

will see insects, reptiles, birds, animals, all providing their young ones with a necessary subsistence till they are able to provide for themselves, and not only this, but giving them the education necessary for their peculiar mode of life. If he doubt this, let him go into the fields in summer, and watch the mother bird teach her young ones to fly; let him watch the very animals around his fireside, let him observe the mother cat teach her offspring to trap the unwary mouse; let him observe Nature in all her phases, and he will ever receive the answer:—The parent cares for the young, the parent trains the young, and gives it all the education it possibly can, does everything in its power to enable it to fight the opposing forces that would do it to death.

Shall man, then, the lord of creation, the ruler and governor of the world, the possessor of all nature, the conqueror of his inmost secrets be found behind the lowest of the reptiles he despises, and take no thought for the care of his children! No, a thousand times, no! the laws of Nature, of Man, of God, all cry aloud and condemn any such idea. What care, then, is he to give his children? Is he simply to give them food enough to keep them healthy, and clothing enough to keep them warm? Is the body the principal part of the child or man, or is it only the lesser? This is not a very difficult question. Take two illustrations:—Let us imagine a man as physically perfect as you please, as beautiful as Adonis, as powerful as Hercules, as well formed as Apollo, but lacking the mind, an idiot. On the other hand, let us imagine a poor paralyzed man, unable to move hand or foot, but with the mind of Homer or Milton, or Shakespeare or Dante or Newton, aye, or even the mind of the ordinary man we see every day, and which lot would we choose; which is the higher, the better, the greater, a drivelling idiot with a beautiful form, or the helpless body with a mind that grasps the Universe, and reaches out its hands to every age, and every clime, to every people and to every tongue. Then,—and who can doubt it—if the mind be the true man, the real personage, and Nature demands, and the law demands, that the parent provide for the lesser, the poorer part of the child, how much more does Nature and her laws, demand that the true child, the mind, be cared for likewise, and trained.

There is not a shadow of a doubt that the parent owes an education to the child. The question rises: How much Education?