

In examination of this kind there is seldom enough kindness and forgiveness shown to make the child conquer his fear and confess the truth. The parent must feel really sorry, and try to make the child feel that it was its own deed which produced this perplexity on both sides. It would be faulty, however, to hold out frequently the promise of forgiveness as an inducement to plead guilty. Parents must keep their hands free to punish or forgive.

The worst lie is that of desire. It is committed when false statements are made, in order to obtain a certain wish. The object is clearly in view; in order to reach it, a plan is made, the best means are chosen, and the lie is told deliberately, and with full knowledge of its being a sin. Words and manner are carefully selected, the liar loses his identity and becomes a mere performer. No child begins its bad career with such a premeditated violation of truth; it has always been prepared for it by the preparatory classes just mentioned. The conscience of a wilful liar is already trodden under foot, and any other evil deed may be done; if temptation comes, the heart inclines to it, and a false statement will hide the deed from men.

The detection of such a lie should always be followed by a severe punishment. Thus far all eminent educators agree. But they disagree as to the kind of punishment. Rousseau and Kant propose to disbelieve for a while all statements of a child after it has told such a lie. This may be good in some cases, but at other times, especially when the child has stated the truth, it might put parents or teachers in rather an awkward position. Jean Paul thinks it best to condemn such a child to abstain from a king for a certain time, but this would prove to many a lazy child, especially in school, rather a reward than a punishment. Dr. Diesterweg and Dr. Benecke recommend, especially for young children, a comparatively severe corporal punishment, inflicted not in the heat of excitement, but after a while, in a loving, compassionate spirit. Dr. Dinter relates in his writing a case where one of his school-fellows was cured radically in the following manner.

B, the son of a laborious mechanic, was the intimate playmate of C, who had rich parents. As B's father had met with considerable dissatisfaction in his business, B expected no Christmas gift. He thought, however, he might have a pleasant time, if C's father would invite him to spend Christmas eve at his house. Both boys agreed to carry out this plan. B told his father that he had been invited for that evening to Mr. C's house, and C begged his parents to give an invitation to his friend. Both fathers happened to meet and talk about this subject. They agreed upon a plan according to which both were to be punished by their own deeds. On Christmas C met B and took him to his own house. He was received kindly, but when the gifts were distributed and enjoyed, he, as an unexpected guest, did not receive anything. It was the custom of the teacher of that place to call on some families that evening. According to agreement he called on Master B, and Mr. B. accompanied him to C's house. Here the lie was detected, and in an adjoining room sentence was pronounced that C's Christmas tree and a new suit of clothes were to be given to a poor boy in the neighborhood, while B had to share his gifts with a boy appointed by the father. This had the desired effect. Both boys became truthful men.

Thirdly. The most potent factor is a good example. It surpasses the best preaching and teaching. On this point philosophy and experience agree, and but a few remarks will be needed.

Little children like to play. It is well if adults will join them from time to time in their harmless amusements. More care, however, should be taken not to strengthen or confirm erroneous ideas or creations of their imagination. The child must learn to distinguish between the playful prattle and the earnest talk of those around him, or between a little comedy, in which the members of the family are the actors, and the earnest drama of real life. To teach that difference practically, requires considerable attention and delicate taste. One child will bear more than another, and one adult can go further than another without doing any harm. All the words and deeds spoken and done by adults in the presence of children, should be carefully weighed, and always be founded on truth. If a boy grows up in such a pure atmosphere of truth, it will require a strong temptation from without to make him tell a lie. He is true to himself and others, first by imitation, then by habit, and last by principle and religion. The same is true in the opposite direction. Experienced teachers can judge pretty correctly from the appearance of children, how high the moral and intellectual barometer ranges in those families in which they were brought up.

Children under six years of age should never be taught to conceal anything, even if the secret were of the most innocent character. An object which is to remain a secret should be known only by adults. The heart teaches to speak, and reason to hold one's

tongue. Little children have no developed reason, but they abound in heart. If an adult cannot keep a secret, how is a child to be expected to keep it? And will not the child, which is initiated in the secrets of adults, learn thus to hide secrets of its own?

Finally. Adults should keep their promises. No one is compelled to make such, but every one is bound by honor and truth to keep them. Children seldom forget promises made to them, but oftener those which they make themselves. It will be for their benefit not to ask too much of them in promises, but so much the more in fulfilment. To speak what one thinks, and to keep what one has spoken, is natural to man in his normal condition. If only the weeds of lie are kept away, and proper opportunities are given, the desire for truth will grow, and truth will make him free.—*Massachusetts Teacher.*

"COUSIN ANNA."

BY T. S. ARTHUR.

"Father!" There was no answer.

"Father! father!" And a boy's quick, firm grasp was laid upon the arm of Mr. Jacobs, who sat near the lamp, absorbed in the pages of a book.

"What do you want, you troublesome child!" said Mr. Jacobs, turning upon his little son with an angry countenance.

"Does the world go round?" George Andrews says the sun stands still and the world turns round."

"Of course it does, you little simpleton!" replied the father, in a tone of thorough contempt of the child's ignorance. "Now, don't come bothering me any more with your silly questions," he added, as he pushed the curious boy away.

Philip was disappointed as well as hurt by this treatment. The strange fact, which had been affirmed by George Andrews that the world turned round, had puzzled his brain sorely. He had thought about it, and imagined the consequences of so singular a phenomenon, until his mind was lost in bewilderment. If the world turned round, it was plain to him that the people would fall off. And then, again, did not the sun rise and go clear across the sky every day. No, no. George Andrews, if he was a big boy, must be wrong. So Philip ran home from the neighbor's house, where he had gone, after tea, to play with the children, and disturbed his father's pleasant state of mind by the untimely intrusion of what he was pleased to regard as a silly question.

Repulsed harshly, when he should have been received kindly and instructed patiently, Philip moved slowly away from his father's side, and sat down upon the floor to ponder the mystery of the earth's rotation—to look through the apparent truth and see, by the eye of reason, the real truth, that hid itself away from the unassisted natural vision. But, the more he thought, the more impossible seemed the thing which George Andrews had asserted. Forgetting, in a few minutes, his parent's frown, the child, in the eagerness of unsatisfied curiosity, started up from the floor, and crossing the room, disturbed his father with the question.

"Why don't the people fall off?"

"Jane! Take that child to bed."

The nurse was passing the sitting-room door at the moment. Mr. Jacobs' order was imperative; and the nurse knew that it must be obeyed.

"I don't want to go to bed," objected Philip.

"Take him away!" The father spoke sternly. "Next time, when you see me reading, don't disturb me with your foolish questions."

Mr. Jacobs turned to his book, and Philip was carried off in tears, to bed, suffering the penalty of a too eager curiosity. He cried himself to sleep.

Twice repulsed, and punishment added the second time, a new question arose in Philip's mind, almost as difficult of solution as the problem he had submitted to his father. Was it wrong to seek for knowledge? Ere light dawned upon his feeble intellect, tranquil sleep came with its blessed forgetfulness.

On the next morning at the breakfast-table, while Mr. Jacobs was relating to his wife some pleasant incident which had occurred the day before, Philip broke in with the untimely question.

"Father! Where does the sun go at night?"

The inquiry was answered by a frown and a sharply spoken "Hush!"

"As I was saying, when that troublesome child interrupted me"—Mr. Jacobs looked toward his wife again, and went on with his story; but the telling of it took too long a time for the patience of Philip, into whose mind a flood of curious questions was pouring.

"Father!"

No regard was paid to the child.