

MORAL TRAINING.

THE truthfulness of the wise man's maxim,—“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it,” is well illustrated by every day's experience. Every movement in the social circle is pregnant with the effects of precepts and examples, good or bad, which have existed in society during the early life of every individual. The result of precepts and examples resolves itself into habit,—and habit, once confirmed and established, moulds everything so as to accord with its peculiarities. Hence the importance of forming right habits in the days of our youth.

Take for example the history of a family who have become ripe in vice,—gambling, profane swearing, intemperance, Sabbath-desecration, idleness, and their kindred vices; who have, in a word, abused their parents, deprived them of the necessaries of life, and brought down their grey hairs with sorrow to the grave,—and the result invariably marks the neglect of proper youthful training. Parents, in too many cases, like Eli of old, have held the reins with slack hands—have allowed the worst passions to predominate, and immoral associations and connections to be formed. In reading the confessions of convicted criminals—those who have received the retribution of an ill-spent life, how many there are who attribute their deplorable end, not only to the want of moral and intellectual teaching in their youth, but to the bad examples set by parents and guardians, along with the evil associations formed in after life. The whole life of such characters reflects on the bad system of youthful training.

The more we see of society, the more necessity we see for having children trained up in the way they should go.

The miserable selfishness and covetous dispositions that so often manifest themselves in society—which in some individuals go so far as to deprive parents of the last morsel of bread, and even drive them to beggary; the utter neglect of the cultivation of the mind, socially, morally, and intellectually; the difficulties encountered by parents in the distribution of property, in order to avoid litigation among their offspring, arises, in nine cases out of ten, in the want of

proper youthful education,—an education which teaches the right use of property, the right treatment of parents,—the right duties to society, individually and collectively, and the right duties to our Creator.

Enter the haunts of vice—trace crime to its foundation—view it in all its ignominious departments,—and the cause resolves itself into the following:—bad examples, bad companions, a full exercise of the evil propensities of our nature; and the absence of good moral precepts, good examples, good admonitions, good company, good teachings respecting the affairs of life and our duties to mankind, and above all not having been taught to remember our Creator in the days of our youth.

While it is true that man is born to trouble, still, by a proper system of education, the greatest troubles become softened down, and are borne with greater fortitude and patience; while without such education as will subdue our passions, and raise our minds above the grovelling and sensual appetites of earth, society will be in broils and trouble. Even the monarch, who lives in the midst of an uneducated people, though sitting proudly upon his throne, knows not the day nor the hour when his kingdom will be thrown into rebellion, and he hurled from his throne.

The following eloquent plea for the early training of the youthful mind, though we do not know to whom to ascribe the authorship, sets forth the great necessity of education in strong terms. The author says:—“Let those whose wealth is lost or jeopardized by fraud or misgovernment—let those who quake with apprehension for the fate of all they hold dear—let those who lament and behold the desecration of all that is holy—let rulers, whose counsels are perverted, whose laws are defied or evaded—let them all know, that whatever ills they feel or fear, are but just retributions of a righteous heaven for a neglected childhood. Remember, then, the child whose voice first lisps to-day, before that voice shall lisp sedition in secret, or thunder treason at the head of an armed band. Remember the child whose hand to-day first lifts the tiny battle, before that hand shall scatter