

breaking it up, to place the homeless child in a family home, and in every other way possible to follow the simple rule of friendly and brotherly co-operation. Children cannot be forced into goodness any more than a baby can be forced to go to sleep. They have to be led by gentler methods and gradually taught by their reason to appreciate the good and avoid the evil. Children should always be praised when they perform any meritorious act or have striven to accomplish anything. To be complimented and praised encourages them to persevere, and incites them to still greater and better things. There has been too much of scolding and punishment instead of the encouraging word and the helping hand. A mother one day told her little boy that he was to play in the front yard and was not to go outside the gate. The little fellow saw no hardship in this until he went outside and beheld his little companions playing some distance off. He walked to the gate and looked wistfully at them, but came back and tried to amuse himself alone; three times he went to the gate with the temptation growing stronger each time. At last he could resist no longer and sped away to join his play-fellows. On his return his mother called him in and said she would have to punish him for his disobedience, and explained to him that she had been sitting at the window and had seen him go to the gate two or three times and at last run off. The little fellow turned and said, "Mother, did you really see me go to the gate the first and the second and the third time?" "Yes," the mother replied, "I did." "Well mother," he said, "why didn't you tap on the window and help a fellow out." Was there not a cutting rebuke in this for the mother who was more anxious to punish the child for wrong-doing than to tenderly and lovingly prevent him from getting into trouble, and is there not something that each one of us can learn from the incident that will aid us in our work for the children.

We are all the product of our environment and live the life that is shaped and moulded for us in our early years. The boys and girls of our wealthy and prominent citizens, as well as the children of the poor, are made out of the same material, and it depends on the moulding they receive in youth what they will become later on. The children of the rich make mistakes and often transgress the law, but there is always sufficient influence at hand to save them from the error of their way, while the children of the poor have but few friends to take their part, otherwise they, like the others, might live down their wrong-doing and with names untarnished attain to positions of usefulness and honor.