

her full share in that power which sways and governs mankind, which makes nations, families, individuals, great, virtuous, happy,—or mean, degraded, vicious and wretched. Woman is mistress of the fortunes of the world, by holding in her plastic hand the minds and hearts of those who are to mould the coming age, at that decisive period when the character is determined and fixed in good or irrecoverably bent on vice and mischief. Men go forth to act their parts on the great stage of life, the most gifted to exert vast influence over its affairs, but it is only to act out the character that has been formed at home."

It is not the amount of information which the mother may impart or may be able to impart. An extended and correct education will add immensely to her power: and the most thorough education which the age can supply is not more than is conducive to qualify a woman to be a blessed mother of blessed children. The little ones are always around her. Their education begins as soon as they are able to hear, to see, to feel. When they repose on the mother's bosom, the pulsations of unutterable affection are a lesson. The inexhaustible patience and wakefulness and care with which she soothes the hours of irritation or of sickness are a lesson. Her eye, her voice, her movements, her treatment of husband and servants and friends, her casual remarks concerning persons and things around her or introduced to notice through public channels, constitute educational processes that never fail to leave impressions distinct, deep, and permanent, and to give form and fixedness to the character of sons and daughters. The mother regulates and secures the order and subordination of the household. The father sways his sceptre, speaks in the lofty tones of authority, specifies the law, announces what is to be done, what *not* done; where the children are to go, where *not* to go; what company they are to keep, and what to *avoid*: what books are to be read, and what are *not* to be read; and he goes out to the field or to the office, but it belongs to the mother to give effect to his orders. A feeling of resistance is generated in the breast of the child by the peremptory *I will* of the sovereign. It is a significant and instructive fact that not parents, not mothers, but *fathers* are commanded not to provoke their children to wrath, lest they be discouraged.

The father is now gone, and the mother opens her lips. The heart now speaks, and the child is all attention. The father is not contradicted. He is not condemned. The sacred name of father is held up as a shield over the head of the peremptory master. The reasons which the father failed or forgot to annex to his commandments are supplied by the mother. Her overflowing affection, giving forth the evidence of its presence and power, secures unbounded confidence. The justice, the propriety, the advantage of the father's counsels are pointed out and are felt and acknowledged. The happy effect of subordination, not slavish, but intelligent and cheerful, are shown in after life. The husband or father, a moiety of manhood, combines with the wife or mother to form the unit which is entitled to the honourable designation of MAN. It is the unit which is the object of submission and of reverence. Let the union be broken up, and neither is the father revered nor the mother loved; and the children speak two languages, but they speak neither of them well.