

his mind without any fear of having a contest with a determined and stubborn will.

When the children come down in the morning, she calls James and Mary before her. Taking the hand of each, she mildly says, "My son, you made us all unhappy last night by striking your little sister; I hope you are sorry for what you did." "Yes, mother, I am," says James; being led easily now to the feelings of penitence and submission, to which, during the moments of irritation and excitement, he could not, at least without great difficulty, have been driven. Thus, by judicious management, the desired object is attained, and perfectly attained, while the contest is avoided. The fault is not overlooked, and James is humbled. But had the mother, regardless of the child's peculiar state of feeling, commanded him immediately to ask forgiveness of his sister, it would, in all probability have led to a scene acutely painful to both mother and son; and the final effect of the discipline would perhaps have been less beneficial upon the mind of the child. But cases will sometimes occur when it is not possible thus to waive the strife; when such an emergency rises, it is the duty of the parent boldly and resolutely to meet it: if from false feeling you then shrink, you are unfaithful to the sacred trust which God has committed to your care. Is it kindness for a mother to let her child die, rather than to compel it to take the bitter prescription which is to restore it to health and strength? And is it kindness to let those passions conquer, which, unsubdued, will be, for time and for eternity, a scourge to their possessor? If there be any cruelty in the world which is truly terrific, it is the cruelty of a falsely indulgent and unfaithful parent. Let it be particularly understood, however, that all we here inculcate is firmness in the discharge of parental duty, in those cases where such collisions between parents and children are unavoidable; they can, however, in most cases, be avoided. If, for instance, a child disobeys you, you can simply punish it for the act of disobedience, and there let the difficulty end; it is not necessary that you should always require that the thing at first commanded should be done. You direct a little girl to give a book to her sister, she refuses, and you may take two distinct courses to maintain your violated authority; you may go and take the book yourself, and give it to the sister, and then inflict such a punishment upon the disobedient one as the offence deserves; or, you may insist upon obedience, and to enforce it, enter upon a contest which may be long and painful; now whichever of these plans you adopt, be firm and decided in the execution of it.

In the above remarks allusion has been made to the variations of feeling to which children are subject; no one who has had any thing to do with education can have failed to observe this; almost every individual is conscious of seasons when he seems to be afflicted with a kind of morbid sensitiveness; our spirits often rise and fall with bodily health; and he has gained a great victory over his body, and a great triumph of mind, who can invariably preserve the same calm and cheerful spirit, undisturbed by harassing cares or the irritations of a diseased frame. The nervous systems of some individuals is so delicately constructed, that an east wind or a damp day will completely unhinge the mind. When we see some of