

—“Mamma says you told her a story to-day, Johnnie,” began a young father, anxious to impress his first-born with the enormity of a lie. “Do you know what becomes of little boys that tell lies? Well, then,” continued this voracious parent, “Bears and wolves catch and eat them up.” This is not quoted as an example of hereditary transmission, but to call attention to a means of discipline that is often, let us hope thoughtlessly, made use of in the correction of the young. But it is a means that defeats its object. Like every other falsehood, its basis is a lie, and its results are worthy of its source. If the child believes the paternal lie—as it very probably will if it is the first from that quarter—it may, through terror of threatened consequences, cease for a time to tell untruths. But any such effect will be transient. Few children accept for long any statement unchallenged. An adventurous spirit stimulates them to put all things, so far as possible, to the test. In cases like the above the child will do it hesitatingly, even tremblingly, but he will tell the lie to see if the promised consequences actually follow. It need hardly be said that the reaction from the appreciation of the lie he knows to have been told him will more than offset any slight gain to morals that would follow a timorous but transient acceptance. If the child disbelieves from the start, the result is the same, but is more rapidly attained. Now, why should otherwise sensible fathers and mothers allow themselves to govern their children through a lying gospel of fear? Children are few who do not reflect in their own persons the influences at work about them. They are imitative and quickly responsive, and readily adopt right habits of thought and action tenderly instilled through loving example.—*Babyhood.*

THE FATHER'S WILL.

Josepha was not in a very good humour that Sunday, though it was her birthday, her tenth birthday.

In the first place a Sunday birthday was a dull sort of a thing, she thought; and then baby Fritz had been so sick that mamma had not had a chance to get any little present ready for her. It was true that was only put off—the present was to come—but still Josepha felt out of sorts; and when mamma called her to get her Bible verses she broke out into a regular pout, and grumbled out that it was a hard case she couldn't have any fun at all on her birthday, not even a holiday from her Bible verses.

Mamma at once shut the Bible, and laid it on the table.

“I can't let you learn your verses while you are in a bad humour, daughter,” she said, “so I will preach you a little sermon instead: ‘Once there was a little boy who used to beg his father every morning to keep him away from the bees; but instead of helping his father to keep him, he went straight out and played with their hives, and of course they stung him again.’”

“Well, what next?” asked the little listener.

“That's all,” said mamma.

“All? Why I don't call that a sermon.”

“Yes, it's a sermon,” answered

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mamma, “but it is a short one, and it has my daughter for a text.”

“Now, mamma, you know I never do anything like that!” exclaimed Josepha.

“I think that I can show you that you do something very much like that every morning. When you are repeating the Lord's prayer what do you say after ‘Thy Kingdom come?’”

“Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven,” replied the little girl briskly.

“That is, you ask God to make you do His will just as the angels do it. How do you suppose the angels do God's will?”

“I don't know,” said the listener slowly.

“Of course we don't know exactly, but of some things we may feel confident; I am sure they do it promptly; I am sure they do it cheerfully; I am sure they do it perfectly.”

“The angels know just what God's will is, but I don't,” answered Josepha, who felt as if she needed somehow to defend herself.

Her mother pointed to an illuminated text on the nursery wall: “Children obey your parents.”

There was a long, quiet time then, in which mamma drew her little girl to her knee, and kissed her tenderly.

“I won't give you any verses to get to-day,” she said, gently, “but I will give you this little sermon to ‘learn by heart.’ Every time you say, ‘Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven,’ remember that you are asking God to make you do what you are told—promptly, cheerfully, perfectly. And then you must help the Lord to answer this prayer.”

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