

in kind, but they are all of equal importance in our lives, "A little thing may be a little thing, but faithfulness in little things is a very great thing."

Of all people on earth, perhaps, mothers and teachers have the largest number of opportunities. The Mother is the Angel of the household, in our Canadian homes, more especially where servants are scarce, and self-help is a strong factor, is not the mother the beautiful ministering Spirit indeed, reminding one of the Angels in her loving care, thought and service for others.

Teachers can be "mothers' helps" in a very practical way, for they share, to a great extent, in her high privileges and her lowly service, her joys and her sorrows, her cares and anxieties for the young child life growing up around her. But while the Mother's influence and opportunities are, in a measure, confined to those of her own family, the Teacher's reaches out to the children of many families, and her opportunities of Love, of Knowledge, of Power and of Example are boundless.

These thoughts and words are not my own, I am indebted to an article recently published in one of our English Church papers, by one whose name I have forgotten, for many of them. She writes, that in considering these four great opportunities in our lives, "the opportunity of love must come first, because 'love is of God'."

In the Christian family the chief characteristic of the Divine Father must show itself in the children.

But how many mistake that word Love, and lower it to a weak sentiment, to be expressed by soft words and tender caresses. The soft word and loving caress has its right and

necessary place in every child's life, but love is not this. It is something infinitely stronger and higher. S. Paul tells us that "Love hopeth all things," "Love believeth all things."

Where is love when you are tempted to think that anyone is too stupid or too naughty for you to do anything with? In that moment of faint heartedness, of impatience, you lose your special opportunity to *hope* for good, to *believe* in good, where others, it may be, see nothing to hope for or to believe in. This does not infer blindness, but true-sightedness. Eyes to see faults, strength to correct them, but through and beyond that, the clear vision to know what the child would be without that blemish, to hope for that, to believe in that, and, as a matter of course, to pray for that.

"Knowledge is power, (so said a wise man,) and knowledge and power are great opportunities." *To know* always means to have learned, *to learn* always means to take trouble, the children are with you night and day, well or ill, happy or unhappy, good or bad; except their mothers, who should know them as well as their teachers? But do we *take* the opportunity of obtaining this knowledge? It requires the greatest patience, taking the greatest trouble, watching, praying, guarding against mistakes. The child who is the least satisfactory must receive the greatest amount of love, watchfulness, and care, in order that you may learn to know her more truly, and, as you come to know, you will have power to foster the good and check the evil. This power, the power of the Mother, the power of the Teacher, when it springs from knowledge and is controlled by love, is irresistible. Very often, always when