

THE GOOD CHILD.

The good child reverenceeth the person of his parent, even though he may be old and poor. As his parent bore with him when a child, he bears with his parent, though that parent may be a child twice. When Sir Thomas More was Lord Chancellor of England, and Sir John, his father, was one of the Judges of the King's Bench, he would, in Westminster Hall, beg his blessing of him upon his knees.

He observes his parent's lawful commands, and practiseth his precepts with all obedience. I cannot therefore excuse St. Barbara from undutifulness, and occasioning her own death. The matter was this : her father being a pagan, commanded his workmen, building his house, to make two windows in a room. Barbara, knowing her father's pleasure, in his absence enjoined them to make three ; that, seeing them, she might the better contemplate the Holy Trinity. Her father, enraged at his return, thus came to the knowledge of her religion, and accused her to the Magistrate, which cost her her life.

Having practised them himself, he entails his parent's precepts on his posterity. Therefore such instructions are by Solomon (*Prov. i. 9*) compared to frontlets and chains,—not to a suit of clothes, which serves but one person, and quickly wears out,—which have in them a real, lasting worth, and are bequeathed as legacies to another age.

He is patient under correction, and thankful after it. When Mr. West, formerly tutor to Dr. Whitaker, was by him, then Regius Professor, created Doctor, Whitaker solemnly gave him thanks before the University for giving him correction when his young scholar.

In marriage, he first and last consults with his father. He best bows at the mark of his own contentment, who, besides the aim of his own eye, is directed by his father, who is to give him the ground.

He is a stork to his parent, and feeds him in his old age. He confines him not a long way off, to a short pension, forfeited if he come into his presence ; but "shows pity at home," (as St. Paul saith, *1 Tim. v. 4.*) to requite his parents. And yet the debt—I mean only the principal, not the interest—cannot fully be paid ; and therefore he compounds with his father, to accept in good worth the utmost of his endeavour.

Such a good child God commonly rewards with long life in this world. If he die young, yet he lives long who lives well ; and time mis-spent is not lived, but lost. Besides, God is better than his promise, if he takes from him a long lease, and gives him a freehold of better value.

As for disobedient children, if preserved from the gallows, they are reserved for the rack, to be tortured by their own posterity. One complained, that never a father had so undutiful a son as he had. "Yes," said his son, with less grace than truth, "my grandfather had."