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Respecting Obligation.

Respecting Obligation.

I wish, said a tired teacher the other day, that those who have the charge of young people in the home could understand the need of teaching them a sense of obligation, a respect for their engagements even though they are only childish ones. When Johnny or Molly goes home, for instance, and announces an agreement to take part in some school entertainment, the average mother smiles, well pleased at her child's pleasure. But if after two or three rehearsals some other attraction seizes the youthful fancy, and the child declares an intention "not to go any more," the same mother only laughs at the capricious change, and carelessly decides that it is "only a childish affair, and doesn't make much difference." She bestows not a thought upon the busy teacher who has given so much time and effort fo drilling the children, and who may be greatly inconvenienced by a missing part; or to the other little ones hindered and disarranged by an absent member. But the worst effect is on the child himself, in allowing him to think that he can undertake and drop obligations so lightly. We often laugh at the self-importance of children; but there is a sense in which they cannot be too strongly impressed with their own importance."—'Wellspring.'

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