

Avoid a multiplying of rules, which imposes a yoke upon the child which he is not able to bear. "Do not go on the hearth-rug;" "I must punish you if you climb on a sofa;" "You must not run on the grass;" nor linger behind when walking, and so on without end; galling to the spirit, and wearying to the flesh. No child can remember all these prohibitions, (he is no child that can,) and by often reproving, he becomes callous; the conscience is hardened to rebuke, and consequently, when sin is committed, the child is indifferent to the reproof which is then justly called for. If your hearth-rug is easily soiled, substitute for it a common one, or cover it. If it is the danger of fire you apprehend, use a guard. If the grass is wet give your children tight shoes. Never waste their obedience on trifles, nor relax your demand on their obedience in essentials.

I think that we may trace this fruitful source of evil, viz. : disobedience, in many cases, to the indolence, bodily and mental, (often the latter,) of the mother; an unwillingness to enter the list with this giant evil; putting off to another opportunity what should be done to-day. As the twig is bent, the branch will grow; every day adds to the firmness of the texture, making it more difficult to train the plant. Then, why delay? Begin at once, in the strength of the Lord, this most needful task. Say not: "It is of no use: grace alone can change the heart." I deny it not; nay, if it were not so, I should say, sit still; for who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean?" but it is simply because grace alone can change the heart, that I urge you to work. A full supply is laid up for you. "Ask, and ye shall receive." All thy children shall be taught of me." Can you read these promises and doubt their fulfilment?

Do you yet object "that many pious parents have ungodly children?" Perhaps it may be so; but whose is the fault? The promise is to you and to your children. "God is not a man, that he should lie, neither the Son of man, that he should repent; hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?" But are there no conditions on the parent's side? Think ye that the blessing will be given to the indolent and slothful servant? Expect it not; arise! awake! The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Work, labour, agonize as if all independent on yourself, but look to the Lord *alone* for the blessing.

"FROM MY MOTHER, SIR."

A few days since a case came up in the U. S. District Court in Philadelphia, in which a captain of a vessel was charged with some offence on shipboard by his crew. An incident occurred in the hearing of the case, which excited a deep feeling in court and in all present.

A small lad was called to the witness's stand. He had been a hand on board the barque at Pernambuco, and was present during the controversy between the captain and the crew. The shaggy appearance of his head, and the bronzed character of his face neck, from the exposure of a Southern sun, and at first sight, would seem to indicate carelessness and neglect; but underneath that long and matted hair, the fire of intelligence gleamed from a pair of small and restless eyes, which could not be mistaken. The counsel for the captain, from the extreme youth of the lad, doubted whether he understood the obligation of an oath he was about to take, and with a view to test his knowledge, asked leave to interrogate him. This was granted, and the following colloquy took place: