

which most children are quite incapable, and partly because it demands an outward behaviour, which, among boys at least, is exceedingly unpopular. A reputation for goodness, in the eyes of most boys, is not a thing to be greatly striven after.

THE "ENFANT TERRIBLE"

Edward was, for a time at least, the plague of the teacher's life. He seemed to be a thoroughgoing little scoundrel. He gloried in his shame. He took delight in filthiness of person and vulgarity of speech; he seemed to think that brazen insolence and deliberate disobedience entitled him to special distinction; but *goodness*—he avoided it as he would the plague. To lay commands upon him was to arouse within his soul an uncontrollable desire to violate them. To say to him, "Thou shalt not," was to flaunt the red rag in his face and awaken the demon within. Constantly in mischief himself, he constantly led others into mischief also. What a respite the teacher had, and what a peaceful place the school seemed to be, when Edward, for any cause, was absent from it for a day or two!

As usual, closer acquaintance tended to modify somewhat the first estimate of these boys. Albert began to look less immaculate as time went on. A suspicion gradually formed itself, that he valued a reputation for goodness more than goodness itself. To be found out appeared to be, in his eyes, the most serious aspect of wrong-doing. On one or two occasions a very contemptible piece of naughtiness, at first attributed to Edward, was found to be the work of Albert. The boy was "goody-goody" rather than good.

Closer acquaintance with Edward revealed one or two redeeming features, and made the teacher more hopeful of him. He was generous; Albert was not. He was full of energy and vigor; Albert was indolent. Moreover, Edward was naturally frank. His frankness was positively brutal at times, but it was genuine frankness; and it showed itself as readily in matters touching himself as where others were concerned. If Edward concealed anything, it was likely to be his own virtues; if Albert concealed anything, it was likely to be his own vices.

Accordingly, while both these boys caused the teacher much anxiety, it came to pass in process of time that his anxiety for Albert was greater, if possible, than his anxiety for Edward. For Albert's faults, though outwardly less repulsive than those of Edward, seemed inwardly even more so. He seemed to have in him the stuff out of which "scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites" are made; the men, who, in every age, worship the letter, while they crucify the spirit, and thank God that they are not as other men are.

Nevertheless, in both cases, the problem was a serious one; and the teacher's success with these two boys was not such as to greatly elate him. But what he did honestly try to do was this,—to seize upon the good that was in each boy, and make it the leaven that should gradually leaven the entire personality. As in some European countries, where land is at a premium, sterile sands have been converted into productive gardens, by the process of beginning at a single point, where a tuft of grass will grow, and gradually extending the fertile area by fertilization and cultivation, making the tuft of grass the first fertilizer; so the teacher strove to make the frankness, generosity and activity of Edward, and the self-respect and tidiness of Albert, the centres of radiation, by means of which the entire personality might be permeated and enriched unto the fulness of a true and noble manhood.

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EXAMINATION MAY 7

In this issue appear the closing lessons in the Teacher Training Course for the year. The lessons on the books of the Old Testament have been prepared by Rev. Professor Scrimger, of the Presbyterian College, Montreal; those on Old Testament Geography and Institutions by Rev. Professors Ballantyne and McFadyen, of Knox College, Toronto, Rev. Professor Scrimger, and Rev. Ross G. Murison, of University College, Toronto. These competent scholars and skilled teachers have given ungrudgingly of their best, and grateful acknowledgment is due to them for their valuable services.