

What can be expected from such a course as this? Such a mother is the most cruel and merciless enemy which her child can have. Under such an influence he will probably grow up in wretchedness, but to heap still bitterer curses upon the mother who bore him. You can do nothing more ruinous to your child; you can do nothing which will more effectually teach him to hate and despise you; you can do nothing which will, with more certainty, bring you in sorrow and disgrace to the grave, than thus to allow maternal feelings to influence you to neglect painful but necessary acts of discipline.

I would ask the mother who reads this book, if she has not often been conscious of a struggle between the sense of duty and inclination. Duty has told you to punish your child. Inclination has urged you to overlook its disobedience. Inclination has triumphed; and your child has retired victorious, and of course confirmed in his sin. Be assured that thus, in your own heart, lies one of the greatest obstacles to your success; and until this obstacle be surmounted, every thing else will be unavailing. It would by no means be difficult to fill this volume with cases illustrative of this fact, and of the awful consequences resulting.

An English writer gives a most appalling account of two instances in which fatal consequences attended the strong excitement of fear. Says he, "I knew in Philadelphia, as fine, and as sprightly, and as intelligent a child as ever was born, made an idiot for life, by being, when about three years old, shut into a dark closet by a maid-servant, in order to terrify it into silence. The thoughtless creature first menaced it with sending it to 'the bad place'; and at last, to reduce it to silence, put it into the closet, shut the door, and went out of the room. She went back in a few minutes, and found the child in a fit. It recovered from that, but was for life an idiot. When the parents, who had been out two days and two nights on a visit of pleasure, came home, they were told that the child had a fit, but they were not told the cause. The girl, however, who was a neighbor's daughter, being on her death-bed about ten years afterwards, could not die in peace without sending for the mother of the child and asking forgiveness of her. Thousands upon thousands of human beings have been deprived of their senses by these and similar means."

"It is not long since that we read, in the newspapers, of a child being absolutely killed (at Birmingham, I think) by being thus frightened. The parents had gone out into what is called an evening party. The servants, naturally enough, had their party at home; and the mistress, who by some unexpected accident, had been brought home at an early hour, finding the parlor full of company ran up stairs to see about her child, about two or three years old. She found it with its eyes open, but fixed! touching it, she found it inanimate. The doctor was sent for in vain; it was dead. The maid affected to know nothing of the cause; but some one of the parties assembled discovered, pinned up to the curtains of the bed, a horrid figure, made up partly of a frightful mask! This, as the wretched girl confessed, had been done to keep the child quiet while she was with her company below. When one reflects on the anguish that the poor little thing must have endured before the life was quiet frightened out of it, one can find no terms sufficiently strong to express the abhorrence due to the perpetrator of this crime, which was, in fact, a cruel murder; and, if it was beyond the reach of the law, it was so, and is so, because, as in the cases of parricide, the law, in making no provision for punishment peculiarly severe, has, out of respect to human nature, supposed such crimes to be impossible."

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH'S DEPARTMENT.

### "The Traveller"—Caverns.

(Continued from page 108.)

*Traveller.*—I had at last reached the great grotto of Antiparos, and was altogether dumb with astonishment. From the immense roof, thousands of icicles of white marble were suspended, some of them ten feet long. From these hung down festoons of leaves and flowers of the same substance, dazzling the sight with their brightness. The sides of the cavern were also of white marble, representing trees rising in rows one above another, mingled with garlands. The floor was paved with crystals of red, blue, green, yellow, and other colours, interspersed with icicles of pure white marble, which have apparently fallen from the roof. The great depth of the cavern from the surface of the ground, the impressive silence, the bright glare of the torches, the lightness, pu-

rit, and delicacy of the roof and walls, the splendour of the glittering floor, with the general blaze of insufferable radiance which filled the place, altogether bewildered me; so that I must say, of all the caverns I have yet visited, the Grotto of Antiparos is the most remarkable.

*Gilbert.*—I should think so indeed; if I wanted to hide myself, that is the very place where I would go.

*Traveller.*—It will be a much better plan to do nothing wrong, and then you will have no occasion to hide yourself; for though, in that case, you might be concealed from man, you could not escape the all-seeing eye of God. What say the words of holy Scripture? "If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me."—Psal. cxxxix. 8—10.

## Earthquakes.

Edmond, Gilbert, and Leonard Lovel were quite as much interested in the traveller's account of the caverns of the earth, as they had been with the narrative of the mountains and precipices. That which is wonderful usually makes a much deeper impression on the minds of young people, than that which is instructive; therefore, in his descriptions of mountains, precipices, and caverns, the traveller had been surrounded by a more attentive audience than he would have been, had he treated on less striking subjects. Edmund used frequently to boast of having been at the top of Malvern Hill; Gilbert was accustomed to speak of a terrible precipice on the edge of a marl pit, which he was once near falling down; and little Leonard was in the habit of telling how he had been in a sand hole full twenty or thirty feet under ground; but the account given by the traveller had wonderfully extended their ideas. Nothing could now be talked of but Dhawalagira, the Dangerous Pathway, and the Cavern of Antiparos.

The day after the account of the caverns had been given, Gilbert, whose ears were very quick, caught a few words about earthquakes, which fell from the traveller as he walked round the garden with Mr. Lovel. This information was soon communicated to Edmund and Leonard, and in a little time the trio surrounded their entertaining and instructive visitor, with the request that he would tell them all that he happened to know about earthquakes.

The traveller was of too kind-hearted a disposition to refuse their request; so seating himself in the very arbour in which he had so much amused them with his narrative of mountains, he, with a good humoured smile, began thus:—

"You must not expect so minute an account of earthquakes, as I gave you of mountains, precipices, and caverns; for this simple reason, that I have never myself witnessed the effect of an earthquake. However, having read of the principal earthquakes which have taken place, and having conversed with some who have endured the terrors of a convulsion of the earth, I will do my best to gratify your curiosity."

"Earthquakes are supposed, by different people, to arise from different causes. Some ascribe them to water confined in the earth, some to fire, and others to air; and, for aught that we know to the contrary, they may be produced by the union of all three. It is very probable that what produces a burning mountain, would produce an earthquake, if no irruption took place; but though we may reason on the subject, it is what, at present, we cannot understand."

God moves in a mysterious way,  
His wonders to perform;  
He plants His footsteps in the sea,  
And rides upon the storm.

We must, therefore, leave with Him the secrets which he has not revealed. It is enough for us to know that an earthquake is the work of his hands. "He looketh on the earth, and it trembleth: he touches the hills, and they smoke."

*Edmund.*—Does the earth always open in an earthquake?

*Traveller.*—No; though this is sometimes the case. Among the most common signs and effects of an earthquake are the following: a rumbling sound; a violent agitation of the sea; a spouting up of the waters; a rocking of the earth; and a sudden shock like an explosion of gunpowder.

*Gilbert.*—How terrible!

*Traveller.*—An earthquake may certainly be considered as the most fearful expression of Almighty power with regard to the world we inhabit; and the circumstance of its rarely occurring,