

we cherish, and by our air and manners; these constitute the basis of parental education. What we do casually, and without any immediate intention of influencing our children, is the great moulding power of our household. We may teach what we please; but that alone will not decide the character of these little ones. It is what we do and say, nay, what we think and feel, in our inmost soul, that accomplishes the larger part of this mighty work. The state of our heart, our affection for God and man, or our habitual indifference to eternal things, and our inbred selfishness, — these are what train our children. We cannot seal up this inner fountain; its waters, if they do not gush forth openly, will yet ooze out, and will fall on the minds and hearts of our offspring, either to blight them, like the pestilential miasma, or, like the dews and showers of heaven, to freshen them and quicken them to an unfading verdure.

The necessity of training children, as well as teaching them, is inculcated constantly in the Scriptures. The command is to “bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.” This involves far more than merely telling them how they ought to be brought up. It involves a reciprocal duty on the part of the child. “Children, obey your parents in all things,” — so runs the Divine command. Obedience, then, is indispensable to a Christian education. Accordingly, the parent must not only frame rules for the government of his family, but those rules must be enforced. The authority vested in him by God is not to lie dormant, but with calmness and in love it must be steadily exercised.