

Ought not all the children and youth of a nation, acknowledging the Divine authority of the Bible, to be habitually trained under such influences? What a change would soon appear on the face of society! What gladdening multitudes of noble and generous minds would be raised up to adorn every profession, and every department of life!

Then would be fully realized, what Milton foresaw two hundred years ago?—"Methinks I see a noble and puissant nation rousing herself like a strong man after sleep, and shaking her invincible locks: methinks I see her as an eagle, musing her mighty youth, and kindling her dazled eyes at the full mid-day beam, purging and unscating her long abused sight at the fountain itself of heavenly radiance." Then too would be realized, what the inspired poet sang three thousand years ago:—"Happy is that people that is in such a case, yea, happy is that people whose God is the Lord." Glorious results of the Bible! Who, then, would not daily read, and encourage all to read, this best gift of Heaven to the race of man, designed especially "for the healing of the nations?"—*Rev. Austin Dickens.*

### Character of Children intrusted to Mothers.

That mothers exert a vast and lasting influence over their children, and bear a great and responsible part in moulding their future characters, there can be no doubt. They direct and bend, as it were, the twig, while it is young, and tender, and pliable; and "just as the twig is bent, the tree is inclined." There is comparatively but a short period during which mothers, if they have the will, can have the privilege of thus shaping and directing the intellectual and moral growth of their offspring. If it is neglected "in the days of their youth, while the evil days come not," they will find to their ineffable sorrow and regret, that the twig, which but just now was flexible and yielding in their hands, has become the strong and sturdy oak, unmanageable and incapable of being turned from its course. Thus we see the importance of rightly training youthful minds, while, like wax, they are capable of receiving any impression, either of evil or good.

Many examples might be cited of men who have risen high in the scale of worldly fame, and who have contributed much to the religious and social improvement of mankind, in whom the true secret of their greatness might be seen in their maternal government and education. The early life and discipline of Doddridge, we are all familiar with. Let us hear the words of the venerable John Quincy Adams, addressed to some young ladies during his late Western tour. Speaking of his mother, he says, "From that mother I derived whatever instruction—religious especially and moral—which has pervaded a long life; I will not say, perfectly and as it ought to be; but I will say, because it is justice only to the memory of her whom I revere, that if, in the course of my life, there has been any imperfection, or deviation from what she has taught me, the fault is mine and not hers." We need but to read a volume of Mrs. Adams' Letters, published a few years since, to discover the true cause of the son's greatness.

But I wish more particularly to speak of the influence a mother may have over the growing character of her children, by bestowing a little attention to the choice of their play-things; for I am convinced that tastes are often acquired, and habits formed, which exist through life, that may be distinctly traced to the apparently trivial toys of childhood. This fact cannot be too indelibly impressed upon the minds of all who sustain the responsibility of educating children. The first plaything ever given to Napoleon Bonaparte was the model of a brass cannon. And who can tell the influence that that warlike toy exerted on the whole life of that celebrated chief? Who will say that the little brass cannon was not the indirect cause of the butchery of millions of our fellow-creatures; of the groans and tears of widows and orphans that filled the land, and more than all, of the eternal loss of myriads of immortal souls? But for that toy, and instead of a Hero wading through the blood of his countrymen to the attainment of his ambitious purposes, we might have seen, for aught we know, a powerful minister of Christ, a second Paul; one who, by the superiority of his mind, in the hands of God, might have created a new era in the civil and religious history of the world. Truly, we may here see "great effects resulting from little causes."

It will not be denied that a great portion of the toys displayed for show and attraction, in the windows, at intervals of a few rods, along our streets, consists of guns, swords, banners, and many others unnecessary to mention, of a warlike nature. And

who can estimate the influence that these exert towards infusing into youthful minds a martial spirit, and a familiarity with all the barbarous, murderous implements of war, which follows them through manhood, and trains them for the service of strife and death. The penetrating mind of Bonaparte saw this. "Give me," said he, "the direction of the play-things of your children and I will form the character of the nation." He knew that, according to their nature, a love of war or a love of peace could be produced. But I trust sufficient has been said on this subject to show to mothers the necessity of exercising discretion and judgment. From the youth around us are to be taken the pillars that are to uphold the temple of our religious and free institutions. Upon the mothers of the present generation it depends to decide what shall be the future character of our country. If such their charge, then how weighty their responsibility?—*Mother's Magazine*

Are parents sufficiently careful to place good books and newspapers in the hands of their children, on the one hand, and to withhold those of a demoralizing tendency, on the other? Let us only reflect for a moment on the tendency of introducing papers containing such trash as the following extract indicates, into the purity of the family circle.

"MYSTERIES OF PARIS" AND OTHER TRASH.—As was to be expected, the rapid sale of this infamous book, has stimulated the publishers to the production of other works of the same licentious character. Another of Eugene Sue's choice effusions, entitled "*The Chain of Crime—a tale of Passion*," is thrown into the furnace of guilty excitement; and the depraved appetite still cries, "Give! give!" Translators are in full blast; and in a twelve-month the lava of German, French, and Italian corruption may all be poured forth on our defenceless house-holds.

It is stated that while the "Mysteries" were in progress of publication in Paris, the police arrested the author, on the ground that its scenes were too licentious even for that corrupt capital. A book, then, that cannot be tolerated in infidel and licentious Paris, may be thrown broadcast upon our land, and there is no remedy. Why is it not time for virtuous people to assemble and speak out their feelings of indignation, at this wholesale traffic in mental and moral poison.—*American Messenger*.

### CHILDREN AND YOUTH'S DEPARTMENT.

#### The Traveller and the Children at Elm Grove.

INVENTIONS MOST IMPORTANT TO MANKIND.

(Continued from page 78.)

*Gilbert*.—There must have been either a great number of writers, or but very few books, in those days; for such a book as the Bible would take me many years to write.

*Traveller*.—Hundreds and thousands employed their whole time in copying manuscript books, and great care was observed in this employment. The monks enjoyed nearly a monopoly of this labour, for they were almost the only men who were capable of conducting it. The expense of books was so great, that large estates were frequently set apart for the purpose of purchasing them. The leaves of the books were then, in some instances, composed of purple vellum, for the purpose of showing off to more advantage the gold and silver letters upon them. Some books had leaden covers, some had wooden leaves, and some were bound in velvet, and had gold or silver clasps and studs.

*Gilbert*.—Leaden covers and wooden leaves! I should not like to have many such books to carry.

*Traveller*.—The books of the present day are certainly more portable and convenient. Laurentius, of Haarlem, is said to have invented the art of printing with separate wooden types, about the year 1430. Fast and Guttenburgh printed with cut metal types, and Peter Schoeffer improved upon them. Frederick Corssell began to print at Oxford, in 1463, with wooden types; but it was William Caxton who introduced into England the art of printing with fusile types, in 1474.

*Edmund*.—What book did Caxton print in England?

*Traveller*.—The first book that Caxton printed in England,