

PARENT AND CHILD.

There is nothing in the whole system of family government so improperly understood, as the relation of parent to child. Some parents seem to imagine that they must be the veriest of tyrants ; that the natural bent of human nature, is evil in the extreme ; that their duty to their children requires them to be despotic in every thing that relates to them ; that they must be reserved towards them, and always keep the rod suspended over their back. This they think necessary, in order to insure obedience, and, as we have often heard it expressed, "*to break the stubborn spirit of children !*"—Others, for fear of cooling the natural ardour of childhood, and through a mistaken notion of parental affection, impose upon them no restraint whatever, but indulge them in every gratification, no matter how dangerous to their morals, or how injurious to their health.

We have not had much experience in this matter, it is true ; but it seems to us, that a rigid discipline in family government, is alike unwise and unnecessary. This thing of "breaking the stubborn spirit of children," is the wrongest notion in the world ; is equalled in point of error and folly, only by that lax system of family government, (or rather no system at all,) which holds the reins of authority so loosely, that they are no check whatever to the evil inclinations of youth. There is a course to pursue, which lies directly between these, but which has nothing in common with either. This course, which is to commence with the child in the cradle—to teach it from the first implicit obedience to paternal authority—and as it advances in life, and the faculties of the mind expand, *to treat it as a companion*, to make of it a confidant, and to act towards it without reserve, is happily pointed out in the following extract from a tract entitled "*Brief hints to parents on the subject of education.*" It is not often that we find so much good sense in so short a space, upon this important subject, as is contained in this extract. We are indebted for it to the "*Courier*," a very excellent paper printed at Ravenna, in this state.—*Ed. Mirror.*