

How and what am I to teach my child? asks the mother earnestly—Surely the answer is not far to seek to any Presbyterian, fairly conversant with the history and development of his own beloved church.

There are only two text books needful and these are or ought to be in every Presbyterian home. The Bible—God's revealed rule of life to men and with this, that grand character moulding, soul strengthening *multum in parvo*—"the Shorter Catechism."

It is impossible to over estimate the good that a wise and faithful parent may accomplish for his child by instructing him regularly in this most worthy summary of Christian truth.

It is the faith of childhood proved by experience, broadened by culture and spiritualized by Divine communion that becomes the strong bulwark of riper years.

The child's mind from its very elasticity is most susceptible of impression and conviction once affected is never effaced.

Though these lines, lovingly written upon the little heart by prayerful parents, may for years be invisible still shall their form remain waiting only some biting crisis to develop them in all the glory of their saving power. As an example of this we read of an erring youth, the child of a Christian home who once in a far western saloon was drinking the night away with evil companions.

Mockingly the question was asked by one of the company "What is sin?" When from sheer habit of childhood the prodigal replied—"Sin is any want of conformity unto or transgression of the law of God." There was a pause in that boisterous laughter and when the spirit had applied the stray arrow with convicting power more than one boy declared "I will arise and go to my Father."

So the Word never fails—"My Word shall not return unto me void."

We earnestly urge, upon all parents who read this the great work of systematically instructing their children both in the Bible and Shorter Catechism.

In order to encourage the children of our homes and strengthen the hands of the fathers and mothers, we propose to issue for six months a series of Tabular questions comprising selections from both the Word and Catechism and to all children making satisfactory reply we will during the first weeks of January '96 present an illuminated Diploma of merit, in testimony of their diligence and progress. See page 308.

The Reveille.

There are not wanting indications that another battle is impending on behalf of the sanctity of the Lord's Day against the advocates of the running of street railway cars on that day. The press favorable to a change is being charged with the munitions of war and as the time when aspirants for municipal honors draws nearer paragraphs appear from day to day ventilating the subject. These are signs not to be mistaken, and it is high time the champions of the right should be donning their armor and taking the field. The Association will no doubt do its duty. Meetings will be called, letters will be written and the forces marshalled. But is it not worth considering whether something else should not be undertaken? Should not candidates for the position of aldermen be placed in the field? It may be taken for granted that the "Sunday car" party will pick and choose their men, if not openly and avowedly, secretly, and that a vigorous canvass will be made in support of their ticket. The best way to meet such a move is by carrying the war into Africa.

There are various reasons why this policy should be adopted. The city council is sadly in need of good men. Our best citizens ought to aspire to seats at the Alderman's board and it is not to our credit as a city that men who have made comfortable livings if not large fortunes shirk their public duty to such an extent as to leave the field to nobodies. Toronto deserves better than this at the hands of her able and upright and Christian men of means. It is high time that religion entered our civic board. Public life would be the gainer and religion would not be the loser and until men of religious character come forward and seize the reigns of civic government, there will be moral leaks in the conduct of our municipal affairs. To those who object to the carrying of religion into public life we submit the following extract from an article in a valued contemporary:—

The sunshine of piety in politics would not hurt the piety, and would be of inestimable benefit to the politics. The best Christianity of the past has always meant the best citizenship. Luther and Knox labored heroically for the realization of a Christian state. In the palmy days of the Commonwealth Christ's men were the state's men, ever loyal to those things that made for the highest prosperity of the country. The Puritan fathers who crossed the Atlantic "in search," as Lowell finely puts it, "not of gold but of God," built up a great and glorious republic by fidelity to all civic functions which kept pure and noble the tone of moral life. No honest student of history would charge a want of nationality or a want of patriotism against Puritanism. Cromwell, who in spite of all that latter day detractors say against him, was the incarnation of the spirit of Puritanism, never hesitated to spend time, strength, money, and even blood in making England free within and glorious without. He and his associates emphasized the value of piety in politics by breathing into the government of their time a high and holy ambition to make their country great with that righteousness which exalteth a nation. Such a sublime imagination of a true commonwealth should fire the hearts of their descendents to make in the New World a country like unto England in the days when her name stood—as never before or since—a synonym for liberty and righteousness. That consummation can never be reached until the cross is planted in every department of politics, and men subordinate the selfishness of party to the service of principle.

Between piety and politics there ought to be no antagonism. Piety is the service of God, and politics the service of the State. Both are forces at work on behalf of the people. In the church men work for spiritual purposes, while in politics they work for civil purposes. Both activities are fused into harmony by Christianity, which unifies all man's endeavor into doing the will of God. "Whether ye eat or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." God is to be glorified in the polling booth as much as in the church, and by voting just as much as by praying. The times call for stalwart Christians who love their God and their country so much that they will buckle on the armor of righteousness and fight until all base and vicious forces are driven out of the government of their beloved land, and until the conditions of living are such as shall enable everything that is good and true to flourish. What is needed is a new crusade in which the followers of Jesus Christ shall go forth in the inspiration and strength of the cross to overthrow all political corruption and selfishness, and to enthrone in the high places of the land rulers with ideals, men on fire with the holy ambition to build in this fairland of ours a city of God like unto the descending Jerusalem.