

DEPARTMENT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

MR. EDITOR,—

In some children, the knowledge of right and wrong, i. e., of whether they are acting properly or not, is shown at a very early age, and I am aware that matters spoken of before them, (even at a period of life, when it might have been supposed they could not at all understand the meaning of the subject of the conversation or observation, or were paying any attention to it,) especially if the little creatures have any personal interest in them, are frequently distinctly remembered when they grow up. As the human race has a tendency to fall still lower than what it has done, unless the good propensities are early cultivated, and the evil ones checked in the bud, Parents cannot be too cautious, not only how they act, but also how they speak before their children. Young people are very apt to imitate others, but in general, they think that they are themselves always in the right, and it is a very difficult matter to persuade them to believe, and to act on the belief, that they are frequently in the wrong; and that the parent or other party who addresses or warns them, can, or does know better, because they have had more experience. In addressing a few observations to young people, I shall keep these ideas in remembrance, and shall therefore commence with two principles, the correctness of which, if at all instilled into them, most, if not all children readily admit, viz. truth and honesty.

Dear Boys and Girls, I will suppose that you are all aware of your duty to love and serve God, and to honor and obey your parents, and that you try to do so. There are also other parties besides, to whom you ought to act properly, and these are your neighbours, viz. other little boys and girls with whom you keep company; you know who told us all to love our neighbors. There are two things I shall point out to you, in which, if you act wrong, as regards them, you neither love nor serve God, honor your parents, nor do your duty to others, and farther, you hurt your own character before every body. These two things are therefore very naughty, and I hope you never do, or that if you do or have done them, you will now give them over entirely. The first is telling lies; and the second, being dishonest, or in any way cheating or robbing another. In last number of the *Cultivator*, page 155, I inserted a nice little story about the honest and dishonest boy, which I hope you have read, or that your parents have

read for you, and from it you will see that is true, "*that honesty is ever the best policy.*"

I have now to tell you also, that "*Truth ever best, and stands longest.*" As to not telling the truth, but as it is called, telling lies, I think it one of the very worst crimes which boys and girls can commit. For if you once get into the habit or way of telling lies, you will very soon find that no body will believe you, even when you tell the truth, and that lying generally leads to every thing bad,—such as being dishonest, taking what is not your own,—in short, *stealing*. You may think, when you tell your first lie, that you will never rob or steal, and I am sure you do not intend ever to do so; but if you go on, (evil doing is always powerful to increase,) you will find, that to hide some of your lies, you will not scruple to tell another, perhaps greater, or to steal, or to do something very bad indeed. You know who is the *Father of Lies*, and who has power over liars. Is it not the Devil? I am sure you do not like or wish to be called one of His CHILDREN. In what way did he first shew himself to be a liar? Was it not by telling the great falsehood he did to Eve, in the Garden of Eden? About this true tale, you can read, or get told to read for you in the Bible. Adam and Eve then knew no evil,—knew nothing of lies,—very innocently believed all he told them. But in believing him, they disobeyed God, and were punished, though they had never been warned against him. And do you think Boys and Girls who are well cautioned, as you are, against wickedness of telling lies,—and yet do he,—are not be punished also? Though your parents and friends may not know you do so, there is one who sees and knows all things, and that is God, and he will punish.

"A lie may be acted, (says a learned writer, Dr. Paley,) as when a traveller asks the way, and you point with your finger in the wrong direction." In short, deceiving another in any way is telling a lie.

But, even in this world, lies are generally found out and punished; and the longer they are of being found out, so much the worse for poor foolish Boys or Girls who tell them; Because they think as the lie they have told is not found out, it will never be so, and they go on and tell more, and become bad in every way. And 2d, Because, as long as it is undiscovered they live in great fear, lest it be found out,