

germ must be cultivated, and the earlier this is done in the springtime of life, the stronger will the stalk be, and the more fruit it will be able to bear. To cultivate the seed of vocation is to take charge of the child when his reason is budding, and by word and example to inspire a great respect for the sublime dignity of the priesthood. This is done when the child learns that the priest has a power that angels do not possess; that no matter how lowly he may appear, he is in dignity above kings and potentates; that he is a fellow-citizen of the saints; one of a chosen generation. On earth, the priest is the vice-gerent of God, the dispenser of God's sacraments, the consoler of God's afflicted, who follows the Great Master's example, going around doing good. It is in this character mainly that the priest presents himself to the mind of a child, and it is in this character that he should remain impressed there. If, on the contrary, the little child is obliged to hear criticism after criticism of God's ministers, and of what he has been taught to venerate in them, it will be impossible to expect from him a reverence for them, much less an ambition to be one of them. The child's mind is essentially assimilative, and we need not be surprised if, as the result of such criticisms, he imbibes false impressions that may influence his whole after-life.

When parents hand their child over to outside teachers, they expect a corresponding care to be taken of his soul. After the parent, it is the teacher, or the pastor, who is the instrument that God uses to prepare the royal priesthood which is to extend His kingdom here on earth. And if it is meritorious to instruct youth, to make them good citizens, loyal subjects, and worthy members of society, how much more precious is it in the sight of God to form the mind and the heart of those who are to instruct others and lead them to heaven. "They that are learned shall shine as the brightness of the firmament: and they that instruct others to justice as the stars to all eternity." (Dan. xii, 5.)

For these reasons let all concerned in the instruction of