

the vegetables of our gardens—what are they, unless they are pruned, dug about, cared for? It is by cultivation alone that they can be brought to perfection. Compare those which have grown up in a wild, rude state, with others that have been sedulously reared and tended; you can scarcely believe them to be of the same species. And, if God made the productions of the earth, so that it is only by our constant attention and labor they can be brought to perfection, would He, think you, have us evince less care for that far more important product, our children's minds? *They* may be trained to perfectness, or they may be let run to waste by neglect.'

'Oh dear!' sighed Lady Augusta. 'But it is a dreadful trouble, always to be worrying over children.'

'It's a trouble that, in a very short time after entering upon it, grows into a pleasure,' said Mrs. Channing. 'I am sure that there is not a single mother, really training her children to good, but will bear me out in the assertion. It is a pleasure that they would not be without. Take it from them, and the most delightful occupation of their lives is gone. And think of the reward! Were there no higher end to be looked for, it would be found in the loving, obedient docility of the children. You talk of the trouble, Lady Augusta: those who would escape trouble with their children should be careful to train them.'

'I think I will begin at once with mine,' exclaimed Lady Augusta, brightening up.

A smile crossed Mrs. Channing's lips, as she slightly shook her head. None knew better than she, that training, to bear its proper fruit, must be begun with a child's earliest years.

Meanwhile, the proctor was holding a conference with Mrs. Channing. 'Presents seem to be the order of the day,' he was remarking, in allusion to sundry pretty offerings which had been made to Constance. 'I think I may as well contribute my mite—'

'Why, you have done it! You gave her a bracelet, you know,' cried Miss Annabel. For which abrupt interruption she was forthwith consigned to a respectful distance; and run away to be teased by Tom and Gerald.

'I have something in my pocket which I wish to give to Arthur; which I have been intending for some time to give him,' resumed Mr. Galloway, taking from his

pocket what seemed to be a roll of parchment. 'Will you accept them, Arthur?'

'What, sir?'

'Your articles.'

'Oh! Mr. Galloway—'

'No thanks, my boy. I am in your debt far deeper than I liked to be! A trifling thing like this—touching the parchment—cannot wipe out the suspicion I cast upon you, the disgrace which followed it. Perhaps at some future time, I may be able to atone for it better. I hope we shall be together many years, Arthur. I have no son to succeed to my business, and it may be—But I will leave that until the future comes.'

It was a valuable present gracefully offered, and Mr. Channing and Arthur acknowledged it as such, passing over the more important hint in silence.

'Children,' said Mr. Channing, as the festivities of the day came to an end, and the guests departed, they gathered together round their fireside, bereft of Constance, 'what a forcible lesson of God's mercy ought these last few months to teach us! Six months ago, there came to us the news that our suit was lost; and things troubled followed upon it, and things looked dark. But I, for one, never lost my trust in God; it was not for a moment shaken; and if you are the children I and your mother have striven to bring up, you did not lose yours. Tom,' turning suddenly upon him, 'I fear you were the most impatient.'

Tom looked contrite. 'I fear I was, papa.'

'What good did the indulgence in your hasty spirit do you?'

'No good, but harm,' frankly confessed Tom. 'I hope it has helped me to some notion of patience, though for the future, papa.'

'Ay,' said Mr. Channing. 'Hope on, strive on, work on, and trust on! I believe that you made those your watchwords; as did I. And now, in almost unprecedentedly short time, we are brought through our troubles. While others equally deserving, have to struggle years before the cloud is lifted, it has pleased God to bring us out wonderfully quick, to heap mercies and blessings, and a hopeful future upon us. I may truly say, "He has brought us to great honor, and comforted us on every side."

'I HAVE BEEN YOUNG, AND NOW AM OLD; AND YET SAW I NEVER THE RIGHTEOUS FORSAKEN, NOR HIS SEED BEGGING THEIR BREAD.'