

too strongly brought before parents. Secular education get its due share of attention from them. They will sacrifice, without a murmur, time and money for a training that fits their children for worldly pursuits. They cannot be blamed for this. Secular training is useful, even necessary, and parents must see to it that children get what will help them to earn an honest livelihood. But this is not enough. "Knowledge is not to be blamed," says the *Following of Christ*, "nor simple acquaintance with things, good in itself and ordained by God, but a good conscience and a virtuous life are always to be preferred." It is not enough to know God and the wonders of his working here on earth. The child must be taught to love God and practise virtue. Home-training must crush out the egotism and pride that begins to show itself just as soon as self-consciousness dawns. Religion and religious instruction are indispensable in view of the eternal interests that are at stake.

When parents are indifferent about the souls of their children, we are not surprised to see our Bishops and other pastors of souls taking up their cause and insisting on home-training. In their Collective Pastoral issued in 1894, the Bishops of the Province of Quebec gave a practical lesson to parents: "From children's tenderest years," wrote they, "insist on their daily prayers; when in church, explain for them the ceremonies they are witnessing. When the proper time comes, take them to confession, to Holy Communion, and let them hear practical instructions. Catholic homes should be sanctuaries where the good odor of faith, piety, love of God and His Church are ever present."

This is the right kind of home-training, and this is the training that Blanche of Castile provided for her son St. Louis, whom she would rather see dead than stained with sin.

May we not look, then, to parents themselves to explain the strange anomaly noticed in the beginning of these pages? If they were strongly imbued with the spirit of