

In infancy, therefore, can training be certainly made most productive, either of good or of evil. This is the great fact which should be proclaimed to the world from every house-top. The want of a *thorough knowledge* of this fact among the Mothers of the World account to me, fully, for the slow growth of kindness and good will among mankind, in this hitherto discordant and unhappy world of ours.

I have no doubt but that every child born with a sound mind, may, to a moral certainty, be trained to be a gentle, a benevolent, and a pious adult. Many to whom I have expressed this conviction have called me a visionary; yet I daily grow more and more convinced that I am right.

I am sometimes asked, if I desire to do all this without the aid of religion; to which I answer, God forbid! Yet I do not hesitate to say, that even without religion much good may be done by gentleness and good will in all the treatment of the infant. But add to all other cultivation, the cultivation of the religious and moral sentiments, so soon as the child is capable of being influenced by their exercise, and you increase your power, and insure a degree of success and certainty, which, without their cultivation, you could never attain. Even before the infant is capable of entertaining any definite idea of religion, yet by witnessing its parents engaged in meek and earnest prayer, it is, I have no doubt, thereby favorably affected. In fact, it is influenced favorably or unfavorably by every thing it sees or hears, from the first moment it is capable of noticing what is passing around it. Every act, every word, every tone, every look, affects it for good or for evil. Let parents and nurses never forget this, nor be ever heedless of their conduct in the presence of children. Let them be assured that they are the teachers to whom infants will be most indebted for weal or for woe during all their succeeding lives.

Let me add here, by way of maxim to mothers:

"What you wish a child to be, be that to the child."

Now, as mothers are, of all human beings, the most affectionate, how important is it, that they should have their hearts and souls filled with the hope and the belief that they have the actual power, if they only knew how to exercise it, of thus, to a moral certainty, bringing up their children in the fear and nurture of the Lord. Can there be a doubt but that ninety-nine out of every hundred of them would most anxiously and delightedly exert their every faculty to secure such blessings to their beloved children, to themselves, and to their country? I have no doubt of it. And often as I have reflected on all this,

have I lamented that systems of teaching mothers are not established and held in far higher estimation than Harrow, or Eton, or Cambridge, or Oxford; for such institutions as these, great though they be, will never produce abundant fruit, until the children come from the nursery with well subdued propensities, and carefully trained religious and moral sentiments. No school teaching can ever be a sufficient substitute for the infant training here recommended.

To the absence, hitherto, of this good training, during the first, second and third years, but chiefly in the first year, of the child's life, do I impute the great want of general success in the improvement of our hitherto unhappy race.

Let this be now considered as a great discovery of the present day; and let pastors, and parents, and teachers, every where, begin to act upon it as upon an established truth, and they will find their endeavours blessed to them beyond all their former experience. I name pastors, because their great influence would be as a tower of strength to this good cause.

If every man's chief happiness consisted in doing good to his neighbour, would not the axe be laid to the roots of nine-tenths of the evils of our present existence? Would not our jails and our other prisons be left untenanted by criminals? Now, as I firmly believe that every child can be so trained as to become thus benevolent and pious, am I justified in not endeavouring to convince every one else that children can be so trained? And even though I were a visionary in thus believing, can the cultivating such a belief in others be productive of anything else than good? It is clear to me, that good only can be produced by this belief becoming universal.

Supposing, even, which no thinking man can imagine, that the children were not improved by the treatment here recommended, would not the parents themselves be greatly improved during the time they were thus employed, not only in training their children, but also in training themselves? Surely they would. This system, therefore, appears to me to be worthy of universal and immediate adoption.

I have long desired to proclaim this view to the public, so far as the publications of the day may give it currency; but from various causes, I have not hitherto done so to this extent. Even now, I cannot bring myself to put my name to this paper; for, however insignificant a name may be, yet I believe a paper will attract more attention, having one subscribed to it, than if it appears anonymously. Still I shrink from encountering such publicity.

In the present state of comparative quietness and calm among the gentlemen of the Press in