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Negro Business League of Kansas City.

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THE VALUE OF PROPER HOME TRAINING.

(By Dennis S. Thompson.)

Home is the first and most important school of character, and it is there that every individual receives their best moral training, or their worst, for it is there that is imbibed the principles of conduct which endure through manhood and cease only with life.

It is a common saying that "manners make the man," and there is a second that "the mind makes the man," but truer than either is a third that "homes make the man." For the home training includes not only manners and mind, but character as well, and it is mainly in the home that the heart is opened, the habits are formed, the intellect is awakened, and character moulded for good or for evil.

From this source, be it pure or impure, issue the principles and maxims that govern society. Law itself is but the reflex of home; the finest bits of opinion sown in the minds of children, in private life, afterwards issue forth to the world, and become its public opinion, for nations are gathered out of nurseries, and they who hold the leading strings of children may even exercise a greater power than those who wield the reins of government.

The child's character is the nucleus of the man's; after all, education is but superposition; the form of the crystal remains the same. Thus the saying of the poets holds true in a large degree, "The child is the father of the man"; or as Milton puts it, "The childhood shows the man, as morning shows the day." Those influences to conduct which last the longest and are rooted the deepest, always have their origin near our birth. It is then that the germs of virtues or vices, of feelings or sentiments are first implanted which determine the character of life. Thus homes which are nurseries of children who grow up into men and women, will be good or bad according to the power that governs them. Where the spirit of love and duty pervades the home, where head and heart bear rule wisely there, where the daily life is honest and virtuous, where the government is sensible, kind and loving, then we may expect from such a home, an issue of healthy, useful and happy beings, capable as they gain the requisite strength, of following the footsteps of their parents, of walking uprightly, governing themselves wisely, and contributing to the welfare of those about them.

On the other hand if surrounded by ignorance, coarseness and selfishness, they unconsciously assume the same character, and grow up to adult years rude, uncultivated and all the more dangerous to society if placed amidst the manifold temptations of what we call civilized life. "Give your child to be educated by a slave," said an ancient Greek, "and instead of one slave you will have two." The poorest dwelling, presided over by a virtuous, thrifty, cheerful and cleanly woman, may thus be the abode of comfort, virtue and happiness; it may be the scene of every ennobling relation in family life; it may be endeared to man by many delightful associations, furnishing a sanctuary for the heart, a refuge from the storms of life, a sweet resting place after labor, a consolation in misfortune, a pride in prosperity, and a joy at all times.

The good home is thus the best of schools, not only in youth, but also in age. There young and old best learn cheerfulness, patience, self-control and the spirit of service and of duty. The home is the true school of courtesy, of which woman is always the best instructor. Philanthropy radiates from the home as from a center. To love the little platoon we belong to in society is the germ of all public affections. The wisest and best have not been ashamed to own it to be their greatest joy and happiness to sit behind the heads of children in the inviolate circle of home.

The best regulated home is always that in which the discipline is the most perfect, and yet where it is the least felt. Moral discipline acts with the force of a law of Nature. Those subject to it yield themselves to it unconsciously; and though it shapes and forms the whole character, until the life becomes crystallized in habit, the influence thus exercised is for the most part unseen, and almost unfelt. It is a fact very much to be regretted that so many parents, and children as well, do not recognize the value of proper training in the home. We have about come to the place where the church, the school, the home and society have become slaves to the children. Instead of the children profiting through the influence wielded by the various branches of religious and educational uplift.

In many instances the parent gives the child the proper home training, but they are handicapped because of outside influences that are generally exercised by persons of ill design. One fact, however, stands out in bold relief, which cannot be disputed, and that is we are not placing enough rare literature at the disposal of our children. If the child has no knowledge of the higher achievements of the race, and the best efforts that are being put forth by the race, what interest can it have in the better order of things? It is the duty of parents and those having the care of children, to impress upon their minds, the importance of working for higher things; if it is noticed that a child has some book work in it, which study and labor might bring out, teach it the value of self-denial and the application of its energies to the culture of its intellect. It is astonishing how much carelessness, thrift, the reading of proper books and diligent application will help such children onward.

Too many parents expect the world outside to do for their children what ought to be done in the home.



MME. W. H. BRICE Face and Scalp Specialist