

him, could dash in pieces in a moment all the kingdoms of the world; and shall we be afraid to trust him? "Canst thou bind the sweet influences of Pleiads, or loose the bands of Orion? Canst thou bring forth Mazzaroth in his season?—or canst thou guide Arcturus with his sons? Knowest thou the ordinances of heaven? Canst thou set the dominions thereof in the earth? Canst thou lift up thy voice in the clouds, that abundance of waters may cover thee? Canst thou send lightnings, that they may go, and say unto thee, Here we are?"

In the hope of eternal salvation, your brother in Christ.

JAMES CHALLEN.

HOW PARENTS MAY RUIN THEIR CHILDREN.

1. By giving them plenty of brandy or other alcoholic anodynes to make them sleep in infancy. Infants have but few ways of making known their wants, and the principal of these is to cry. "Cross children are such as are born with disease, or are soon spoiled by nurses or mothers. They cry because they suffer, and are drugged, not cured—to make them keep the peace. A few drops of paragoric first, and then of laudanum, and occasionally a teaspoonful of sweetened brandy and water, will give the nurse time to sleep or the mother to sew or read, or even to visit a friend, or do some shopping. But by these means something more is done—the child is poisoned in body and soul! The medicine, so soothing and sovereign for all his woes in childhood, and for which he has received an appetite at maternal hands, he tries in riper years and is relieved. But as he is older and stronger he cannot do with homœopathic doses. Alas, he is a drunkard before he knows his right hand from his left! And when he should be strong because he is a young man, he finds his own mother has been the Delilah on whose lap and by whose hands his locks were shorn! Young men of bad morals, rumsellers, and other Philistines, bind him in fetters and lead him to ruin. Mothers, beware! Nor is it sons only that should not be thus defrauded in childhood. If the usual restraints thrown around the other sex prevents them from becoming inebriates, it should nevertheless be remembered that "as is the mother so is the daughter." The young mother who knows the means adopted to quiet her pains in childhood, out of sheer respect for maternal wisdom will follow the example. Again I say, Mothers, beware!

2. If children should be proof against such deadly influences, or should they have been born with good constitutions, or have been better treated in childhood, they may yet be destroyed by those who should be the guides of their youth. The work of destruction may be effectually done after the first breakers in life's dangerous voyage are passed in safety. If parents would ruin their children, let them

by precept or example cultivate the native seeds of vice sown by the first transgression in every human heart. If a child, in learning the first lessons of locomotion, stumbles and hurts himself by falling against a chair, be sure to strike the chair and say, "Now take that for hurting mamma's pet;" rely upon it he has been more effectually taught vindictiveness than how to walk. If you teach him it is a sin to lie, and he finds you breaking your engagements, the want of harmony between your precepts and example will completely neutralize your teaching, and leave him, without restraint, to violate his word whenever it suits his convenience. If you laugh when he says smart things, though said at the expense of truth and modesty, your smile endorses his vice, and though he jests about religion in after years, he will feel his mother's smiles are still with him. When he evinces passion because he fancies he has been injured, and swears he will take vengeance, let him but hear a parent say, "The aggressor deserves to be punished, and I hope and pray he will meet with it before he dies," and he will feel that his temper, his profanity, and his unforgiving rage are all right. Parents may pray with and for their children, but they will not profit by such prayers if there is a want of religion manifested in the daily deportment of the parents.

3. Another effectual method of destroying children is to allow them to do as they please, or to restrain them by authority without reason. There is a natural proneness in all to do wrong. Throw the rein of indulgence on the neck of this proclivity, and ruin must follow. But if an attempt is made to curb the child without showing him why it is done, he only treasures his strength to be put forth when force is no longer his master. Ignore his reason, and deal with him as a mere animal, when he becomes uncaged there is nothing to check his downward course. It may not always be possible to make the child see the reason of restraint; but if there be reason, and he is in the habit of having a reason for the denial of his wishes, he will infer there is one in the case in question, and he will respect authority in the absence of a recognized reason.

4. Correction is sometimes more effectual to destroy than to cure. Parents sometimes in their zeal to maintain authority, are too exacting. They expect too much, and mark too rigidly the foibles of youth. To be always finding fault and uttering complaints is to destroy the very power they would wield for good. "Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged," is excellent advice. While in no instance should sin be connived at, admonition should invariably be in love, accompanied by a kind acknowledgement of every excellence in temper, word or deed. The rod need not be often used, but when it becomes necessary every blow should be felt as keenly by the parent as the offending child, and the latter ought to be made to see this.