

How to Speak to Children.

The following excellent advice to parents we find in the *Country Gentleman*:

The usual way of managing children is by corporeal punishment, deprivation of some desired luxury or favor, or by rewards addressed to the senses, and by words alone. There is another means of government, the power and importance of which are seldom regarded. We refer to the voice. By its tones animals are governed, horses, cattle, dogs, even cats are controlled by its power and influence. A few words uttered in a soft tone are found to possess a magic influence; harsh, cross tones, though the words may not be of their nature, rasp the mind and heart of the hearer. A blow may be inflicted on a child accompanied with words so uttered as entirely to counteract its effect; or the parent may use language during the correction of his child, not objectionable in itself, yet spoken in such tones that the influence of the punishment is utterly defeated.

The baby in the cradle recognizes the power of the voice. If harshly spoken to, its little lips will quiver and tears will flow. It cannot discern the meaning of the words that are uttered, but its heart is touched and hurt by the tones of the voice. Many persons laugh at the so-called "baby talk," but the little one jumps and crows when it hears low, soft tones and words. Is this influence confined to the cradle? No, indeed; every age feels it, recognizes it, and it does not cease while it remains at home.

Does your boy grow rude in manner and boisterous in speech? Then speak to him gently—remind him in tender tones with loving words and caresses. She who speaks to her son harshly but gives to his behavior the sanction of her example and pours oil on the already flaming passion and temper.

When cares oppress, and duties crowd us, we are all liable to utter hasty words; perhaps threats are expressed in loud, irritating tones. Do they allay the passions of the child, already at a white heat? No, they increase them. Every fretful expression you utter but awakens in him the same spirit that produced it. On the other hand, a pleasant voice and soft words call up agreeable feelings, soften the heart and make this angry passionate child ashamed of himself. Therefore remember this, mothers and fathers, whatever disposition you desire to encourage in your children, you must manifest it in the tone of voice in which you address them.

A PRISONER was once arraigned in Kent County, Michigan, for stealing pork. He retained a young and talented and ingenious member of the profession for his defense. Having listened to the prisoner's own story, and heard from him what in all probability the people's witnesses would swear to, he candidly informed his client that it was useless to waste money on his defense. "Never you mind," was the confident reply; "you argue my case good and strong, just as if you believed me a persecuted man, and I will give you \$20." The lawyer worked up to the contract, and before he had half summed up he had the jury in tears at the bare idea of snatching such a bright example of domestic and social worth from the bosom of his family, and the society of his neighbors, to be thrust among felons in the common jail. To his astonishment his appeal was effective; the prisoner was acquitted. Closeted together after the verdict and discharge of the culprit, and the \$20 having been paid over, the lawyer said: "By the by, B—, that was a most surprising verdict, considering what the government proved." "Not at all," was the cool reply; "six of them jurymen had some of the pork." The mercury in that lawyer's bump of self-esteem fell to zero.

INTOXICATION BY FUNGI.—Once, a the conclusion of a Korak marriage we went out into the open air, to see three or four Koraks shouting and reeling about in an advanced stage of intoxication—celebrating, I suppose, the happy event which had just transpired. I knew that there was not a drop of alcoholic liquor in all northern Kamschatka, nor so far as I knew, anything from which it could be made; and it was a mystery to me how they had succeeded in becoming so suddenly, thoroughly, hopelessly and undeniably drunk. Even Ross Browne's beloved Washoe, with its "howling wilderness" saloons could not have turned out more creditable specimens of intoxicated human-

ity than these before us. The exciting agent, whatever it might be, was certainly as quick in its operation and as effective in its results as any "tangle-foot" or "bottle-lightning" known to modern civilization. Upon inquiry we learned, to our astonishment, that they had been eating a species of plant vulgarly known as toadstool. There is a peculiar fungus of this class in Siberia known to the natives as "muk a moor," and as it possesses active intoxicating properties, it is used as a stimulant by nearly all the Siberian tribes. Taken in large quantities, it is a violent narcotic poison; but in small doses it produces all the effects of alcoholic liquor. Its habitual use, however, completely shatters the nervous system, and its sale by Russian traders to the natives has consequently been made a penal offense by Russian law. In spite of all prohibitions the trade is still carried on, and there were \$20 worth of furs bought with a single fungus.—*Tent Life in Siberia.*

TRouble IN THE LOUISIANA HOUSE.—A Senegambian "legislator" in the Louisiana House of Representatives was called to order for what the Speaker was pleased to term a breach of decorum. The Senegambian gentleman who had been listening to a speech by a Congo member, on the close of said speech classically observed, "Dat dar nigga is a dam liar, an' I'll frow my boot down his froat if he opens his cella doan on me again."

To this Chesterfieldian outburst the Speaker responded with his mallet, called order, and ventured to declare "the gentleman guilty of a breach of decorum." "Br—br—breach ob de—who, sah? breach ob de who?" "Breach of decorum, sir." "Dar's no korum heah at all, sah. I'se a qualified member, sah, settin' heah for to do the business ob my constituents; an' if dat dam nigga foches his lies to dis 'sembly, I'll frow a number-seventeen boot into dat trap-doah ob his, sah!" After the indignant gentleman had thus given expression to his sentiments, the other gentleman subsided, and the august assembly of lawmakers for the State of Louisiana went on with their important business.—*Ex.*

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