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EDITORIAL JOTTINGS.

THE evil to which the following paragraph from the *Montreal Witness* refers is unfortunately not confined to Montreal. It is rampant in Toronto and other cities and large towns. Some gardens are so systematically stripped of fruit that the owners have concluded it is not worth while to have the labor and expense of raising fruit to fill the pockets and stomachs of the hoodlums. Every Sunday going and returning from school in the afternoon we do not fail to meet gangs of boys making for the suburbs with just one idea, to rob any garden or orchard that they find unwatched. It is but just to say that the large majority of them have stamped on their features as it also comes out in their talk, that they are of one nationality, and there is little doubt claimed by one church:—

“This is the season when small boys may be seen, at any time of day, making their way down all the streets which lead to the mountain with noticeable artificial paunches, the result of shirts loaded with apples. Some substitute sacks which they carry home in open daylight. Our lower classes seem to be without any feeling that it is wrong to steal apples. They will indulge in it before any one’s eyes, and though orchard property is heavily taxed we do not seem to have any police to protect it. Possibly the policemen themselves think stealing apples rather a pastime than a sin. The result is that Montreal, which might be the greatest fruit-growing city in the world, finds that it is not worth while to cultivate a fine fruit tree for a year only to see its burden removed in a single night, and that before it is fit eating for anybody.”

We trust that all the teachers in our Sunday schools will strive to impress on the minds of their scholars that stealing is stealing, whether it be an apple or a dollar bill. The average boy, who would scorn to take a cent improperly, has a difficulty in understanding that it is equally wrong to steal fruit or a ride on a street car, but it is quite possible to make it

clear. When the lesson was on the Ten Commandments some time ago, a teacher who would make it plain said to his boys, “If you came into my house and took money from my table what would that be?” “Stealing,” was the prompt reply. “But if instead of money apples were taken, would that be stealing?” “Yes.” “But suppose again that the apples instead of being on my table, were in a tree in my garden, would that be stealing?” “Yes,” again promptly. Whatever was the effect upon them, those boys touched bottom as to right and wrong in the matter.

BUT the Eighth Commandment is not the only one that requires specially impressing upon the minds of our young people. The state of society in which we are living, the precocity of independence, the rapid development of secular education, alike help to beget a forgetfulness of the command “Honour thy Father and thy Mother.” It is distressing, it is offensive, to hear the way in which some young Misses and Masters speak to and of their parents—the superciliousness, the insolence, the scarcely covered contempt are unpardonable. No doubt parents themselves are often to blame for permitting the growth of such a habit, for a growth it is, and in its earlier stages might with little difficulty be checked and uprooted. None the less is it the duty of the Christian teacher to insist that no one who despises this divine law can be a follower of Jesus. It is a command transferred to the new covenant, and no grace sits more beautifully upon a young disciple than a loving honoring of parents.

THREE years ago, at least, we cut the following from the *Toronto Globe* intending to publish it in the next INDEPENDENT, but it got laid aside and has only just been uncovered. If it