

influence of the mother. A mother may have a careless husband; she may have a man that is indifferent to the duties of his religion; but if she be a faithful woman herself and exercise proper control, and does have control over her children, she can bring up her children to be faithful men and women in the Church. Go where you will and examine the households of the people, and you will find that the mother's influence is a very wonderful influence, not only upon the children, but upon her husband; but particularly so with her children. She can teach her children to pray in early life, and she can instill into them feelings and desires that remain with them throughout their life. At least, I myself can testify to this. I can see features in my character that are the result of my mother's teaching, although she died when I was quite young. Myself and brothers and sisters were left orphans at an early age; but the effect of mother's teaching is visible in all of us, although the younger ones do not remember her scarcely. I want to speak a little of my own experience, because it will illustrate the principle upon which I am speaking. My mother had a great abhorrence of anything that would lead to intoxication or drunkenness, and she impressed upon me this feeling. When I was a child she said she hoped I would never touch anything of an intoxicating nature, and I remember that when I was about twelve or thirteen years of age she said to me, "if you will not take anything to drink of an intoxicating nature till you are fifteen, I will give you a silver watch." Patent levers were then just coming out, and she bought one and put it aside for me to have when I was fifteen years of age. She died, however, before I received the watch; but I got it after her death. Now, the impression made upon me by her remarks has been indelible. She did not want me to drink tea or coffee either, but to observe the Word of Wisdom. I am today at my present age, and I never have drunk tea and coffee. I scarcely know the taste of either tea or coffee, and I have never touched tobacco, nor anything intoxicating. This is the result, at least to a very great extent, of her teachings, and the impressions she made on my mind concerning articles of this kind. Now, I notice that where people have indulged in these habits and then broken off, they are always tempted to resume them under some circumstances. While the smell of coffee is very fragrant to me, I never had the least inclination in my life to taste it; for the appetite was never awakened. The same with liquor and with other things. I walk along the street on a frosty morning and if I should happen to be following a man who is smoking a good cigar, the smell of the cigar is agreeable to me in the open air; but I never had the least inclination to touch it. If I had drunk coffee to any extent, or perhaps smoked, I have no doubt that when I would smell these things my mouth would water for them; but never having had the taste awakened, of course there is no temptation.

I think it important, brethren and sisters, that we should teach our children not to touch these things. A story was told to me by a very estimable man in this Church. He said he was brought up not to touch anything of an intoxicating nature. By a mere accident he one time tasted brandy. He was with a

lot of young men and they gave him brandy, and I think they told him it was cider. Under this impression he drank some of it, and he said from that time up to the time he was talking to me—some seventeen years—he had always had that taste to contend with. It had awakened within him a fondness that had always slumbered until he tasted it, and would have continued to slumber probably throughout his entire life, if it had not been for that unfortunate drink. I believe there is in many people a latent fondness for liquor, for tobacco, for tea and coffee, which they have inherited and when they taste it or drink it, this fondness is awakened. It is like a demon in the blood that is unchained by the taste of these articles. I have heard men say that when they heard the gurgling of whisky or liquor poured out of a jug, it would make their whole frame tremble and their mouths water; they wanted it so badly. Now, it is far better never to have that feeling awakened, and this can be done by teaching our children never to touch, never to taste anything of this kind. Mothers should not teach their daughters to drink tea. They should not allow them to touch tea or coffee. Fathers should not allow their sons, when they can prevent it by their influence, to touch anything of an intoxicating nature, or anything like tobacco.

I had this illustrated in my own family a few years ago. I was going off to Washington, and I called my children together and gave them some instructions, and after a while I got to this subject. It is something I rarely ever talk about in my family, because we set them examples. We do not drink tea or coffee, nor use these things in my household. But I happened to have my mind directed to them, and I asked the children—a number of them were grown—about their habits, and whether they had ever drunk anything of this kind, and I found that there were only two that had ever tasted either tea or coffee. One of these was my baby boy, the baby of my first wife who is dead. When he was a baby, my wife was sick, and she used a little tea, and this child had tasted the tea, and his sisters had told me how much he liked tea. Now, that boy, if he were not careful, no doubt would always have an inclination for tea. One other boy had tasted coffee. But none of the others had ever tasted tea or coffee. I think children brought up in this way do have advantages over children brought up where there is looseness or carelessness. I have noticed in my association with men and women who have once been in the habit of drinking tea and coffee, that if they are tired, or cold, or sick, and there is tea or coffee brought forward, they are tempted to take it. The old desire is awakened, and they are apt to yield to the temptation. So with liquor, so with tobacco, and so with all these things which the Lord has told us are not good for us.

Have not we as a people been organized long enough to do away with these things, and to live a better life? This Church has been in existence for sixty-six years now, and it seems to me that the teachings we have received on these points should be observed by all the people. I have traveled, as many of our young men have in the early days, and been exposed to a great deal of hardship. I have traveled across the plains

to and from California, when our water was so bad, being full of alkali, that some of the brethren could not drink it, and they made it into coffee. I have traveled when it has been so cold that when we have sat around eating breakfast the water would freeze in our cups. But I always took water. And I noticed that I was able to endure cold better, if anything, than those who drank the warm drinks; and I was better able under other circumstances, to endure hardships than the boys who drank liquor. I proved that by experience, and I know that it is better in every way for us to be free from the habit of using these stimulants. I am sure we are healthier, and I am sure it is better for our brains as well as our bodies. A man that uses stimulants is not likely to be so well balanced in his mind, so clear in his judgment, as the man who does not have recourse to them.

I do not like to talk about personal affairs; but it seemed to me that by relating my personal experience in this direction I could give point to my ideas on this subject. I would like to see every child in our community taught by their parents to refrain from the use of these articles, from touching them, and I am sure we will be a happier, a healthier, a more even-tempered and in every way better people. It will contribute to the development of good qualities and the repression of evil inclinations by following the course that the Lord has pointed out as the best among us. Mothers should take pains with their children in these things.

Children should be taught in early life to pray to God. They should be taught that there is a God who will hear and answer their prayers. When they are sick they should be taught to ask their father or the Elders to lay hands upon them; and if neither the father nor any Elder is near, to have their mother lay her hands on them and pray for them; for this is not sinful, it is not wrong. Women do not have the Priesthood like men have, but they can pray for their children, and their prayers are heard just as much as the prayers of the men are heard, though they may not have the authority to rebuke disease as men have who bear the Priesthood. And children should be brought to their mother's knees and taught to pray, and be brought up in a way that they will understand the nature, and the power, and the efficacy of prayer. If you will do this with your children, you will fortify them against the days of trial and temptation which will come to them when they grow older. Where this is done, you will have boys and girls that will be a blessing, a comfort and an honor to you, because their faith will be developed in early life, and they will know for themselves that there is a God. It is very delightful to witness the faith of children and to hear their expressions concerning these matters when they are properly taught. I am sure that if mothers would take this course with their children, they would have much more comfort from their children, their children would be easier governed, and they would develop in the children the best qualities of their minds; for every child is open particularly to these good influences, and children can be governed by appealing to their better natures, especially when they have been taught in the way I have spoken.