

Bab started back on the run, fearing that she might carry out her threat. The boys, having created all the excitement they dared, deposited their stolen goods on the opposite curb, and disappeared in the crowd.

Muttering dire vengeance on the whole northern population, mammy pounced upon her property. With a sigh of relief, Bab turned to follow her. In her preoccupation she failed to notice the automobile bearing down upon her; the clanging of the gong bewildered her; instead of stepping forward out of danger, she took a step backward, and the next moment lay in a senseless heap in the middle of the street.

"Oh, yo' killed my po' little lam! Killed daid!" Mammy screamed, gathering the limp figure up in her arms, in spite of angry protests.

"Open yo' eyes, honey child, speak to yo' mammy. Oh, she's daid—daid! My po' little lam is daid!" mammy wailed, rocking back and forth in a paroxysm of grief and despair. "Day's killed my little lam—day's killed her daid!"

Rough, but kindly hands lifted the still unconscious form, and placed it carefully in the ambulance, which came clanging up. Mammy, heart broken, yet defiant, gathered up their scattered belongings, and climbed beside her young mistress.

A number of visitors were leaving the hospital, as the ambulance drove up. Upon catching sight of Mammy, one of the ladies stopped short with a little gasp; then came quickly forward.

"Chloe! what does this mean? Is Miss Barbara ill—hurt?" "Oh, Miss Granville, day done kill my little lam," Mammy cried brokenly. "She's killed daid!"

"Hush, Mammy, I am not dead! What is the matter—where are we?" Bab sat up, and rubbed her eyes in bewilderment.

"Glory, hallelujah! De daid am com' to life!" shouted Mammy, rolling her eyes and throwing out her black hands. "Oh, my little honey lam—"

But Bab was scrambling unassisted out of the ambulance. She felt sore, and a bit shaken, but was otherwise unhurt.

"Come into the hospital and tell me what has happened," Mrs. Granville said gently, but authoritatively. Bab made a clean breast of the whole affair, and found her aunt a sympathetic listener.

"You poor child," she murmured gently, when Bab had finished. "St. Joseph took better care of you than you knew—or deserved. Listen child, Vera LeStrange, the little girl I told you about, who, like yourself, is pining for her beloved south, will leave the day after tomorrow to spend a few months at the Hall where you were born, and spend so many happy years. Her cousin bought the place. The doctors think it best that she should have a companion of her own age; and her uncle thought you might like to accompany her, as she was going directly to your old home. So we have arranged for you to go with her."

"Oh, Aunt Mary!" Bab cried with shining eyes. "And to think I was running away! It is too good to be true—and I don't deserve it," she added in a whisper.

"That evening while sitting beside the cheerful grate fire, combing out her soft, dark hair, before retiring, a sudden, overwhelming sense of the dangers she had escaped that day, rushed over her.

"St. Joseph did indeed direct my steps," she murmured in an awed whisper. "With God's help, I shall try to be a better Catholic in the future!" And, in the privacy of her own room, Mrs. Granville, who had grown careless and negligent about her religion was making a similar resolve.—Mary M. Redmond in Young Catholic Messenger.

THE CHILD'S TRAINING

CARDINAL O'CONNELL DEFINES TRUE EDUCATION

POINTS OUT ESSENTIALS IN THE TRAINING OF YOUTH

At this time when another school year is about to open, the words of His Eminence, Cardinal O'Connell, the fruit of wisdom and long experience, should excite in every Catholic heart a deep conviction that true education must embody, as an essential, religious training. Thus only will our children reach the ideal of civic virtue expressed through fruitful citizenship and attain to the high destiny marked out by God for all his children.

CARDINAL'S PASTORAL

Among the manifold instances of the wonderful love of our Blessed Lord for His creatures, His exceeding affection and solicitude for children stand out conspicuously in the Gospel accounts of His public life.

It is easy to understand the reason for this: children have every equality that appeals to the Heart of Christ; innocence, purity, candor of soul, docility and confidence.

We all remember that touching occasion when the disciples in their mistaken care for Him would have kept the little ones away, lest they should annoy the Lord. Christ, however, seeing them, said: "Suffer little children to come unto Me and forbid them not."

Mindful of this command, it is our duty to bring the children near to Christ, and see to it that they grow in the qualities which He loves and which make them in a special sense the sons and daughters of God.

We should be all the more watchful and zealous in this duty because we know that all around us today are influences which tend to instill into young hearts irreligious thoughts and ideas and to alienate the little ones from Christ.

Let us now examine briefly these wonderful virtues of childhood which render their possessors so pleasing to our Blessed Lord and indicate in passing some of the dangers which tend to weaken and destroy them.

ENEMY OF INNOCENCE

Innocence has its enemy in a premature worldliness that dims the brightness of the young heart and kills or injures deeply the very qualities that should be the protection of early years.

The purity of youth is menaced by the moral degeneration that pervades the world, an evil that sweeps unchecked among those who know not their Christian law and extends its hateful power even to the faithful and their little ones; in a thousand unseen and subtle ways it advances its outposts in mature souls and from them inevitably spreads to the children themselves.

As sin robbed our First Parents of that candor with which they were originally endowed and made them the slaves of deceit, so do these worldly influences coming from the same source that corrupted their hearts, spoil that honesty and straightforwardness natural to childhood.

DOCILITY

Docility disappears from the heart of the child when parents forget or give up their divinely appointed places of guides to the younger generation, when the child is left to its own devices, or rather abandoned to random influences and the agencies of evil.

Some of the widely advertised and boasted educational systems of the day tend inevitably to the destruction of docility and the ruin of discipline. Even under the most favorable circumstances the right training of a child is a difficult art, calling forth the fullest powers of a soul richly endowed with grace and wise counsel; it must be begun in infancy, so that the growing mind may advance under proper direction and rule. Yet what do we behold all around us, wherever the young are made the victims of novel and noxious educational theories? Childhood is sacrificed to the Moloch of destructive formulas; teachers, instead of using the wisdom and experience of their years, deliberately encourage little ones to say and do whatever fancy or chance puts into their small heads.

VICIOUS TRAINING

Too often thoughtless parents admire the performances of their misguided offspring as smart and precocious. Little do they dream of the bitter pang that will be theirs in later years as a result of this unnatural forwardness. The plea, they must learn to express themselves, is the pretentious pretext of a very vicious training.

The plague has even entered our own gates; it has begun to infect the children of Christian parents, causing them to forget the ideals of true boyhood and maidenhood and to suffer the destruction of innocence. We have only to observe and listen to realize that the evil is abroad among us, busy with our own children.

The present age is the era of luxury, and luxury ought to have no place in any life, least of all in the life of a child; it is certain to produce physical and moral weakness, to corrupt the noblest faculties of the soul and render its slaves fit only for pleasure.

Yet this is precisely the bringing-up that many children are receiving today at the hands of unwise parents. Nothing is denied the child of the period; it is pampered and spoiled, not trained. The result is that at an age when youth should possess the will power to choose wisely, that power is gone, and in its place is a craze for evil allurements.

TRIALS OF LIFE

Every life, no matter how well protected, has its trials, losses and sorrows. Men and women must be prepared early to meet these crosses in a strong Christian spirit and to recognize the blessings concealed under them. Luxury and its accompanying influences wither the fortitude of the soul and make it incapable of patient industry and perseverance, but simplicity of life forms the Christian character and by wise discipline builds up that strength of soul that gives us the foundations of true life and forms the pillars of society. Any other ideal or rule is evil and sure to work harm.

It were bad enough if the weakness of foolish parents produced bad fruit only in their children, but it goes on to work havoc with their children's children and succeeding generations. Hence the enemy must be met at the beginning; parents must open their eyes and cultivate the principles of true parental duty, so that kind firmness and uniform discipline may give to those committed to their care that strength and resolution of soul that are the best endowment and most reliable inheritance they can carry into active life.

The world is not the smiling paradise it appears to inexperienced youth; it is filled with difficulties and temptations, and the sooner children are prepared to meet realities the better for them and for society.

BAD SCHOOL FOR THE CHILD

What school of life could be worse for a growing child than a home

where scenes of vanity, selfishness and discord are daily enacted before innocent eyes, where pleasure is the sole object of existence and the will of God and His law are ignored? With such examples before them, children are bound to grow up selfish, rebellious, prone to evil, enemies of society instead of its supporters, liabilities to Church and State and not assets, and finally, doomed to wretchedness and heartbreak.

Look now upon the family where God's will is law, cheerfully and quickly obeyed; where Christian discipline is the rule; where father and mother present to their children a good example of restraint, strength and affection; where corrupting influences are sternly banished and all things regulated according to the highest standards. Such is the home in which tranquilly reigns the goodly spirit of a well ordered household is ever manifest.

One of the first lessons to be taught to the child is candor in God, in the Church as God's representative on earth and in the parents as His agents in the home. This confidence must be carefully nurtured, for it is the rock on which man and woman later on will stand firm against the assaults of evil and every trial. The best way to instill this quality into the young heart is the example of it made daily visible in the parents' lives.

MODERN IDEA OF EDUCATION

It would seem according to modern ideas of education that the most sublime purpose of training is the attainment of self-confidence. Any one who knows modern child-life even superficially must realize that there is no need in these times for any special cultivation of this much overrated virtue. Of course all children ought to be taught a certain amount of self-reliance, and when it is obvious that individuals are lacking in this quality, they should be gently led to the attainment of it.

But self-reliance unrestrained and rampant is a very repulsive thing. Excessive self-confidence is the mother of the grossest and most revolting egotism, had enough among those of ripe age, but in children its presence is painful to those who behold it, it is so unchildlike and therefore unnatural.

The sublimest and most beautiful self-confidence is the unfailing hope that God will help us if we do our best and the recognition of the fact that even our very best without God's help will accomplish but poor and unsatisfactory results. The habit of confidence is cultivated by daily prayer and supplication for His fatherly assistance in all that children undertake. Such reliance on God's aid, far from weakening initiative and courage, only stimulates them, for they are the very conditions upon which God will grant His support. As a child who gives the impression of wanting to appear wiser than his parents is a very sorry sight, doubly so is the youth who has not learned to look to God's wisdom and strength for continuous guidance and encouragement in all his undertakings.

TRAPS FOR CHILDHOOD

With so many dangers lurking to entrap childhood, with evil entrenched everywhere, what are parents and guardians to do to ensure a coming generation of stealing and dependable men and women?

First and most important essential in the highest degree, is to get back to the Christian system of training and development, to follow strictly the rule laid down by the Lord. "Suffer little children to come unto Me." Everything in the home must dispose the little ones to come near to Christ; they must learn that He is the Way, the Truth and the Life; that their souls in time and eternity are destined for His sweet service.

There need be no vagueness at to the true model of the Christian home, since God Himself has portrayed that abode in Nazareth where Christ lived so many years and was subject to Mary and Joseph, united the joy of obedience, work and union of hearts were the influences animating all three. The Holy Family is a shining reality which ought always be kept before parents and children, and especially in this day, because it gives the remedy for worldly notions and false system and illustrates the true rule of family life.

CONSTANT WATCHFULNESS

Constant watchfulness is one of the most important duties of parents; if they fail in this they are unworthy of the names of father and mother; if they care only for vanity and display, what wonder if the children follow the evil example! We all know alas! where this fatal path, entered upon in childhood, eventually leads—to moral destruction.

Religion must ever occupy the highest place in the Christian home. Side by side with careful training in God's law must come frequent use of His Sacraments, so needful in the years when budding passion is developing like a poisonous plant in the soul. Thus will the little ones be brought near to Christ, endowed with noble qualities and formed on right ideals.

An excellent custom, now unfortunately more honored in the breach than the observance, yet which is of great power in sanctifying the home and training children for the future, is family prayer. At least once a day all should unite in this devotion that purifies and sweetens the whole household.

THE PRINTED PAGE

The printed page has its dangers and great ones too. It is fatally easy



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today for the child to happen on reading that is rank soul-poison. Recreation also must receive parental attention and the companionship of the children's hours of play be safely guarded. It is a grave omission for fathers and mothers to neglect this, for many a little one, carefully protected and taught at home, has come to disaster through bad companions. "Suffer little children to come unto Me" is a command, a law laid down for parents, and the only right way to bring up a child is to see that it is near to the Lord at all times: at home, at work, and at play.

The children of this Diocese are mine, for I feel I am their father in God. The growth of their souls in purity and strength is one of my greatest solitudes and the tenderest affection of my heart goes out to the lambs of the flock. I feel this responsibility very deeply. I want them to know my voice, to hear it and to love it; to remember me in their prayers and esteem. They will walk as we lead them in faith and work. This grave responsibility is ours, dear Christian parents, and we must guard and fulfill it as one of our highest duties.

HOPE OF CHURCH AND STATE

It is a most inspiring and consoling thought for me to reflect that I can be of such great service in bringing the children to our Blessed Redeemer, for in a few years these little ones whose solid foundations of faith and piety are now being laid in so many thousand homes, in so many of God's temples, in so many schools conducted by devoted Religious, will be the sterling men and women of this Diocese, the strength and support of Church and State in the coming time.

The duty of parents always has the same unvarying obligation and pressure, but now on the return from recreation and vacation, when naturally discipline has been somewhat relaxed, it is time to reflect and return with renewed vigor to a fresh consideration of them.

It is my earnest wish that parents read and explain this message of mine to the children; that they may realize that my heart is with them and my constant petition to Almighty God is for their growth in holiness, their welfare and true happiness. I pray that they may begin the school year with eager minds and bodies invigorated by rest, and realize how precious are these years of preparation both for time and eternity, so that they may make the fullest use of the opportunities presented to them now. Only the most diligent work and study will prepare them sufficiently for their future duties, a noble filling of whatever place they are destined to hold.

EVIL OF IDLENESS

They must flee idleness as one of the worst evils of life. This does not mean that they are not to have recreation which is the wise use of unexpended time to give strength to body and soul. Idleness is purposeless frittering away of time, one of God's most precious gifts. Let them begin to value their lives as of inestimable worth; let them realize even now that God has given them something definite to do in the world and that He will hold them accountable for the use of His sacred gifts in the accomplishment of this work. Each hour idly spent brings its penalty and its quickest result is unhappiness. The busy are always happy. They who see high and noble purposes in life are too much occupied to be easily worried and disheartened.

Let them learn to love study. The miner descending into the depths of the earth well knows the sordidness and discomfort of his surroundings, but he forgets these in the quest for precious metal; he digs and searches, and as each period of labor is rewarded with a nugget of gold or silver, all thought of fatigue, of clinging soil and stubborn rock is as nothing.

TREASURES OF KNOWLEDGE

As the workman familiarizes himself with whatever can help him to attain the object of his search, so should the student habituate himself to serious effort in delving into the treasures of knowledge. A well-stored mind is a wonderful preparation for life. The wealth of the mind is a treasure that no one can take away; it is the key to whole worlds of wisdom, awaiting the patient industry of those who are determined to obtain it. The nuggets of knowledge which the toil of the student brings forth are part of the wisdom of the ages. The lives of all the saints and heroes, the men and women who have accomplished wonderful things for God and fellowman form a rich store of human experience which study reveals. The secret of their goodness and greatness will be found in a lively faith in

their eternal destiny and a desire to follow God's will to the very end of their strength. And from a realization of this same faith and obedience to God's will must come the vital spark which in due time will develop the children of today into the sterling Christian men and women of tomorrow.

Surely the children of this Diocese are not indifferent to what their future lives ought to be; they do not want to be drones in the hive, accomplishing nothing, making no step in advance. God has blessed them and all the children of this land as no other in opening to them such bountiful fields of opportunity.

BLIND AMBITION

Far be it from me to point out the great merchant princes and captains of industry as models. The atmosphere of the business world is filled with the exaltation of false ideals, certain to breed disappointment, full of peril to mind, heart and soul. Our children should be warned of these dangers, against this fever of money-getting, this blind ambition to attain high places of doubtful honor, for they are all symptoms of a pervading and fall disease. Not that way lies happiness, and after all, happiness is God's greatest gift to man on earth.

No, what we wish to point out now is the fulfillment of life's highest destiny in a cheerful, contented, fruitful and laborious life, sanctified to the full by love of God and the noble charity of a Christian heart. This alone brings the peace of God which surmounts all understanding.

In this way life is freed from that cancerworm of care that eats away cheerfulness and joy. If worldly prosperity comes honestly and by God's will, it is a real blessing to be used for His glory and the benefit of humanity; and if it does not come, something else does come, a million times more precious, and that is the calm contentment of mind and heart in the knowledge that, having done our duty in this life in high or low position, a just God and most loving Father keeps constant watch over our daily trials and successes, notes strictly how achievements and crosses are borne and stands ready at the gate of Eternity to render the sublime reward for lives passed in His service.

May God bless the children of this Diocese of Her Vicars, may He lay His hand on their little heads and bring their tender little hearts to His Sacred Heart, so that they may become a source of consolation to their parents in school and at home, that the lessons they are now learning may prepare them, not only for this life, but also fit them for the glorious place reserved for them in Heaven.—Boston Pilot.

FRENCH GENERALS PUT FAITH IN GOD

Bishop Tissier of Chalons, in a sermon preached recently at the laying of the corner stone of the Victory Monument at Lourdes, paid tribute to the faith of the soldiers and generals of the French army during the Great War: "Marshal Foch, the future generalissimo, on the night of the first of the sacred words of the psalmist to express the depth of his gratitude. To my words of congratulation on his triumphant entry to Chalons, he replied, raising to heaven his eyes shining with joy and hope: 'Non nobis, Domine, non nobis, sed nominis tui gloria.'"

"So Castelnau, on the eve of the battle of Champagne, sent to a night adoration all the officers of his staff who were not on duty, and all officers and soldiers with the Bishop in their midst joined in Psalmody, broken only by the artillery detonations."

"So Mangin, who returning victorious from Douaumont, entered the church at Notre Dame de l'Epine, to salute 'Le Bon Dieu,' as he was wont to do; and Fayolle, who on his way to Italy to take the command of the Allied forces, came to his Bishop for a blessing upon that expedition of liberation."

"So again Gouraud, who, on that evening of July, when he had so magnificently broken the last German offensive and, in a few hours, restored the French fortune wrote to me: 'We have won the first pass; may God help us to win the rest.'"

"And so at last Maistre, who, humbly recognizing the Sovereign Master whose Names sound so much like his own, almost apologized for his victory and said to those who admired his exploits: 'Man believes we have extraordinary powers, whilst we are only painstaking workers back of whom God is at work.'"

"I now understand when I recall this faith of our great leaders, the promise made to me one day by another general, who emulates their courage: 'Bishop, when we have won the victory, I shall write the mystical history of the War.'—The Sentinel of the Blessed Sacrament.

OUR DAILY ACTS

There is not a single thing we do all the day long, which may not, and that quite easily, be made to advance the glory of God, the interests of Jesus, and the salvation of souls. No matter how completely the world may have set its seal upon it, nor how utterly it seems to be an affair of business, or a trivial concern belonging only to the misery of

human life. The heavenly motive enters into it, that moment it is all filled with God, and becomes a jewel of almost infinite price, with which the Divine Majesty condescends to be well pleased.—Father Faber.

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