

Moral Training.

Why, in this advanced age of civilization, is there so much profanity and vulgarity? And now I think the times demand that we go to work in earnest to ferret out the causes, and remedy the defect. It will be no idle talk, for, in my opinion, there are many and wide-spread causes. No one thing could induce so many men, and even women, to give way to such soul debasing practices, practices which can be of no benefit to any one, and are, indeed, to all noble men and women repulsive, and to a great many who drift that way. But impulse leads them, and the influence of those, by whom they are surrounded, is stronger than their moral character, and right there we have found, at least, one cause, a lack of inbred and trained moral character. But why such a falling short in the training of our people morally? Is it not even more essential, as our country becomes more densely populated, that there be a stricter obedience to that which is just and right? If so, why are parents of this age less anxious than our fore parents were to have their children grow up to be truly noble men and women? Why more prone to run after the baubles of this world? So much so as to be willing to trust the formation of the children's character to circumstances. A fearful risk, indeed, but nevertheless what many parents do, saying, "Oh, well, they will have to learn for themselves."

Do they think of the fearful risk they run, of the many years of wretchedness and blight, that may be the lot of those cast out, on so rough a sea so young, without the tender hand to guide, and the voice of love to chide?

But time is scarce for such, that is, we must work, work, work. A never ending tide of hurry, hurry, bears us on, and our minds are ever busy with the thought of how shall I make another cent, and not in trying to call those who look to us for guidance up higher.

Pitiful, indeed, is the outlook for those coming after us, if we do not stop in the chase for worldly wealth soon, and lay a foundation of chastity and sobriety upon which they may step.

Do we ever stop to think, oh mother, that a good moral character, a mind well stored with useful knowledge, would shine far brighter, and forever, and aid all humani-

ty? Do we think of this when we are spending our best energies to clothe our daughters, so they will appear well? Yes, rather better dressed than our neighbors? I fear we leave room for many vices to grow while we stitch, stitch, stitch, to make an outward show? Do you ever think, fathers, when you are trying to gain that bottom dollar, when you are practicing small deceits, that you may wring the very last cent out of a trade that your little boy is quick to understand your evasive answers and small deceits, and that he will soon be trying to cheat his little playmates, thinking "Pa does so?" And are you ever guarded that his little ears may not hear the first vulgar words from you, and that your own lips do not teach him profanity? See how he watches you and tries to imitate your actions. How soon he learns to follow in your footsteps. His little acts and imitations are amusing when he is a boy, but the stick he smokes in place of a cigar, to be like Pa, has a strong savor when he grows to be a man. But we work on, and I fear but very few parents ever stop to think of all these things; only on the comfort of the physical are our energies bent.

We feel very much hurt if our children appear shabbily clothed in company. Do we feel the same mortification if the soul's dress, the character, is poorly clothed?

The soul comes naked into the world, and the character is its clothing. Oh, how many souls wear cheap clothing. Clothing that cannot endure in the presence of those who live pious, upright lives, and what will such clothing be in the presence of angels? Surely we need to care well for the little forms we love so well, but is not the soul, the eternal life, of as much importance? Then let us care well for the character, helping by example and precept to give to our children that which will prepare them to enter the beautiful "Home" with ease and security, and would that all parents would strive more ardently to give that which would be a pleasure and not a pain.—*Amer. Grange Bulletin*

Advice To Mothers.

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