

whole effort was to find out new ways of being ugly and disobedient.

One day, on my remonstrating with her, she said, "Well I can't help it, it is the devil in me makes me do it." For a while I did not know what to say; I was too much shocked at the thought of a child like her having thrown off all responsibility. You see she had more light than she could stand.

I sent her to a seat and thought and prayed much over her. On the next occasion, which was not long in coming, when she used the same expression, I answered something in this way, "Do you know who made you, Mollie?" "Yes, I do," she said glibly enough; "it was God." "Well, I replied, when God made you, a dear, sweet little baby, He said, 'I am going to give Mollie something to think with.' So He put inside you something which we will call a 'think,' to help you to know what is right and choose to do it. If you choose to do (mentioning the wrong she had just committed) it is *your* fault, because God gave you that little 'think' on purpose to help you do right."

A slight reminder of this conversation, with a few details added, as necessary, was all Mollie needed during the rest of the time she was under my care.

How bewildered a little child must be when we tell him he "must be good," and show displeasure when he is not. The light should be let in gradually. The very young child has the inward eye called conscience. It sees clearly, but it is apt to be bewildered by too much light. Have patience.

Perhaps, at some time or other, you tell your child to pick up his blocks. He does so. You say, "That is my good boy." Then, "good" to him means picking up his blocks and your approval of his act. No more, no less, except he has had similar illustrations; in which case it means each one of these that he remembers piled one on top of the other. Gradually, out of the multitude of illustrations, he begins to comprehend what the abstract "good" may embody; but this only by degrees. Quite young children use the word fluently enough, but without any real conception of what it conveys.

How then, in the meantime, are we going to make the child good? Certainly not by

overwhelming him with moral light. That will only confuse and hinder him; but, as he is able to bear it, we shall give a little to-day, a little to-morrow, and so on. We may talk to the little ones about loving God. We may even teach them to say they do love Him, but a real love for God comes more slowly. The child, even the very young child, understands what it is to love his father and mother and brothers and sisters. He sees these kind and gentle and helpful to one another. He by and by learns that it is because they love one another. This helps him to understand, when we tell him, as we ought to do over and over again, the story of Jesus, as a child loving and obeying His parents, and kind and gentle to all who were about Him; and of His wondrous goodness to people, when He grew to be a man.

There is no need to point out morals. That is generally forcing the light upon the child. The child, as we have pointed out, sees quickly and keenly. The stories will do their own work, create their own ideals, arouse their own thought in the child's mind, and at the right time in his development the love of Jesus will come and the desire to serve Him, because he will have learned to know Him as a loving, personal, helpful Friend. We cannot tell when that time shall be, but the Lord looks after His own.

DIVIDING UP THE BIBLE

The usual classification of the books of the Bible is given to junior and adult classes as history, poetry, and prophecy in the Old Testament; and gospels, history, epistles, and prophecy in the New. But we need a simpler and yet accurate division for the little ones.

We may therefore divide the Old Testament in terms for the Primary Department:

There are thirty-nine smaller books in the one larger book we call the Old Testament:

1. Stories—seventeen books of stories.
2. Songs and poems—five books of them.
3. Promises of God—seventeen books.

Let us make the figures: $17 + 5 + 17 = 39$.

There are twenty-seven little books in the New Testament:

1. Stories—five books of stories.