

we think it might be perused with advantage by all who are in danger of being prevailed upon, by the importunity of others, to act contrary to the dictates of their own conscience and judgment. The work from which it is taken is a periodical of very great merit, ably edited, beautifully printed, and aiming to correct the errors which prevail, and to diffuse more correct and enlightened principles, on the all-important subject of education.]

"Only this once, father, and I will never ask you again; *indeed* I will not."

"No, my son, not *even this once*. If it is wrong at all, once is too much; the first false step leads to a second, a second to a third, and so on, till the last and fatal step plunges the victim of pleasure into the depths of ruin and despair."

The above extract forms part of a request and denial which belong to circumstances that have long since become mere matters of history; yet, as they relate to events deeply interesting to parents, and children, it is presumed that a narrative of them may not prove unacceptable to the readers of the Journal.

James ——— was the eldest son of a Dissenting minister of some celebrity in England, and evinced, at an early age, at once a decided aversion to religion, and an alarming propensity for the company and pursuit of the idle and dissolute youth of the city. The father saw the growing indisposition of his son to the industrious and virtuous habits which it had been his aim to form, with deep solicitude—and determined without delay, to exert the parental authority and influence which yet remained, to interpose a check to the career of folly; even though he should be unsuccessful in his attempts to win him to virtue and religion.

James had never seen a play, but some of his companions had often.

They excited his curiosity, and inflamed his desires; and the plea, "*Only this once*," was for permission to visit the theatre. The refusal of Mr. ——— was peremptory and decided. Having an engagement a few miles from town, he hastened to fulfil it, and for the time dismissed the application of his son from his mind.

Unhappily, the views of Mr. and Mrs. ——— did not harmonize in the important affair of educating their children; so that it frequently happened, when the husband found it necessary to administer correction, the wife, as a compensation for the sufferings endured by her darlings, would not only tell them that their father was very cruel, and remind them that mother never punished them so, but she would at the same time give them something nice, with an assurance that "naughty Pa should not whip them any more." The children were not slow to discover and improve by this discrepancy in their parents; and soon found, that, however unsuccessful with the father, they could easily carry their point with the mother. This was the case respecting the application referred to.

No sooner had the father taken his departure, than the request was renewed to the mother. And how could she refuse her son—her darling son? She could not bear to see him unhappy.

To the accomplishment of this object, however, there were other things necessarily superadded to the mother's consent—money for the admission fee, and the concomitants of a theatrical entertainment; and the best manner of concealing the transaction from the father. It so happened that Mrs. ——— was entirely out of funds; and as it might expose her to animadversion, she was unwilling to borrow so small an amount from a neighbour. James, however, had not been slow to observe the practices of some of his