

a meekness not to be disturbed by the greatest provocation, a patience not to be wearied by long-continued opposition. I say any father or mother, Are you irritable, petulant? If so, beg this moment the work of subjugating your temper: you are in imminent peril of ruining your family. A passionate mother or father is like a fury, with a sceptre in one hand and a firebrand in the other: and when the King is a fury, the subjects are likely to be furies too; for nothing is more contagious than a bad temper. O how many parents have had to bewail, with weeping eyes and almost broken hearts, the effects of their own irritability, as apparent in the headstrong, passionate dispositions of their children. It is against this evil that the admonition of the Apostle is directed "*forbearing threatening.*" Passion blinds the judgment, leads to undue severity, fosters partialities; in short, is the source of a thousand evils in the domestic government. An irritable person can never manage discipline with propriety; but is ever prone to be correct, when correction should never be administered, in a rage. Parents! I beseech you to control your temper, and acquire a calm, imperturbable disposition; for this only can fit you to rule your household in wisdom, justice, and love.

3. *A habit of discrimination* is a very important qualification in parents; a penetrating insight into character; an acuteness in judging of motives. Such a talent is of immense consequence to the domestic community; and, connected with this, a quickness of discerning disposition, together with an inventive and ingenious faculty of adapting treatment to the varieties of character and propensity, which are continually exhibiting themselves.

4. *Kindness of manner.* An affectionate persuasive address is of great importance. It is desirable for the parents to render their company pleasant to their children, to engage their confidence, to exert over them the influence of love, which certainly cannot be done by a cold, churlish, or distant behaviour.

5. *Prudence and good sense* are qualities of such inestimable worth, and depend so much upon education, that all who have the care of children should perpetually exhibit them for imitation. A rash, thoughtless father, or a wild romantic mother, do incalculable mischief in a family.

6. *Firmness* is essentially requisite in parents: that disposition which, though at the remotest distance from all that is rigid, stern, and cruel, can master its own feelings; and amidst the strongest appeals to the tenderer emotions of the mind, can inflexibly maintain