

Home Education.

The article on "True Education" in your February number, insists upon home education, upon the child's training in the bosom of the family. There is no doubt that any one who knows something about the necessities for the forming of man's character, about the good training of a boy or girl, will gladly sanction all your writer says about education at home. Yes "our families should realize that they are the principal moulders of character." "The home should be the sanctuary of everything great and noble." And we all know that no one insists more upon this than our Holy Father at Rome. It is for this reason that His Holiness desires so eagerly to see the faithful practice of the devotion to the Holy Family in every Christian home. And now, dear Father Editor, what I want is this: A little chat with your readers about Home Education. I am just back from a sick call, and what I witnessed during my short stay in, what I may call, a good Christian family, can illustrate or at least give some hints on what home education ought to be, and what it ought not to be. A little boy, not quite two years old, was to get his dinner. Charlie, the name of the child, is put on a chair near the table; but, almost immediately a yell is heard, and what is it about? Ah, the little chap finds himself too low; he can scarcely see on the table. Quick some one comes to do the child's will. He raises the little boy up, and now Charlie finds himself in a standing position,—a little dangerous, still the chap does not mind. And now what is Charlie going to eat? The father offers him a first dish, a second dish,—but none of these take the fancy of the child. Of a third, finally, little Charlie deigns to accept. But, wait, we are not at the end; Charlie is going to amuse us with another scene. The father, sitting at the side of his child, offers the little chap a teaspoon and tells him to use it; but Charlie's eyes have seen a larger spoon on the other end of the table, and he asks and cries for that. However, the father thinks otherwise, and he wishes

Charlie to make use of the small spoon, and puts it in the little boy's hand. At this, Charlie's anger reaches its pitch; he throws the teaspoon on the floor and yells with all his might for the table-spoon. Such behavior from the part of a little boy, not fully two years, was any how too extravagant for one of the guests present, and he made the kind remark: "But, Charlie, you should not act that way." The child's father, too, was indeed much displeased; but he seemed not to know what to do, and gratifying, as he did, the child's desire, he made only this remark: "Charlie will know better when he gets a little older." And you, dear reader, do you think so, too? Do you think that Charlie will have grown better after some years? I am sure you are shrugging your shoulders at the father's idea, for, who does not know, that human passions, if not checked, will develop and grow stronger with the years of the child?

Where, then, and when should the training of the baby begin? It should begin on the mother's lap. Yes, it is there that the training has to have its beginning. There the child sees, *i. e.*, on the mother's dress, the beautiful head of a pin. The baby grasps for it—wants it. And should the mother right away do her darling's will? I say, no; she should not, because a pin may become hurtful to a child. Again, the mother is sitting at the table with her little treasure. What should she give the child to eat? Is it what the little girl or boy asks for? Perhaps, yes; perhaps, no. She, the mother, has to use her own judgment for what is good for the child. Again, should the mother allow the baby to grasp for knife and fork, and handle them, before the little creature knows the use of these objects? A wise mother will surely not do it. A little rebuke from the mother's part will easily correct the child's wrong desire. I say a little rebuke, because God-fearing mothers, mothers who consider their offspring as a gift from on high, a gift to be returned one day to its Giver, tell us what experience has taught them,—that it is