

Obedience—what a beautiful characteristic is this. Flowers, those voiceless angels grown to earth, are not half so sweet to me as dutiful children. And yet the principle of the development of this quality is as simple as possible. Children learn to *obey* by *obeying*, and to *disobey* by *disobeying*. There is no exception to this law. The teacher who values this quality in character will always, (not sometimes, when in an exacting mood), will *always* insist upon obedience. Certainly it requires tact and judgment to ensure willing, cheerful obedience, but repeated day by day obedience becomes easy, and finally becomes a fixed habit of the character. Then the spirit that has bent to the will of the teacher and the parent, will with increased knowledge bend to the will of the great Teacher and the Father in Heaven.

Many parents and not a few teachers think that some children cannot be made dutiful and obedient unless the will is broken. Error of errors! Did you ever see a creature with a broken will? I have, and I know of no more pitiful sight. It is a broken bow which the archer has cast away. Two or three years ago, the steamer Alexandria, coming up the St. Lawrence, broke her main shaft. As I saw her towed up by a little tug, I thought.—there is a creature with a broken will. Utterly powerless; completely at the mercy of a little wilful thing one-tenth her size. Yes, I know a young lady with a broken will. Her mother by adoption, bent it double round her own every day for years until it had lost nearly all its power to resist. Finally an enforced, hateful marriage completely broke the frail thing. Now I can scarcely think of her without a sigh. She is to me the very goddess of despair. A broken will, some say a broken heart, I shall not attempt to make the distinction.

The will,—why it is the mainspring in a watch, it is the motive power, the *go* in a man. It is the source of all industry, application, push, pluck, perseverance. It is the only power by which we ever accomplish anything. You cannot have too strong a will. When a man's will, or a woman's will not, seems too strong it really is not so. The trouble is, some other faculty or quality is not strong enough. Perhaps it is sympathy or judgment. The remedy is not to weaken the stronger but to strengthen the weaker.

Obedience and will power are essential to *Industry*. This I regard as a very important stone, a corner stone in a good character. It has seemed to me that probably nine-tenths of the poverty and degradation and crime in civilized nations can be directly traced to habits of idleness, to laziness. And yet industry is essentially a habit. Did you ever know a little child that was lazy? Among the hundreds I have known quite intimately I cannot recall one lazy one. Where, then do all the lazy men and women come from? I'll tell you and you need not make a secret of it. They are made lazy by a process of education. They are *trained* to be lazy and some one is responsible. Some one has trained the members of