

own way is not always best. But where you, with your wisdom and experience, can see that the outcome would be detrimental to health or character, then it is right that you should interpose and lay upon them your commands.

Though there are occasions when it is well to give a reason for an order or request, it is not always, or often, wise to do so.

One cold, wet autumn morning, Frank's mother desired him to wear his overcoat to school. Like many other boys, Frank has a decided aversion to overcoats, and did not want to put it on. His mother insisted, urging that he would be sick if he did not. Though Frank had the will, he had not the bodily strength to openly resist, so he wore the coat until out of sight of the house, then took it off. When he arrived at school he was thoroughly wet, and remained so until his clothing gradually dried on him. As he was not taken ill either that day or the next, he came to the conclusion that he was wiser than his mother, or that she had spoken untruthfully. In either case, his respect for her was lessened. About three weeks afterwards he was down with diphtheria; but as children live only in the present, he never thought of connecting it with his disobedience of a few weeks before. Had Frank been taught from babyhood to give unquestioning obedience, the parents would in all probability have been spared much expense and great sorrow, for a younger brother contracted the disease from him, and was taken away, though Frank is now recovering.

No hard and fast rules can be laid down for teaching children to be obedient, for some things which would help one individual would hinder another, so different are dispositions even in the same family.

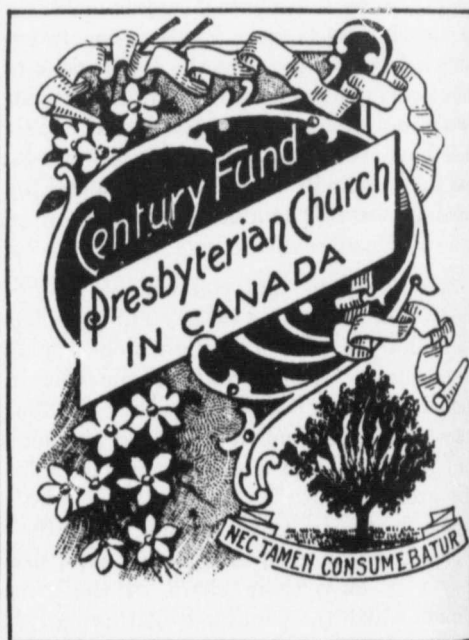
As parents and teachers, we must study the child, and, above all, seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The experience of one family may be given. When the first little child was born, the father and mother decided that, with God's help, they would never allow it to hear an impatient word from either, and

that implicit obedience should be expected and required. (There is a great deal in expecting, and patiently waiting for it.) The mother, especially, by nature was very quick-tempered, so that it was no easier for her to carry out her desire than it would be for anyone else.

Six little ones were given, some of whom have now attained young manhood and young womanhood. I have spent several weeks at a time in their home, and never on any occasion heard a sharp word spoken in it, or seen an act of wilful disobedience. The older the children grow, the more do they find it a pleasure to obey such pleasantly spoken requests as they hear from their parents.

There need not be the slightest doubt as to which is the truly happy—the cheerfully obedient child, or the one who is allowed to take his own way.



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