

Duties of Parents.—Why are cases so frequent in which the children of virtuous parents grow up vicious and abandoned? There are many nice and delicate adjustments necessary to secure the highest and best results in the education of a child, but the principles necessary for tolerable success must be few and simple. There are two which we wish we had a voice loud enough to thunder in the ears of every parent in the country; the breach of one or the other of which will explain almost every case of gross failure on the part of virtuous parents which we have ever known. They are these:

1. Keep your children from bad company.
2. Make them obey you.

Habits of insubordination at home, and the company of bad boys abroad, are the two great sources of evil, which undo so much of what moral and religious instruction might otherwise effect. What folly to think that a boy can play with the profane, impure, passionate boys which herd in the streets six days in the week, and have the stains all wiped away by being compelled to learn his Sunday school lesson on the seventh; or that children who make the kitchen or the nursery scenes of riot and noise from the age of three to eight years, will be prepared for anything in after life but to carry the spirit of insubordination and riot wherever they may go. No! children must be taken care of. They must be governed at home, and kept from contaminating influences abroad, or they may be ruined. If parents ask, how shall we make our children obey? We answer just the easiest and pleasantest way you can, but at all events *make them obey*. If you ask, how shall we keep our boys from bad company? We answer too in the easiest and pleasantest way you possibly can, but at all events, if in the city, *keep them out of the streets*; and wherever you are, *keep them from bad company*. The alternative it seems to us, is as clear and decided as any which circumstances ever made up for man; you must govern your children, and keep them away from the contamination of vice, or you must expect to spend your old age in mourning over the ruins of your family.—*J. Abbott.*

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W. G. EDMUNDSON, Editor.

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DUGALD STEWART.

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