

relax his mind, by indulging his little ones, than to search for imperfections, or to punish faults. His return is generally a little jubilee in the domestic circle, and it would be hard to act the part of a rigid censor; to cast a gloom over cheerful faces, or to freeze the current of enjoyment in happy hearts. Praise is always freely, if not always justly given; and the father of a family often knows less of the real dispositions and characters of his children, than the humblest domestic in his establishment.

If we look to the commencement of learning, it is upon the mother that task also must fall. Her patience, her perseverance, her affection, alone, are equal to sustain the irksome drudgery of that weary season — irksome, even where nature has been most bountiful; but peculiarly harassing, where she has been sparing of her gifts. And then, in sickness, in all the various diseases incident to youth, who to sustain the heavy head, to administer the healing medicine, to watch the feverish slumber, to bear with all the untoward peevishness of youthful suffering — who, but that same unwearied friend, that kindest gift of Heaven — the Christian Mother?

Fully, therefore, am I convinced, that in the commencement of education, which gives direction to the whole of coming life, mothers have by far the more difficult and more important duties to perform. No young person (and I would to God that I could imprint this sentiment indelibly upon every youthful mind) can never be sufficiently grateful to a good and a prudent mother; nor sufficiently thankful to a benignant Providence, if he have been blessed with such a parent. But, if such be the inestimable advantage of maternal affection regulated by prudence, and of maternal gentleness tempered by firm-