

unknown to the American republican. Acknowledging no higher rank than his own, and naturally thinking his own opinion the right one, he expresses his sentiments with a confident frankness, which among us is only the result of long training. Partly also, says Mr. Johnston, it is to be attributed to the undisciplined and uncontrolled way in which children are brought up; and he gives the following little anecdote in illustration:—

‘A friend of mine had a boy of twelve or thirteen years employed in his office to run messages. This boy several times brought me notes, and while waiting for an answer, he would walk first to one table and examine the books and papers, then to another and do the same; and, finally, to the mirror and arrange his hair in the coolest manner imaginable. I was amused with this for one or two visits. At last I said to him that in my country we did not approve of little errand-boys taking such liberties and showing so much conceit when they came into a gentleman’s rooms; and I requested that when he came in future he would sit down quietly till I wrote an answer. The boy was amazed, but was very respectful ever after. His master told me nothing had ever mortified him so much, and at the same time done him so much good; but, when I asked why he had never set the boy right himself, he gave me no reply. On telling the matter to an American lady of my acquaintance, however, she asked me immediately—“Were you not afraid to speak to the boy in that way? That boy may be President of the United States yet.” “And what then?” “Why, he might do you a great deal of harm.” It was now my turn to look amazed. It is not a persuasion that it is best for the boy which restrains reproof, but a fear that it may be worse for the reprover. This fear of one another, I was assured by various persons, amounts often to a species of tyranny throughout this Union.’

This mode of training the young is one of the most important of the social and domestic traits by which the United States are distinguished from our own homes, and from most, if not all, of our colonies. What would even the ancient republics of Greece and Rome have thought of such a ‘running wild’ of children? How would Cato or Cicero have stood aghast at the following anecdote, narrated to Mr. Johnston by a friend?—

‘A settler of many years at Dalhousie, a shoemaker by trade, had saved 500*l.* in money, and had five or six boys growing up, when he took it in his head to go off to Wisconsin. Six months after his departure, a small vessel from Quebec entered the harbour of Dalhousie, and, when evening came on, a depressed-looking man in shabby clothing landed and walked up to my house. I was surprised to recognise my old neighbour the shoemaker. “You are surprised,” he said; “but though I was a fool to go away, I have had courage enough to come back. When I had got to Wisconsin, my boys—who had been good boys here—began to neglect their work and dis-

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