

teacher instead of from the mother's lips. But for the unfailing promise of grace and guidance there would be a perfect heart-break in the thought of these ever-widening obligations and opportunities.

There are many beautiful and appropriate prayers for children which may be taught in the class for use at home, and the Lord's Prayer should be unfailingly committed in a reverent way by all old enough to do so.

The introduction of a simple blessing at the table, or grace before meals, into homes where God is not recognized in this way, may be a means of grace untold. Great wisdom, tact, and discretion must be used in securing this, for it is possible for children, in carrying out even the best plans of this kind, to become insufferable little prigs, filled with a sense of their own goodness and importance, but there is no need of "good being evil spoken of" in this fashion. Wisdom is profitable to direct.

It is quite possible that a form of prayer or of blessing at table might be most welcome to some poor mother, groping her way after the best means at command for influencing her children and acknowledging God in outward observance, beyond her own power to originate. Perhaps a simple form learned in the class and repeated by the child at home might be gladly taken up and used by the mother in her poverty of expression and natural diffidence. Here are three simple forms that might be taught to children:

"We thank thee, Lord, for daily bread;
May soul and body both be fed.
O, bless us, as this food we take,
And save us all, for Jesus' sake. Amen."

"Our Father in heaven, we thank thee
For all thy good gifts from above.
O, bless us, and help us to serve thee,
And fill every heart with thy love. Amen."

"Lord, for daily bread we thank thee,
Sent us o'er and o'er again;
Give us grace and strength to serve thee,
For our Saviour's sake. Amen."

These are merely suggestions by way of form. A direct address to God and explicit thanksgiving would seem to be an essential part of such forms, and, as cannot be said too often, they should be reverently taught and used.

Among the many ways to strengthen the

invisible threads of influence in the homes may be mentioned mothers' meetings with the teacher of the primary department. It may be out of the question to hold these regularly. Circumstances, which differ so widely, must needs alter cases, but it certainly seems feasible to have at least one such meeting in connection with every class, and who can estimate the resultant help? Little personal notes of invitation may be sent to the mothers by the hands of the small scholars, and in these certain specific questions may be asked concerning the report of lessons by the child at home, and how well the teaching is understood, with kindred matters and the offer of an opportunity to ask questions about school and class regulations. At such a meeting the requirements of the school as to home study of lessons and supplemental work may be explained, and in the social, informal interchange of the hour upon the absorbing topic of the children and how to help them, how to understand and to instruct them, both teachers and mothers will give and gain what is of immeasurable practical value, as heart speaks to heart. Such a meeting should be one of prayer as well as conference, and may result in influences viewless as the air, yet strong as love. Mothers' meetings may be too formidable, but a mothers' meeting now and then is not. Try it. By all means strengthen the invisible threads and multiply them, for, though unseen, these, too, may be eternal.

A Startling Assertion.

PROBABLY most parents, even kind ones, would be a little startled at the assertion that a child ought never to be reproved in the presence of others. This is so constant an occurrence that nobody thinks of considering whether it be right and best, or not. But it is a great rudeness to a child. Let a child see that his mother is so anxious that he should have the good will of her friends, that she will not call their attention to his faults, and that, while she never allows herself to forget to tell him afterward, alone, if he has behaved improperly, she will spare him the additional pain and mortification of public reproof; and, while that child will lay those secret reproofs to heart, he will still be happy.—*Mrs. J. H. Kellogg, in New Crusade.*