

get the child's point of view. Thus, we should never punish a child for his first offence, unless we have carefully warned him beforehand that a certain punishment would follow a certain action. Having given such a warning, we must be sure to carry it out, and very likely that particular offence will never be repeated.

Not only must we constantly teach our children the difference between right and wrong, but we must help them to love the right. We must make right-doing so attractive for them, that they can resist the impulse to do wrong. Helen was nine years old and big enough to make her own bed, but she frequently "forgot" and slipped off to play with the younger children. Mother tried a new plan. She had Helen work *with* her so that the two together made all the beds in the house. Helen was doing more work than before, but right-doing was no longer distasteful to her in this instance, because she had the joy of mother's company in doing it.

Bobby refused to play with little brothers, so mother quietly laid aside her work and sat on the floor beside the baby and began to amuse him herself. Bobby no longer took an interest in his own game, he was uncomfortable and hot all over because he knew that mother was busy and that the right thing was for him to play with baby brother. He was no longer happy in his wrong-doing; the right had become more attractive and he slowly came over and played in mother's place. *Example* had shamed him and made him really desire to do right.

Not only example, but *stories* will help a child to choose between right and wrong. How we can make him admire and desire to copy the brave Daniel who faced the lions rather than do wrong, or the boy who gave up his lunch of loaves and fishes to help Jesus and the hungry multitude.

Love is a great force in guiding our children. Encouragement of right-doing on the part of the beloved mother or father is much more important than punishment of wrong-doing in training our children to choose the right. A word of praise, a smile of approval, will make a child so love right-doing that it will

become a habit and he will have neither time nor taste for wrong-doing.

Out of his desire for an outward approval, there will gradually grow in the child a desire for an inward approval, a desire to choose the right because his "conscience," as we call it, demands it. When this spirit is developed in the very heart of the child, we have small cause to fear for him. We may rest assured that he will at least endeavor to do that which appears right to him.

Toronto



The Sugar-Coated Moral

I had been High Official Story-teller to a mob of youngsters a long time before I stumbled on the magical powers of persuasion exerted over children by a cunningly told tale. I was first enlightened by my small nephew, Thomas, whom the Biblical phrase well describes as "having no truth in him."

I had been telling the children the story of the Persian lad, about to cross the desert, whose mother had sewed in his robes fifty pieces of gold. When the party was captured by robbers, he alone disdained to lie about his money and calmly revealed its hiding-place, to the great admiration of the robber captain, who thereupon freed the entire company and gave them back their possessions.

We were all astonished the next day when Thomas told a really straightforward account of some of his doings. Later in the day, when we were alone, I commended him warmly, and he said, wistfully, "Was I really like the Persian boy, Aunt Mary?" Then and there I planned a whole series of truth-telling hero tales for Thomas's especial benefit.

About this time thirteen-year-old Betty suddenly wanted to braid her curly mop (the dear child's one beauty) and clamored for a *black princess gown*. We breathed again when we discovered that a certain favorite heroine of a much-loved book was addicted to shining braids of hair and sable robes. And at last we had found a way to manage contrary Betty. Instead of preaching, entreating and commanding, as of old, we have fed her with biographies of cheery Louisa Alcott, Alice Freeman Palmer and charming Dorothy Wordsworth. Sweet romance can