

The sympathy of an onlooker, the wisdom of a mother, will often

## INTERVENE SUCCESSFULLY

at the opportune moment and do what the logic and strength of will of the father could not accomplish. It is said that a student of the Free College, Edinburgh, called one evening upon the late Professor Davidson to tell him his doubts. He had heard that the professor had had his full share of doubts, and perhaps he thought the great teacher would be pleased to find a kindred spirit in his classes. While the young man was unburdening himself the professor remained silent, and when the student had completed the list of things of which he was not sure, the conversation was turned to other subjects. As he bade his teacher good evening at the door, the young man casually remarked, "it's a fine night." "Are you sure of that, Mr. G—?" the professor replied in his quiet way.

The wise parent or teacher studies the doubter with as much care as the physician examines his patient. The physician does not wrestle with the lunatic or flog him for the purpose of overcoming the evil spirit within him. He studies him and discovers that the madness is a symptom of a disease, which, if curable, must be treated by different methods. So doubts are but symptoms of

## A TEMPORARY DERANGEMENT.

Doubt differs from unbelief as much as from belief. It is a state of agitation, unrest. The state of disbelief is as stable as that of belief. Belief asserts that something is so, disbelief that it is not. Both are belief and, as such, are opposed to doubt. "Blind unbelief," though often identified with doubt, is a very different thing. So in morals; virtue and vice are contradictory habits, yet both are habits. On the other hand, the rebellion of the youth, the kicking against the pricks, the outbursts of passion, are not habits, but signs of the unrest or agitation which may issue in actions that will harden into habits of virtue or of vice. Is it then not unwise to treat doubt, intellectual and moral, as if it were the settled convictions or the habits that constitute character?

Dalhousie University, Halifax, N.S.

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