



***JOHN
S. C. ABBOTT***

***THE CHILD
AT HOME:
THE PRINCIPLES
OF FILIAL DUTY,
FAMILIARLY
ILLUSTRATED***

John S. C. Abbott

The Child at Home: The Principles of Filial Duty, Familiarly Illustrated

EAN 8596547332299

DigiCat, 2022

Contact: DigiCat@okpublishing.info



TABLE OF CONTENTS

PREFACE.

JOHN S. C. ABBOTT

Chapter I.

Chapter II.

Chapter III.

Chapter IV.

Chapter V.

Chapter VI.

Chapter VII.

THE CHILD AT HOME

CHAPTER I.

RESPONSIBILITY.

CHAPTER II.

DECEPTION.

CHAPTER III.

OBEDIENCE.

CASABIANCA.

CHAPTER IV.

CHAPTER V.

RELIGIOUS TRUTH.

CHAPTER VI.

PIETY.

CHAPTER VII.

TRAITS OF CHARACTER.

THE END.

PREFACE.

[Table of Contents](#)

This book is intended for the children of those families to which *The Mother at Home* has gone. It is prepared with the hope that it may exert an influence upon the minds of the children, in exciting gratitude for their parents' love, and in forming characters which shall ensure future usefulness and happiness.

The book is intended, not for entertainment, but for solid instruction. I have endeavored, however, to present instruction in an attractive form, but with what success, the result alone can tell. The object of the book will not be accomplished by a careless perusal. It should be read by the child, in the presence of the parent, that the parent may seize upon the incidents and remarks introduced, and thus deepen the impression.

Though the book is particularly intended for children, or rather for young persons, it is hoped that it will aid parents in their efforts for moral and religious instruction.

It goes from the author with the most earnest prayer, that it may save some parents from blighted hopes, and

that it may allure many children to gratitude, and obedience, and heaven.

JOHN S. C. ABBOTT

[Table of Contents](#)

Worcester December, 1833.

Chapter I.

Table of Contents

RESPONSIBILITY.—The Police Court. The widow and her daughter.

Effect of a child's conduct upon the happiness of its parents.

The

young sailor. The condemned pirate visited by his parents.

Consequences of disobedience. A mother's grave. The sick child. . .7

Chapter II.

[Table of Contents](#)

DECEPTION.—George Washington and his hatchet.—
Consequences of deception. Temptations to deceive. Story
of the child sent on an errand. Detection. Anecdote. The
dying child. Peace of a dying hour disturbed by falsehood
previously uttered. Various ways of deceiving. Thoughts on
death. Disclosures of the judgment day. . .28

Chapter III.

[Table of Contents](#)

OBEDIENCE.—Firmness requisite in doing duty. The irresolute boy. The girl and the green apples. Temptations. Evening party. Important consequences resulting from slight disobedience. The state prison. History of a young convict. Ingratitude of disobedience. The soldier's widow and her son. Story of Casabianca. Cheerful obedience. Illustration. Parental kindness. . .46

Chapter IV.

Table of Contents

OBEDIENCE, continued.—The moonlight game. Reasons why good parents will not allow their children to play in the streets in the evening.

The evening walk. The terrified girl, Instance of filial affection.

Anecdote. Strength of a mother's love. The child's entire dependence.

A child rescued from danger. Child lost in the prairie.. .71

Chapter V.

Table of Contents

RELIGIOUS TRUTH.—Human character. The Northern Voyagers. Imaginary scene in a court of justice. Love of God. Scene from Shakspeare. Efforts to save us. The protection of angels. The evening party. The dissolute son. A child lost in the woods. The sufferings of the Savior. The Holy Spirit. . .94

Chapter VI.

[Table of Contents](#)

PIETY.—Penitence. Charles Bullard. His good character in school. In college. The pious boy. The orchard. The fishing-rod. The forgiving spirit. How children may do good. The English clergyman and the child who gave himself to the Savior. The happy sick boy. The Christian child in heaven. Uncertainty of life. The loaded gun. The boy in the stage-coach. . .119

Chapter VII.

Table of Contents

TRAITS OF CHARACTER.—We cannot be happy without friends. Why scholars are unpopular in school. The way to gain friends. The warm fire. Playing ball. Recipe for children who would be loved. A bad temper. Amiable disposition to be cultivated. The angry man. Humility. The vain young lady. Vanity always ridiculous. The affected school girl. The unaffected schoolgirl. Story of the proud girl. Moral courage. The duellist. The three school-boys. George persuaded to throw the snow-ball. What would have been real moral courage. The boy leaving home, His mother's provisions for his comfort. The parting. His father's counsel. His reflections in the stage-coach. He consecrates himself to his Maker. .
.347

THE CHILD AT HOME

CHAPTER I.

[Table of Contents](#)

RESPONSIBILITY.

[Table of Contents](#)

In large cities there are so many persons guilty of crimes, that it is necessary to have a court sit every day to try those who are accused of breaking the laws. This court is called the Police Court. If you should go into the room where it is held, you would see the constables bringing in one after another of miserable and wicked creatures, and, after stating and proving their crimes, the judge would command them to be led away to prison. They would look so wretched that you would be shocked in seeing them.

One morning a poor woman came into the Police Court in Boston. Her eyes were red with weeping, and she seemed to be borne down with sorrow. Behind her followed two men, leading in her daughter.

"Here, sir," said a man to the judge, "is a girl who conducts so badly that her mother cannot live with her, and

she must be sent to the House of Correction."

"My good woman," said the judge, "what is it that your daughter does which renders it so uncomfortable to live with her?"

"Oh, sir," she replied, "it is hard for a mother to accuse her own daughter, and to be the means of sending her to the prison. But she conducts so as to destroy all the peace of my life. She has such a temper, that she sometimes threatens to kill me, and does every thing to make my life wretched."

The unhappy woman could say no more. Her heart seemed bursting with grief, and she wept aloud. The heart of the judge was moved with pity, and the bystanders could hardly refrain from weeping with this afflicted mother. But there stood the hard-hearted girl, unmoved. She looked upon the sorrows of her parent in sullen silence. She was so hardened in sin, that she seemed perfectly insensible to pity or affection. And yet she was miserable. Her countenance showed that passion and malignity filled her heart, and that the fear of the prison, to which she knew she must go, filled her with rage.

The judge turned from the afflicted mother, whose sobs filled the room, and, asking a few questions of the witnesses, who testified to the daughter's ingratitude and cruelty, ordered her to be led away to the House of Correction. The officers of justice took her by the arm, and carried her to her gloomy cell. Her lonely and sorrowing mother went weeping home to her abode of penury and desolation. Her own daughter was the viper which had stung

her bosom. Her own child was the wretch who was filling her heart with sorrow.

And while I now write, this guilty daughter is occupying the gloomy cell of the prison, and this widowed mother is in her silent dwelling, in loneliness and grief! Oh, could the child who reads these pages, see that mother and that daughter now, you might form some feeble idea of the consequences of disobedience; you might see how unutterable the sorrow a wicked child may bring upon herself and upon her parents. It is not easy, in this case, to judge which is the most unhappy, the mother or the child. The mother is broken-hearted at home. She is alone and friendless. All her hopes are most cruelly destroyed. She loved her daughter, and hoped that she would live to be her friend and comfort. But instead of that, she became her curse, and is bringing her mother's gray hairs in sorrow to the grave. And then look at the daughter—guilty and abandoned—Oh, who can tell how miserable she must be!

Such is the grief which children may bring upon themselves and their parents. You probably have never thought of this very much I write this book that you may think of it, and that you may, by obedience and affection, make your parents happy, and be happy yourselves.

This wicked girl was once a playful child, innocent and happy. Her mother looked upon her with most ardent love, and hoped that her dear daughter would live to be her companion and friend. At first she ventured to disobey in some trifling thing. She still loved her mother, and would have been struck with horror at the thought of being guilty of crimes which she afterwards committed. But she went on