

And be sure you will not think arithmetic or geography or history of small importance, because you know that it is more important still that they should feel the meanness of lying, and the nobility of a life that follows the example of our Saviour Christ, and is being made like unto Him. The head and the heart—both are to be trained. You cannot be satisfied with less. It will please you to see this boy with his hands full of certificates when he leaves you, but your satisfaction will be far greater if you know that you have helped to furnish him with the truths of the Christian creed, the only stable foundation for a moral life, that will help him to keep his feet in the tide of selfishness, filth, and profanity which will flow round him as he goes out to work in the world. It is not that in a Bible half-hour you have drummed into his head the stories of the patriarchs, or the plagues of Egypt, or the journeys of St. Paul; it is the atmosphere of Christian thinking that you have brought close to him, by contact with you, by a word dropped here and there, and so colored his whole view of life and conduct—it is this that will help him then. In a word, it is you yourself; what you are, not what you say only; escaping in all sorts of ways (we sum it up in the word "tone" sometimes) this that may be, and should be, the best part of all the education you help to give. "Come, ye children, and hearken unto me, and I will teach you—the fear of the Lord"; so your life will be saying, if you have grasped the highest ideal, though your lips may never utter it in so many words. But before you can teach it, you must yourselves know it. Here is the point on which it all hangs.

In you, whose own life is opening, still unfixed, still forming, is "the fear of the Lord" as we find it explained in this Psalm xxxiv, the love that fears to offend, the love that is full of reverence—is that an influence in your heart? Do you pray? Do you believe in Christ as the revelation of the Father, and the Saviour of the world? Do you believe in the Holy Ghost, and devoutly receive the Sacrament that He makes full of grace for your soul? Do you value your membership in the body of Christ, and know what it means? Believe me, you cannot impart Christianity from books merely. You must be living as a Christian, loving God, repenting of sin, realizing by faith the things that are spiritual and unseen, if you would teach that.

You will need all the support of your Christian belief to face the difficulties and trials of your way. It is a hard work, as well as a responsible. "Many boys," said Thomas Fuller, "be muddy-headed, till they be clarified by age." It is true of those of the nineteenth century, is it not, as of those of the seventeenth? The ideal child—so bright and docile and grateful and good tempered—exists in the speeches of the sentimental, and in a certain type of book; but the real child is often slow, and sometimes sullen and rude. "How interesting!" a visitor says of the work, as he sees a model lesson given to some proficient standard; but "How laborious!" would be the title of the companion picture that the teacher could supply. I marvel at and admire the patient cheerfulness that is to be found in the teachers of the schools all over the land. You will have a good tradition to