

and you fear you may die? Hear what the Bible says:—He who clothes the lily of the field will surely clothe his children; He who feeds the ravens when they cry, will not let you suffer hunger. "They that seek the Lord shall not want any good thing." "Who forgiveth all thine iniquities, who healeth all thy diseases. Who redeemeth thy life from destruction, and crowneth thee with living kindness and tender mercies." He promises to make your bed in your sickness, that is, to send you relief from your pains. Still, the time must come when you will die. No father or mother can drive death away. Now hear what David the psalmist said when he thought about dying. God dwelt with David; so he said, "Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me." So you need not be afraid to die, for he will be by your bed side. And he will watch over your grave to bring you forth; for he says, "I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live."

Little folks, trust in God; make him your friend. Seek first his kingdom, his righteousness, his hope, his peace, his joy, while the lamp holds out to burn; delay not, *delay not*. Now, *now* is the accepted time, *now* the day of salvation. —*Golden Rule*.

#### OBEDIENCE.

I, for my part never despair of a child, however careless, idle, or mischievous he may be, if he has been trained to prompt obedience. It is like the main-spring of a watch; little irregularities may occur, but they are easily rectified, if the princi-

pal moving power be strong and active.

Allow me to offer a few remarks on this essential branch of a moral training.

*Begin early.* "Satan begins with the infant in arms."\* Anticipate him; be on the watch for the first risings of self-will, and check it in the bud. As your children advance in years, *be firm*. When they prefer a request, consider, before you reply, whether it will tend to innocent amusement or profit. If busy, or perplexed with many cares, delay the answer to a more convenient time, otherwise you may bring yourself into a dilemma, either of breaking your word or of granting what you do not approve. The answer once given, *be firm*; never allow yourself to be moved from your resolution by the entreaties of your children. You have, doubtless, all seen the effects of such vacillation, rendering children a plague to those around them, a perplexity to the parent, and fostering in their own hearts a secret spirit of rebellion. "Do, mother;" "Pray, let me;" "Only this time;" "We will not ask again;" or, with the cry and whine peculiar to badly-trained children, publishing to all the mother's weakness and the child's self-will; whereas, if the mother maintain her ground, the same family scene will not be again persevered in.

It is not necessary, though at times desirable, that you explain your motives for refusing. They should learn to obey, because your command is founded on the principle, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord."

Their obedience should be prompt; not, "In a little while;" or, "Yes, when I have done this;" or, "I am going, mother;" yet loitering all the while. Give your injunctions clearly, distinctly, *once*; let the child obey immediately.

\* Bridges on the Book of Proverbs.