

Success in education depends more on prevention than cure—more on forming habits than laying injunctions—more on example than precept. It is important, however, that rules laid down should be strictly enforced, till obedience becomes habitual.

But when is this interesting business to be begun, and how pursued ?

It is to begun from the cradle. The first step is to teach the infantile subject implicit obedience to parental authority ; and then to rule with such moderation and sweetness, that it shall entirely trust and love the hand that guides it. In this way, the good impressions made upon the young mind, are likely to be indelible. Persevering, yet gentle firmness, begun in infancy, establishes proper discipline, procures obedience, and prevents almost all punishment.

The subjection of a child's will may be effected before its understanding is sufficiently enlarged to be influenced by reasoning. Generally the first inclination a child discovers, is will.—The first business of a parent, therefore, is to subject it. An infant will reach out its hand to take something improper for it to have ; if its hand be then withheld, and the countenance and expression of the parent refuse indulgence, unmoved by its cries or struggles, it will soon learn to yield. And by uniformly experiencing denial, equally firm, whenever its wishes ought not to be granted, submission will become familiar and easy.

But prudent parents, while they are careful to subdue self-will in the child, will be equally careful to cherish in it every appearance of benevolence and affection.

As children advance in age, and the faculties of the mind expand, parents, by an easy familiar mode of conversing with them, and adapting their language to their age and capacity, may acquire almost unbounded influence over them. If parents were thus careful to cultivate the young mind from the first dawn of reason, watching every opportunity of communicating instruction, they would be rarely disappointed in having their children grow up around them, all that they could reasonably desire them to be.