

ready gained possession? The young sinner will repent, pray, and resolve to-day, and yet commit the same wrong again to-morrow. He will be an easy prey to temptation, because his lower propensities, which have grown strong by habit, are willing to yield, while the still small voice of conscience is drowned. If mothers could but see how deep impressions are made upon the tender souls of children by early experience,

which often exert an influence through their whole lives; if they would remember that the life to come will be in close connection with the purity of heart which is attained during our earthly career; if they would understand that to educate immortal souls is one of the highest callings, more attention would be given to a subject so important.

Massachusetts Teacher.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

### POWER OF TRUTH.

The following touching illustration of the power of truth is well authenticated. The article is from the pen of S. H. Hammond, formerly editor of the *Albany State Register*, who was an eye-witness of the scene in one of the courts.

The evidence, a girl of nine years of age, was called to give testimony against a prisoner for felony.

"Now, Emily," said the counsel for the prisoner, upon her being offered as a witness, "I desire to know if you understand the nature of an oath."

"I don't know what you mean," was the simple answer.

"There, your Honor," said the counsel, addressing the Court, "is anything further necessary to demonstrate the validity of my objection? The witness should be rejected. She does not comprehend the nature of an oath."

"Let us see," said the judge, "Come here, my daughter."

Assured by the kind tone and manner of the judge, the child stepped toward him and looked confidently up in his face, with a calm clear eye, and in a manner so artless and frank, that went straight to the heart.

"Did you ever take an oath?" inquired the judge.

"No, sir."

She thought he intended to inquire if she had ever blasphemed.

"I do not mean that," said the judge who saw her mistake, "I mean were you ever a witness before?"

"No sir; I never was in court before," was the answer.

He handed her the Bible open.

"Do you know that book, my daughter?"

She looked at it and answered, "Yes, sir, it is the Bible."

"Do you ever read it?" he asked.

"Yes, sir, every evening."

"Can you tell me what the Bible is?" inquired the judge.

"It is the word of the great God," she answered.

"Well, place your hand upon this Bible, and listen to what I say?" and he repeated slowly and solemnly the oath usually administered to witnesses.

"Now," said the judge, "you have sworn as a witness, will you tell me what will befall you if you do not tell me the truth?"

"I shall be shut up in the State Prison," answered the child.

"Anything else?" asked the judge.

"I shall never go to heaven," she replied.

"How do you know this?" asked the judge again.

The child took the Bible, and turning rapidly to the chapter containing the commandments, pointed to the injunction, "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour." "I learned that before I could read."

"Has any one talked with you about your being a witness in court here against this man?" inquired the judge.

"Yes, sir," she replied. "Mother heard they wanted me to be a witness, and last night called me to her room and asked me to tell her the Ten Commandments, and then we knelt down together and she prayed that I might understand how wicked it was to bear false witness against my neighbour, and that God would help me, a little child,