

this dependent child is being formed an independent man. A new world is dawning on him, fresh forces are rising mightily in him, unknown sensations are beating in his unaccustomed soul, and to adjust himself to the change is the mighty problem before the boy. The old bottles of childhood will not hold the new wine of manhood; he must find new wineskins. Just behind him lies the level plain of childhood, a uniform time of dependence, imitation and orderly progression. Before him, up yonder somewhere, is the plateau of manhood, Eldorado of his dreamings. The ascent from plain to plateau is broken, storm-beaten, and the climbing is perilous.

These changes, physical and psychical, make this a trying time for all concerned. The boy is irregular, uncertain, erratic. It is a trying time for the parents. The mother can scarcely believe that this creature, so reserved, changeable, so boisterous or bashful, is her nice little lad of two years since. He who clung to her apron-strings is withdrawing himself into an enigmatic reserve. The father is surprised at the docile child who has lately become assertive, and even at times defiant. He has outgrown both coat and conduct, and his childish niceness has departed with his knickerbockers. It is also a trying time for the boy. The fact is, the boy does not understand himself. He is neither child nor man. It is the volcanic period of life, and his child-nature is being heaved and at by eruptions. Mighty forces of nascent manhood are tugging like wild horses at the inexperienced hands of his immature will. He has a big contract on hand.

Let us give then our best consideration to the boy from twelve to seventeen: let us not add to his difficulties at this time by our impatience or ignorance. The claim of the boy upon his parents is greater now than at any other period of his life, greater even than in babyhood. In babyhood a competent nurse can be obtained for ten dollars a week, who will care for the infant as skillfully as an experienced mother. But no money can buy and no proxy can give such aid as wise and tender parents can minister to their own boy-man. And great, too, is the boy's claim upon the Sunday school. The boy of this age is the vexation of the superintendent and the trial of the teacher. Let not the Sunday school worker give him up until every resource of tact and patience has been exhausted.