

THE CHILDREN'S PORTION.

PRACTICAL THOUGHTS FOR THE CHILDREN.

BY ALPHEUS.

No. V.—INCONSISTENCIES.

1. What a bundle of inconsistencies children are. In their innocence and helplessness what little tyrants they are, and what thrills of pleasure the strong parent derives from caring for the weak child. If one in a family is weak or sickly, that one is the centre of sympathy. How soon it acquires consciousness of its power! The weakest is often master. A man may be a philosopher, yet he is completely at the mercy of a little boy, sitting on a rustic bridge, with a sewing thread for a line and a crooked pin for a hook, a true picture of innocence, vainly waiting for a nibble. These are pardonable inconsistencies. But there are inconsistencies of another kind growing out of the tyranny of childhood. Strange as it may seem, there is often a waywardness, a disregard, even a disobedience to the wishes of those who have tenderly cared for and reared children in the spring-time of life. Mother tells Tommy to go an errand. Tommy is selfish and would rather play. He forgets all her kindness and care in the gratification of self. Would he but think of the labor, the worry, the heart-aches, the prayers, the tenderness of that mother, and what she would forego for his good, how could he be disobedient? He is perhaps excused because he is young and thoughtless. Older children, men and women, are often thoughtless too. Our acts of disobedience to our Father in Heaven are countless, yet He daily loads us with His benefits; He causes His rain to fall on the just and on the unjust; He even gave His Son to the death for us all. A thoughtless disobedience to such a kind parent is a great inconsistency.

2. Did you ever notice a lad all bluster and bombast? How he struts around and tries to magnify himself in his own and others' eyes! What he would do to that dog if it barks at him! How much better he can swim than any other boy! How much faster he can run, and all emphasized by how much louder he can talk. Now, boys, do you know that there is nothing more nauseating than a boy continually prating of himself? A boaster is always a coward and usually proves a laughing-stock when difficulties come. He needs to make up in boasting what he lacks in courage. The boaster is always a shallow-brained fool. He perhaps has not learned that he is judged by what he does, not by what he says. Let the boaster but think of his utter weakness and dependence on others, and learn that it is written in God's Holy Book: "He knoweth the proud afar off; He resists the proud but giveth grace to the humble." Christ's words were: "Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

There is one true course for every boy or girl:—Be manly and womanly even in youth. Let the character be formed while young, and the after-