

*Courteousness in Children.*—How naturally we all admire and love a courteous, well-bred little child, and yet how rarely are they met. How quickly a feeling of dislike arises in our hearts for a child whose behaviour is rude and impolite. We should rather learn to look on such a one with feelings of pity, for the character was formed by another hand. If children are instructed from their very earliest conscious existence in the little courtesies of life, they will come to be as much a part of themselves as their own peculiar features; "but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame."

It takes a constant, watchful care to first implant these right seeds, and then to water them as constantly and tenderly as the gentle dew that falls upon the summer flowers. We must not expect too much, or require perfection in a day, but "line upon line" will surely form the good habits we desire. "It seems to me I have told Ellen that same thing times over," remarked a mother of her little girl. "And you will have to keep telling her until she is twenty years old," remarked the aged grandmother, who sat by.

If good manners are not formed in childhood, they will almost invariably be left uncultivated through life. There are some few points which can be early inculcated, and which will lay a broad foundation for future correct deportment. And one most important principle is to teach your child to show due respect towards his superiors in age and position. To remain silent when others are speaking, to resign his seat to an elder, instead of selfishly keeping the easy chair for himself, as I have sometimes seen a child do; to answer questions cautiously, and especially let every mother impress on her child's heart that he should "rise up before the gray head, and honor the face of the old man."

Nothing is trivial which even helps to implant a right feeling. The boy who sits in silence at the table, and waits until others are helped, who acknowledges attention with a courteous "thank you," who naturally recognizes every favor in the same manner, will be a better boy for it in the street, on the play-ground, at school, or wherever he may be. The child who is always required to ask permission before handling, or examining an article belonging to another, will hardly contract the habit, which, however parents may resent the idea, is, alas, too common, of appropriating trifling things which belongs to others.

The divine injunction, "be courteous," is one which parents may not overlook without incurring fearful risks with regard to their child's future.

*Wicks for Paraffine Lamps.*—One of the most frequent causes of the bad burning of mineral oil lamps arises from

the employment of damp wicks. Cotton, like most other vegetable fabrics, readily absorbs from one sixth to one fifth of its weight of moisture from the atmosphere; this prevents the free ascent of the oil, and leads to charring of the wick, and the production of an imperfect flame; hence it is exceedingly important that a new wick should be thoroughly dried before it is placed in the lamp. When it has once been saturated with oil the further absorption of moisture is prevented.

*Lazy Boys.*—A lazy boy makes a lazy man just as sure as a crooked sapling makes a crooked tree. Who ever yet saw a boy grow up in idleness, that did not make a shiftless vagabond when he became a man, unless he had a fortune left him to keep up appearances? The great mass of thieves, paupers, and criminals have come to what they are by being brought up in idleness. Those who constitute the business part of the community—those who make our great and useful men—were taught to be industrious.

#### EVERY-DAY MARVELS.

What a marvel, compared with the slender resources and limited conceptions of man, is the endless variety of common things in the world around us! Everywhere countless forms of the same genus or order, yet no two exactly alike. Every leaf, every flower, every sand and mote, and every breathing life, with some peculiarity of its own to give it identity and separate it in a measure from all things else. In the earth and upon it, in the air and in the waters, the same infinitely varied production—races typed in single lives, and universes epitomized in the daintiest visual orbs and atoms, the grass-blade challenging our wonder equally with the star—how marvellous is all this, and yet how common! What a marvel the vivifying power of the sun's light and heat, repeating every Spring and Summer day the miracle of the creation! Not a dawn of seed-time but is jubilant with lessons and prophesies of the resurrection. Well might the kingly Hebrew, striking his harp in adoration, exclaim, "How marvellous are Thy works, O God, and Thy mercies are past finding out!" How wo thirst and seek for marvels, yet behold not to appreciate the myriad wonders that environ us every day of our lives! The planets—yea, even the constellations of worlds—are not more marvellous, because not more mysterious in the principle of their existence, than the animalcules of a water-drop—than the iris

that sleeps or flashes in the minutes globule of dew. Doubtless in future states and other worlds of being, we shall have larger vision and behold grander wonders, yet most certain are we that in this earth-world, which we tread with so much pride, impatience, and contempt, there are ceaseless every day marvels equal to the loftiest wondering capacity of the reflective soul,—marvels that speak the greatness and goodness of God as sublimely as when the "morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy."

*TALE OF AN ELEPHANT.*—Tell my grandchildren, said the late Right Rev. Daniel Wilson, writing home from India, that an elephant here had a disease in his eyes. For three days he had been completely blind. His owner, an engineer officer, asked my dear Dr. Webb if he could do anything to relieve the poor animal. The doctor said he would try nitrate of silver, which was a remedy commonly applied to similar diseases in the human eye. The huge animal was ordered to lie down, and at first, on the application of the remedy, raised a most extraordinary roar at the acute pain which it occasioned. The effect, however, was wonderful. The eye was in a manner restored, and the animal could partially see. The next day, when he was brought, and heard the doctor's voice, he lay down of himself, placed his enormous head on one side, curled up his trunk, drew in his breath just like a man about to endure an operation, gave a sigh of relief when it was over, and then, by trunk and gestures, evidently wished to express his gratitude. What sagacity! What a lesson to us of patience!

*ICE CAVERNS.*—The author of "Seasons with the Sea-horses" has a painter's eye for the picturesqueness of the Arctic regions. He describes their remarkable phenomena with wonderful vigor and earnestness.

"This was one of the finest and warmest days I ever knew in Spitzbergen; the thermometer was 55 deg. in the cabin, and in the sea it was actually hot. The summer's warmth has had a perceptible effect upon the ice, much of which was observed to be honey-combed, or 'rotten,' as the sailors call it; it always seems to