

bad son is about the heaviest calamity which can be endured on earth. Let the parent, then, find time to train up a child in the way he should go.—*Mother's Assistant.*

QUALITIES REQUISITE FOR PARENTS.

Patience and perseverance are requisite in imparting instruction to children. And an acquaintance with most subjects of importance is gradually acquired. The most learned linguist has gained his knowledge of numerous languages, by a word at a time.—The painter and statuary, in the same progressive mode, advance to excellence. In every art, and every profession, improvement is not a sudden, but a gradual process. Thus it is as to religious knowledge. Parents must not suppose that one or two, or ten, or twenty lessons will accomplish all their children need. Men require "precept upon precept, line upon line," Isa. xxviii. 10; much more may children be expected to do so. The infant mind, though susceptible of early impressions, yet needs repeated instruction to render those impressions permanent; and its acquaintance with true wisdom extensive. Parents should consider this, and patiently continue the work of instruction. A statuary will labour for months, or years, to chip and carve a marble block, till it presents in all but life, a resemblance of the individual, the form of whose countenance it is destined to preserve, and to show to the men of after times. Should not parents as patiently persevere, when their efforts are directed, not to fashion rude marble into the image of a man, but an immortal mind into the image of the Saviour? No object is so grand as objects of this description; none so momentous; none connected with results so blessed if successful, so dreadful if a failure. It was the boast of an ancient painter that he painted for eternity: this was a vain boast, for long since all the fruits of his labour and skill have passed into eternal oblivion. On the lips of a Christian instructor this is no vain boast. Such are employed in forming, under Divine influence, upon deathless spirits, a lovely likeness of the Saviour, which eternity will never efface. The successful efforts of pious parents, in training up their children for God, will be visible in the character and happiness of their favoured offspring, millions of centuries hence. The flight of eternal ages will not efface the impressions that were produced in the brief span of time. The character, through grace, assumed on earth, will be worn in heaven. The imperfect likeness of the Saviour, here acquired, will there shine forth in all the perfection of loveliness and beauty.—With such an object in view, parents should apply to this subject the admonitions, "Let us not be weary in well doing," Gal. vi. 9. "Be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord," 1 Cor. xv. 58. Expect not too much from children in the first instance. Be not discouraged by occasional displays of dullness or misapprehension. Still persevere, and your labour will not be in vain in the Lord.

AMUSEMENTS OF CHILDREN.

Children should be taught to shun all sports and pleasures that are connected with sin. Pleasure fairs, as they are called, and horse races, though sanctioned by some persons of decent character, are sources of numberless evils. Their true character is evidenced by the fact, that they draw together crowds of the drunken, the lewd, and the most profligate. A child should be taught to look upon these scenes as scenes of wickedness, with which it would pollute and disgrace him to intermingle. It should be inculcated upon him, that the playhouse is the nursery for vice, and is the place where "Satan's seat is." Whatever partakes of the nature of gambling should be forbidden. The child that covets his playmates' money, when gambling for half-pence, is displaying, and strengthening, a disposition, that, in after life, may lead him to the gaming table, and to those dwellings of wickedness, which are correctly denominated "hells," as they are places where many are allured to temporal and eternal perdition.

BOOKS FOR CHILDREN.

Parents should exercise watchfulness and care, in reference to the books their children read. A bad book may infuse principles into a youthful mind, that will be developed in future wickedness, and in eternal ruin. No wise parent would allow some profligate to be always at his child's elbow, counselling him to become a

skilful practitioner, in crime. But to permit a child to pore over the pages of an impious, or impure, or otherwise wicked book, is to allow him to imbibe those principles with which a profligate would imbue his mind, not less surely, though more silently.—Children should be taught to shun not only absolutely wicked books, but to despise frivolous and trifling books, that are calculated to impart little or no valuable information, but to deprave their taste, and to inflame their passions. To this class belongs the whole catalogue of novels; the writer excepts not those of Walter Scott.* Novels are the mental poison of multitudes.—Many a sabbath breaker devotes his sabbath to novels, and wastes, on their deluding pages, those sacred hours, which in a little while, "worlds would want wealth to buy." For this profane purpose, in large towns, more of these poisonous books are taken out from circulating libraries on the Saturday, than on any day of the week by 'em. Many a young woman has lost character, honour, and every thing, through the depraving influence of novels. A more fatal predilection can scarcely be cherished, than the love of novel reading. And if some are not as foolish, as frivolous, and as baneful, as others, they inspire and strengthen a taste for novels; and thus the novels of Scott, will prepare the way for the filth and obscenity of Sterne. A pious parent should teach his children to despise all novels, as a kind of reading that cannot benefit, but which will surely injure them. Children love what is interesting, and this taste may be gratified, by works on natural science, animals, birds, fishes, by history, biography, voyages and travels, &c. Whatever books they read, they should often be reminded that the Bible is THE BOOK, the only book, whose discoveries will long concern them, and whose instructions may be eternally beneficial to them.—*From "Parental Care."*

CANADA SPELLING BOOK.

We understand the School Commissioners of this town, of whom several are distinguished clergymen, have very properly decided that the *Canada Spelling Book* shall be used in the schools under their jurisdiction. On this subject the following appeared in the "Chronicle" of the 1st June:

"We are glad to find that Mr. Davidson's excellent compilation, the *Canada Spelling Book*, has been adopted for use in the schools under their charge by the Commissioners of this township, and we trust that the example will be generally followed through the whole of western Canada. Judges the most competent have pronounced this publication better suited to our schools than any of the works of the same class extant, and the general favor with which the first edition was received has induced the compiler to incur such an expense in stereotyping as only many editions can defray. Under these circumstances, we think School Commissioners generally will feel it a pleasing duty to adopt Mr. Davidson's publication, as they will thereby put into the hands of youth the

* On the subject of Sir Walter Scott's novels, the following remarks, from the "*Christian Observer*," are very weighty:—"As regards a knowledge of the annals of past days, the historical fictions of the Waverley novels, far from being beneficial, have done much prejudice to veracious history, by giving the most false and delusive representations of persons and events. Of the author's incorrect exhibitions of history I need not adduce a more flagrant instance, than the irreligious and profane caricatures which he has given of men, of whom, with all their faults, the world was not worthy; men to whom religion was the first and dearest subject of thought and feeling; men of prayer; men, whose Bible was their constant study, and who learned there, those doctrines, and those very phrases, which Sir Walter Scott has held up to the laugh and scorn of an ungodly world.—They do harm; they profane the name of God; they expose religion to contempt; by mixing it up with cant, selfishness, weakness of mind, and hypocrisy. They burlesque Scripture, so that no person familiar with these novels can read the word of God, or hear it read in church or in the family, without being constantly reminded of some ludicrous association." Another writer in the same work adds:—"We believe the spirit they evince towards evangelical doctrine and true piety, to be as hostile as that of Lord Shaftesbury himself." Further remarks on this subject, may be found in the "*Christian Observer*," for 1333, p. 60, 178, and in the volume for 1834, p. 671.