into the reason of things, and suggest good thoughts, such as promote determination and decision of character, such as show that all good deeds are accomplished only by incessant industry and earnest zeal, such as teach men to excel by lifting up themselves, and not by depreciating others, and such as inculcate pure principles of action, and a horror of cunning, selfishness and irreligion. It is unfortunately too true, that the most extreme credulity is not inconsistent with the greatest scientific attainments. That which seems the most absurd and marvellous superstition is not irreconcilable with the highest education, and the utmost prostration of mind is not incompatible with the loftiest range of intellectual power. Hence to impart knowledge and inculcate a love of it, without at the same time teaching its right uses, is only to be compared to playing a game of chance, or to venturing in a lottery where the chance of accidents may produce a prize, but where the odds are largely in favor of a blank. It may even be stated further, that superficial or perverted knowledge may be a greater evil than ignorance, for one makes men powerful demons, the other merely powerless animals, "a little knowledge," says Bacon, "makes men irreligious, but profound thought brings them back to devotion."

To train a child aright, it is certain that severity is very seldom if ever necessary, a clear, distinct, kind, but determined manner upon the part of the parent being alone necessary. I am, of course, supposing that endeavors are made to teach by example, that the influence of kind words, which, when used by those that