

I hear a mother repeating her injunction upon her child. He does not obey her till she has spoken some half a dozen times; and this is the ordinary state of things; and it has been brought about by her practice of speaking again and again to her son. She permitted him to disregard her first command by issuing a second. If she would stop at once in this loose course, and insist upon being obeyed always in the first instance, there would be a great saving of trouble both to herself and to her child. It would be in part a saving of words. The child soon learns which time of speaking he is to regard, the first or the fifteenth; if the latter, he will wait till the fifteenth. What an expenditure, not merely of words, but lungs also! Every repetition of the command must rise a little in tone upon the preceding; and when it gets up to a certain climax of vehemence or vociferation, the child deems it best to yield. How unlovely is the whole scene! a furious storming, perhaps, on the part of the parent; a sullen, reluctant obedience on the part of the child. The following advice of Dr. Griffin to his daughter should be enacted as law by every family in the land: "Establish the unchanging habit of not commanding a child but once. Cost what it may, break the child down to obedience to the first command."

Kindred with the above is the fault of allowing impotency and tears to prevail in setting aside a requirement, or in remitting an incurred penalty, or in changing a previous decision. Tears are proverbially eloquent: but where they avail to the relaxing or undermining of authority they are pernicious things. They will in the end prove bitter waters to the house where they so operate. Where crying has efficacy there will be a great deal of it. The child soon learns what is his most potent weapon, and he will resort to it in an instant when crossed or threatened. It is astonishing what facility practice gives in screwing the face into a form of anguish, and in opening the briny fountain. It is worthy of being written with large characters, in every code of domestic rules, that nothing will ever be obtained by crying or by teasing. Then the child will not cry or tease for what he wants. It is a very comfortable circumstance to the mother, that her children never tease her; an intolerable vexation when they do. But let it be understood that there never was yet, probably, a teasing child, who was not made so by a changing, yielding parent. Parents so managing, procure all this harassment to themselves, and what is worse, they foster restiveness, insubordination, and all unlovely traits in the child.

Another common fault is the habit of resorting to the authority of another in order to enforce obedience. How often do we hear something of this sort, "If you do that again I will tell your father, and he will punish you." It is admitted that the father's and mother's authority should be concurrent; they should sustain each other. But one should not be dependent on the other. The authority of each should be complete in itself, adequate to all the purposes of government. Then if one is removed, the other can stand. But if one parent governs by the other, it is because that parent cannot govern alone. If the mother calls in the authority of the father, she confesses thereby that she has no sufficient authority of her own, she gives up the efficacy of her own word, her own command; and the child understands soon that he may with impunity disregard the law of his mother, unless accompanied and enforced by the fear of the father.

Another great mistake is, the enforcing of requirement by unlikely or improbable and impracticable penalties. If the child don't do so and so, dreadful creature will catch him. I just heard a mother threaten a refractory boy, "If you don't mind me I will send for Dr. D—— to come and give you some medicine." The child probably had a great horror of "docter-stuff." This is a common way of attempting to prop up a tottering authority: it is a vain way; indeed it is the most effectual way utterly and at once to prostrate all that remains. How soon does the child learn to despise all penalty. He has often been terribly threatened, but when has he ever suffered any inconvenience from it; when has the "bugbear" ever caught him; and how can he help making the inference that his father or his mother is a liar? Whenever a parent is dealing in penalty, that is a time emphatically when nought but the strictest truth should proceed from his lips. It is to the highest degree important, both for the life that now is and that which is to come, that the child be made to respect and fear penalty.

The parent's authority must be kept unbroken, unquestioned. The child must be brought to bow to it; if not in one way, he must in another. If mild measures fail, severe measures must be resorted to. There must be *real penalty*. It may not be all words; occasionally there must be some *wood* about it. "Ho that spareth his rod hateth his son, but he that loveth him, chasteneth him betimes." I am aware this is an old-fashioned sort of wisdom, and not a few seem to think they live in an age that has grown away from some portions of the Bible. But probably it will turn out, in respect to these positions as well as others, that "the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men."—*Mother's Magazine*.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

On the 9th November last, the Queen gave birth to a son, who is heir apparent of the British Crown. Great rejoicings had in consequence taken place.

Owing to the bad weather the *Illustrious*, having Sir Charles Bagot on board, did not leave the coast of England until the 24th November.

A number of fresh troops have been sent to China.

There is a general and unfortunately a too well founded apprehension that in some parts of Ireland a famine will exist owing to the failure of the potato crop.

The distress among the people of England is very great. Relief, by emigrating, is viced with much favour.

An association is being formed in England to encourage Emigration to British North America.

Great Britain will soon be independent of the United States for slave-grown cotton. The importation last year from British India is considerably over half a million of bales. A few years ago it was only 100,000 bales.

THE NAVY.—The Lords Commissioners have directed that in case of any soldiers, who may be temperance men, being embarked on board Her Majesty's ships, or troop ships, or in transports or freight ships, such non-commissioned officers and privates shall be allowed double rations of sugar, cocoa, and tea for each ration of spirits stopped.

The Africans of the *Amistad*, thirty-five in number, accompanied by several Missionaries and Teachers, have been sent back to their native country in the interior of Africa, by the contributions of humane and religious persons in the United States. Great advantages may thus be expected to result to their countrymen from the remarkable trials and sufferings to which they have been exposed.

An American Coasting vessel, laden with slaves, was recently seized by them, after a conflict in which a passenger and some persons belonging to the vessel were killed, and taken into a British Port in the West Indies.

MONIES RECEIVED ON ACCOUNT OF

Advocate.—P. Hodgkinson, Aylmer, 10s; J. Sanderson, Streetsville, 15s; C. Allen, and E. Mills, Waterloo, 5s; J. T. Barrett, Montreal, £1; J. Meagher, Carleton, £1 5s; S. M'Coy, Clarke, 10s; T. Botham, Mount Pleasant, £1 15s; W. Philbrick, Danville, 3s; J. Barclay, Hawkesbury, 2s. 6d.; W. Cooté, St. Johns, 5s; W. Bagshaw, Brock, 5s. 7½d.; H. L. Cook, Grenville, 5s; W. Hoiehouse, Quebec, £1 5s; H. Cold, 3s. 4d.; W. Morison, Berthier, 12s. 6d.; J. McDonald, Agent, Brockville, £3 6s; E. Strong, Gosfield, £1 10s; W. Davis, Clearville, £1 10s; C. A. Pastoras, Howard, £1 10s; F. Talfourd, and T. Sutherland, Moore, 6s. 8d.; Mr. Klaghe, Errol, 3s. 4d.; H. H. Emmons, Detroit, 2s. 6d.; P. F. C. Delesdemer, Vaudricul, 2s.*6d.; Sundries, Montreal, 15s.

Anti-Bacchus.—W. Brough, Brockville, £? 7s. 6d.; R. Saul, London, 2s. 6d.

Donations.—Chatham, U. C. Society, £1 18s 1½d; Windsor Society, £1 5s; Port Sarnia Society, £1.

Agency.—Picton Society, £1 14s. 1½d; Leeds Society, 16s. 3d; J. Hargrave, Inverness, 2s. 6d; Quebec Young Men's Total Abstinence Society, £3 10s; Quebec Total Abstinence Society, £5; Mrs. J. M'Diarmid, Indian Lands, 5s; J.R. Orr, Montreal, £5.

ERRATUM.—A. R. Christie, Niagara, £7 6s. 3d., in the list of monies in the November number, should be A. Christie, Toronto