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Editorial.

THE HEART OF THE HOME.

The mind is, in the tender years of youth, receptive of any impression that may be made upon it; it is capable of taking any form that may be imposed on it—capable of turning in any direction that may be given to it. Whatever is engraven on it, it retains more or less for life. Scratch the green rind of a sapling, or wantonly twist it in the soil, and a scarred or crooked oak will tell of the act for centuries to come. How forcibly does this figure teach the necessity of giving right tendencies to the minds and hearts of the young!

“Our most important are our earliest years; The mind, impressible and soft, with ease Imbibes and copies what she hears and sees, And through life's labyrinth holds fast the clue
That education gives her, false or true.”

Anything evil cannot, of itself, fail to exert an evil influence; but when that evil thing proceeds from the *heart*, either in word or in deed, as the native expression of the inner life, it then, so aided, exerts a far more pernicious influence. “Moral life is no creation of moral phrases. The words that are truly vital for good or evil are only those which, as Pindar says, ‘The tongue draws up from the heart.’” Now, if the outflow of the heart into the life is such a potent influence for evil or for good, who can, in this re-

spect, equal the mother? She is the heart of the house; she is all heart; she sees everything with the heart, she speaks from the heart, she acts from the heart, she treats everything through the heart. The heart of woman is her characteristic and her glory; hence the great influence she exerts over all around her. If the heart of woman is evil, alas! the moral havoc she produces in the destiny of her family. Behold the blighting influence of Jezebel on Ahab, her husband, on her household, and on the Church of God. Here are two daughters of a mother who took a little strong drink in secret, forsooth, as a medicine. They were well educated and highly accomplished; their father was an elder in the Church, a worthy and godly man; they were much favoured with the society of pious people; they were well married, the one to a minister, the other to a doctor; but, notwithstanding all these counteractive influences, they fell before the example of their mother, and became disgusting sots. How much more powerful is example than precept in the road to ruin! Again, if a mother is in her heart senseless, vain, and giddy, the same qualities enter, as ingredients, into the character of her children; or, if a mother is in her heart irreligious, the same unconcern about religion is sure to characterise her sons and daughters.