

the offence, or arising from a mistaken idea on the part of the parent. If the offender has a statement to make which may explain or extenuate, he should certainly have a hearing.

A boy had been forbidden by his father to go near the river. Passing in that direction one day, yet with no intention of disobedience, he heard cries of distress. Hastening to the spot indicated by the voice, he reached the river just in time to plunge in and rescue one of his companions. Returning home, he was met by his father, who, seeing his condition, and naturally supposing that he had disobeyed, ordered him to go immediately to bed. The boy attempted an explanation, but it was sternly interdicted by the father. He went to bed, and was found a few hours after delirious with fever, occasioned by the chill he had received, and nervous excitement. He never spoke a rational word again, but died in a few days, without a lucid moment in which his father could say, "My son, I was wrong." The father himself, after the death of the child, published this fact, that it might be a warning to other parents against rash, impatient, unjust punishment.

There is philosophy in that phrase of Milton's which represents Satan as "punished in the shape he sinned." It is often wise to make the penalty correspond in *kind* with the offence. For example, your child has disobeyed you to-day, by going to some forbidden place; punish him by requiring him to remain at home a certain length of time to-morrow: or, if he has eaten what is forbidden, deny him some physical gratification.

With regard to corporeal punishment, a person of long experience in teaching children said, "Whipping is my last resort: I want to reserve something for capital punishment."

Punishment should be as slight as is compatible with the end to be secured: that end should be to prevent a repetition of the offence, and to produce penitence for it. The parent should be sure of the justice of the penalty, and if possible make it evident to the child; and should administer punishment without anger, and with evident reluctance and regret. And as you cannot govern uniformly and faithfully when you are influenced by passion or self-will, remember that "he only is fit to govern others who is truly master of himself."

THE UNEXPECTED SUMMONS.

Many were the small but remarkable links in the chain of circumstances which brought the writer and a beloved relative to that solemn scene of which the following passages contain the record. Just those little every day, domestic, trivial occurrences which we are too apt scarcely to realize as equally in the hand of God with the more important events of life, ordered our arrangements contrary to our plan, so as to bring us there at the time, —not sooner or later,—but at the very time, to receive the parting breath of our beloved friend. It was a cloudy morning in the midsummer of last year, so threatening rain that we were detained long after the time we had fixed to pay a visit to our recently widowed friend, who was alone at her residence, making arrangements preparatory to leaving town for the summer. Her departure not being immediate, several days were left in which we could have equally well fulfilled our promise of seeing her before she went