

convenient for them. They would not, knowingly, give them what is unsuited to their constitutions. They exercise a watchful care so that nothing may go into their stomachs which will do them injury. And they are all the more vigilant that their children do not know what is good and what is bad for them, and are prone to seek the gratification of their tastes. Parents who act thus are to be commended.

But is it not equally the duty of parents to be careful in regard to the mental food which their children receive? Children have minds: these minds need training; they require supplies of mental nourishment. The mind is more important than the body. It is the jewel, whereas the body is only the casket that contains it. It is the tenant, whereas the body is only the tenement in which it dwells. If parents are monsters of cruelty, who provide not for the bodily wants of their children, what shall be said of those parents who, while they are scrupulously careful with regard to their children's dress and food, neglect to train and educate and fill with knowledge their immortal minds?

Every man should be a Christian. But it is most important that parents be Christians. In addition to the obligations which lie on every human being to be a follower of Jesus, an obligation rests on the parents to be Christians, arising out of the relation which they sustain to their children. They influence their children's minds for good or for evil, according to their personal character. That the fruit of the influence which they exert on their children may be good, they must be trees of righteousness, branches of the true Vine. Parent, are you a Christian? For your child's sake you ought to be. You tremble to think what would become of your child were you to be taken away from the world. But consider how your child's mind is to be trained and stored with the knowledge of God if you are not a Christian.

Many Christian parents are not so careful as regards the mental food which their children receive, as they ought to be. In addition to instruction imparted by their own lips, parents should supply their children with books which have an upward moral tendency. The mind craves after knowledge. The principle of curiosity is strong in children. This desire for knowledge needs to be properly regulated as well as gratified. Parents let your children have books which will inform their minds as to the things of time, and especially as to those things that relate to their souls, to God, and to the world to come. We have known Christian