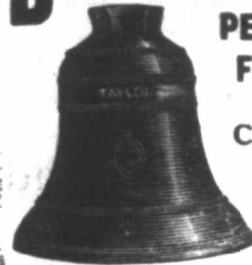


obeys law, but he obeys his own wicked propensities. Which then is wiser, to yield to the just authority of parents, teachers, laws of man and God, or to the evil influences which oppose them? Boys often think it manly to rebel, but the greatest men have been those most obedient to proper authority. General Grant was one day walking on a government wharf smoking, when the guard said to him that smoking was not allowed here. Grant did not rebel, because he was a general, and the command had been given by a subordinate; he at once threw away his cigar, remarking that it was a very good order. You see he knew the dignity of obedience.

General Sherman did not approve of General Grant's plan for taking Vicksburg, and wrote a protest. Then he obeyed Grant's orders as heartily as if he himself had conceived the plan, and Grant said that Sherman was a hero. Boys think it grand to be soldiers, but soldiers must obey before they can command. Sheridan was so prompt to obey orders that he was advanced to the command of a large part of the Army of the Potomac, and Warren, who did not obey promptly, was superseded.

Boys sometimes question the wisdom of their father's commands, but they should obey cheerfully, and in after years they may see that the command was good and wise. Perhaps you have never thought that your son will be apt to be like yourself, even in your faults. Aristotle said that a man accused of filial disrespect excused himself by saying, "My father beat his father, and he his father, and my son will beat me when he is a man, for it runs in our family."

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