

## YOUR CHILD.

The character of the infant child may be formed for good or evil, his bent or character determined, and probably the most important period of his education be over, ere ever he awakes to consciousness at all. For when, mothers, do you think the education of your child begins? When you teach him to speak? When you teach him his letters? When you send him to school? No! Years before that! It begins with his beginning, with the first breath of life he draws. The household that he enters is his school, and every person, every object that he comes in contact with are his teachers. The sound of human voices, the touch of human hands, the clasp of human arms, the mysterious pale light of human eyes—all are his teachers; and chiefly thou, O mother, with your babe in your arms, standing across the centuries (paint her Raffaele! paint her, Giotto!) the everlasting Madonna and child.

Dropping from her lips and eyes,  
Soft and hidden harmonies

Steal into the young child's heart,  
Mirror'd in clear depths below  
Gleams of mystic beauty flow,  
And fix and ne'er depart.

Well is it for the child that awakens from unconscious infancy amid the prayers and praises of a pious household; that, beholding always the face of the mother on earth, even as the angels of the heaven are beautifully said, in Christ's words, always to behold the face of the Father in heaven, shall see in that face the light of love, the light of holiness, the light of prayer, the light of penitential tears, the light of peace with God.—Ex.

## HIGH AND STRONG CHARACTER.

"High and strong character is fostered by companionship with its kind. No one so much as the active business man needs the daily contact with holy and meditative minds quite apart from business life. He would gain by it better judgment for ordinary transactions as well as great serenity in the midst of the bustle and drive of the market.

Such companionship is always available. A Kempis, Bunyan, Flavel and a score of men like them may wait at his library table every morning and evening, ready to converse with him. They are as different from the men he meets during the day as the closet and cloister differ from the Stock Exchange. They would prove an alterative to his mind and a purifier of his heart. They would give him perspective, making his successes elate him less and his disappointments less depressing, but giving to all his possessions a truer value, and to

many of them a higher value, than he has set on them heretofore.

Only these men of high and holy thought do not show their real selves to those who ask only a single sentence from their lips. They became companions to those who dwell at leisure on their words."—Congregationalist.

## BE OF GOOD CHEER.

It is useless to be disheartened because things do not go just as you would like to have them. Sighing does not cure troubles. A disagreeable face will not alter a disagreeable fact. Try to extract some grain of comfort out of your adversities. Never despair; under whatever circumstances be cheerful, and hope on in the darkest hour. There is nothing so philosophical as a smile. A merry heart is the height of wisdom,—it doeth good like medicine.

The greatest part of our griefs will disappear when viewed through the lenses of cheerfulness. Let the dark past sink out of sight. Triumph in the Lord. Look toward the sunrise. Shout in the midst of shadows as if you saw the dawn kissing the hills. Fill your soul with the visions of morning and the song of the lark. Then all will become suffused with daylight—all the gloomy places will pulse with sunshine, the clammy rocks will glisten with dew.

Would you like to know the key to unlock the doorway to a happy life? It is cheerfulness; and if earth has nothing to bring you joy you can still "rejoice in the Lord," and "rejoice evermore."—Sel.

## ONE OF JEREMY TAYLOR'S PRAYERS.

O Eternal God, who hast made all things for man, and man for thy glory, sanctify my body and soul, my thoughts and my intentions, my words and actions, that whatsoever I shall think, or speak, or do, may be by me designed to the glorification of thy name, and by thy blessing it may be effective and successful in the work of God, according as it can be capable. Lord, turn my necessities into virtue, the works of nature into the works of grace, by making them orderly, regular, temperate, subordinate, and profitable to ends beyond their own proper efficacy; and let no pride or self-seeking, no covetousness or revenge, no impure mixture of unhandsome purposes, no little ends and low imaginations pollute my spirit, and unhallow any of my words and actions; but let my body be a servant of my spirit, and both body and spirit servant of Jesus; that doing all things for thy glory here, I may be partaker of thy glory hereafter, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.