

PROTECT THE CHILDREN.

If I pierce the young leaf of a shoot of a plant with the finest needle, the prick forms a knot which grows with the leaf, becomes harder, and prevents it from obtaining its perfectly-complete form. Something similar takes place after wounds which touch the tender germ of the human soul and injure the heart-leaves of its being. Therefore you must keep holy the being of the child; protect it from every rough and rude impression, from every touch of the vulgar. A gesture, a look, a sound is often sufficient to inflict such wounds. The child's soul is more tender than the finest or tenderest plant. It would have been far different with humanity if every individual in it had been protected in that tenderest age as befitted the human soul which holds within itself the divine spark. — Froebel.

A young man was in a position where his employers required him to make a false statement, by which several hundred dollars would come into their hands that did not belong to them. All depended on this clerk's serving their purpose. To their vexation, he utterly refused to do so. He could not be induced to sell his conscience for any one's favor. As the result, he was discharged from the place. Not long after, he applied for a vacant situation, and the gentleman, being pleased with his address, asked him for any good reference he might have. The young man felt that his character was unsullied, and so fearlessly referred him to his last employer. "I have just been dismissed from his employ, and you can inquire of him about me." It was a new fashion of getting a young man's recommendations, but the gentleman called on the firm, and found that the objection was that he was "too conscientious about trifles." The gentleman had not been greatly troubled by too conscientious employes, and preferred that those

intrusted with his money should have a fine sense of truth and honesty; so he engaged the young man, who rose fast in favor, and became at length a partner in one of the largest firms in Boston. "A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches." Even unscrupulous men know the worth of good principles that cannot be moved.

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