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THE DUTY OF THE PARENT TO EDUCATE THE CHILD.*

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We are met in the outset with the question: Does the parent owe anything to the child, and if so, what? We can derive our answer from two sources,—first, from Nature; secondly, from Religion. Under Nature I class all things not coming directly under the head of Revealed Religion. From the first of these I propose answering the question to-day. What then does Nature say about education? “Nothing,” the thoughtless will reply, but the thinker will give a far different answer. A mighty acclamation will come to the heart of the thoughtful man or woman and thrill his every nerve, as he recognises the universal demand of nature that the parent should be responsible for the care and education of its offspring. He will know that the one great object of organic nature is the reproduction of itself, and the care of its offspring. He will see the plants storing up a supply of food in the seed for the young plant, till it is in a position to battle with the stern realities of life, and endowing it with the faculties necessary in the struggle for existence. Rising a step in creation, he

* (A paper read before the Teachers' Association of the District of Bedford, Dec. 15th, 1888.)