

pure purposes of childhood or its trustfulness is a calamity. Alas, how often such damage as that is irreparable. What a pity that under the counsels or example or through the neglect of the older the unstained child should ever grow into the fetters of evil habits! Children have the right to be well-born, well trained, well educated, and to be maintained by their God-given institutions of education. To be encouraged in their God-given capacities of truth and love by every wisdom with which the alert conscience of their Spirit-quickened elders can surround them.

How? Have you ever heard of Wesley's rules? You remember them? You keep them? They are suggestive here.

1st. The older can help the younger by seeing to it conscientiously that they "do them no harm, by avoiding evil of every kind." If the older swears why not the younger? If the older lies or smokes or indulges in the unclean or the nasty or the doubtful, why not the younger?

They can see to it, also, that others are not permitted to do harm to the younger. The laws of the land are invoked for the protection of the young. They can make these laws wide-reaching and effective; the laws, for example, against child-labor, against selling liquor, tobacco, etc., to minors, against soliciting, against truancy, laws in favor of children's courts and providing for proper homes and guardians for outcast children and for taking them from the control of vicious and incapable parents. The younger can be helped by the older by assisting in the endeavor to build a wall about every child's virtue and honor that, so far as in him lies, by word or example by influence, directly or indirectly exerted, no harm may come to him from without.

But, secondly, we can help those who are younger than we are by "doing them good; by being in every kind merciful to them after our power, as we have opportunity of doing good to them of every possible sort." How about the books we read to them? How about our example in devotion to God and loyalty to the church? What interest in Bible study, what enthusiasm for noble plans do we awaken in them? What is the tendency of our temper towards them? Could they approximate a just conception of "the mind of Christ" in what they see in us?

If childhood is imitative the older must stand as copies, patterns. If, therefore, we must do good to those who are younger than we are, in order to help them whither shall we seek our resources of character? Character fit to copy and pattern after? "Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus."

#### ILLUSTRATIVE AND HELPFUL.

"Study the Word of God. Appropriate its truth. Live it before your children. Write its precepts upon their memories by sensible iteration, and bind its principles upon their hearts by faithful examples. Teach them simplicity of life and language. Teach them to tell the truth and nothing but the truth."—Michigan Christian Advocate.

The following from a sermon by A. C. Dixon, D.D., are suggestive:—

"Twenty-five years ago, in a western mining camp, a crowd of rough men had assembled to listen to music and speaking. While the band was playing, a baby in the audience, the only one in the whole camp, began to cry. A tall miner rose, and with stentorian voice, said, 'Stop that noisy band and give the baby a chance. Give the child a chance.'"

A little boy, when he was dying, was told by the minister that he was going to heaven. His last prayer was, "Lord, make room for a little fellow." He seemed to feel that there was no room on earth for him, and he was glad he was going to a place where there might be room enough."

"Do you do any literary work?" asked a neighbor of a mother. "Yes," she replied. "I am writing two books." "What are their titles?" "John and Mary," she answered. "My business is to write upon the minds and hearts of my children the lessons they will never forget."

Thousands of parents govern their children simply and solely for their own luxury and convenience, and take no pains to smooth the tones of their voices or to measure their action. I have seen children insulted so grossly by parents that nature in me said, "The parents ought to be severely punished, while grace in me said, 'No, they only ought to be reproofed and taught better.' Because God lent a little child to you He did not lend it to you to be a rug for you to wipe your feet on, nor to be a slave to run of your errands, and for you to practice your cruelty and irritability upon. That child was God's before it was yours."—Becher.

"Do not parents prejudice their children in favor of securing an education? Do they not seek to prejudice their minds towards that which is moral and of good report? Then why not prejudice them in favor of salvation through Jesus Christ?"

Besides, it is unscientific and contrary to the laws of psychology and experience to hold that youth will grow up unprejudiced. If the field is neglected it will be cursed with a crop of weeds. If youth is not prejudiced toward the good, it will be prejudiced toward the bad. The demonstrated laws of psychology better than we do. "It is surer to claim youth for Jesus Christ than to reclaim men when they have wasted their substance in the far country and sold themselves as the devil's swineherds."

"Children are the heritage of Christ: of such is the Kingdom of heaven. Their proper place is in the Church. To keep them out of the Church through indifference or prejudice; to prevent the enlargement of their religious life by disobedience of the divine command to bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord; to dethrone religion as the supreme and controlling idea, and to substitute pleasure or some other inferior thing, is to turn the feet of the children from the ways of light into the ways of darkness; to deny them their purest joys of life; to diminish their usefulness; to rob them of their largest opportunities; to withhold from them that to which they are justly entitled, and, it maybe, to shut them out from the Kingdom at last. It is a heavy responsibility."

"God bless the little imps, who would a man be without children? Five francs a week richer in pocket and a million a minute poorer in pleasure. Taking his ease instead of easing their little aches, sleeping at nights, instead of stumping about the bedroom in his slippers, but with a heart as hard as a gizzard and a soul as dry as dust."—Bruno, in Caine's "Eternal City."

"Some time since a fine tall young man was convicted of wilful murder, and lay under sentence of death. When his mother visited him in his cell, he turned round, and said to her, 'If it had not been for you, I should never have been here.' She replied, 'I'm sure I never told you to do any harm.' With awful emphasis he rejoined, 'I'm sure you never told me to do any good.'"

### Where Moral Courage Won

Christiana Dickson, the wife of one of the first settlers of Erie County, Pennsylvania, was a small, blue-eyed, low-voiced woman, extremely timid, but she had a horror of drunkenness.

She lived in days when the use of liquor was universal; but when her sons were born, she resolved to put a stop to whisky-drinking in her home. Her husband being absent, her brothers called for the help of friends and neighbors, according to custom, to put up a barn needed on her farm. They all assembled and went to work, while she prepared a great dinner. After an hour or two, whisky was asked for. She refused to provide it.

Her brothers, and at last, an elder in the church, came to reason with her, to tell her that she would be accused of meanness. Without a word the little woman went to the barn, and baring her head, stepped upon a log and spoke to them.

"My neighbors," said she, "this is a strange thing. Three of you are my brothers, three of you are elders in the church—all of you are my friends. I have prepared for you the best dinner in my power. If you refuse to raise the barn without liquor, be it! But I would rather these timbers rotted where they lie than to give you whisky."

The men angrily went home, the little woman returned to the house, and for hours cried as though her heart would break. But the next day every man came back, went heartily to work, enjoyed her good dinner, and said not a word about whisky.

This led to the discontinuance of the use of whisky at barn-raising in the country. Her sons grew up strong, vigorous men, and did good work in helping to civilize and Christianize the world; their descendants are all of a high type of intellectual and moral men and women. If she had yielded this little point, they might have been like many of their neighbors—drunkards.

### Learn by Doing

The last remark suggests the importance of making an earnest effort to practically apply in our Sunday School work the generally recognized principle of pedagogy, "Learn by doing." Truth never really belongs to us until we have put it into practice. The development in the modern Sunday School of the Boys' Messenger Corps and the organized Bible Class has come about as a result of the recognition of this principle. The Sunday School cannot even be a Bible school, in any vital sense, unless it is made also a school for training the young in Christian conduct. Every Sunday School, from the Intermediate Class upward, should be an organized force of Christian workers. Great care is required in directing the religious activities of the young that they may not be betrayed into priggishness or Pharisaism. But to give such wise direction is a part of the business of pastors, superintendents, and teachers; and if there are those who feel that they are incapable of rendering such service, they should in all seriousness and with all possible diligence set about preparing themselves for it.

### Cares of the World

"The cares of this world." All these things choke or smother the good seed of the word, drawing off so much of one's attention, absorbing so much of one's interest, and using up so much of one's time, that only the dregs remain for spiritual things, and a fagged, hurried, heartless formalism is at length all the religion of such persons.—Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown.