

free from any undue love of self, self-denial being one of the first principles of Hospital life; for could there exist a greater anomaly than a selfish Nurse? Some choose the life from a love of method, organisation, &c.; some, I imagine, hoping to become Doctors—or very near to them; others, for want of a vocation in life. They may possess parents, home, and friends, but they require something to fill their lives. Many, because they lack all these advantages, stern reality compels them to look bravely into the future; and many without home or friends find both within the walls of a Hospital. But the most successful Nurse, and the one most highly prized, is she who joins the ranks from a love of ministering to others, whose reward is the love of her patients and the approval of her own heart. There are many such. May their numbers increase!

The very great mania for employment of any kind, but especially for Nursing, which is now so universal, shows it is woman's nature to minister to others, a kind of undeveloped maternal instinct perhaps. Her heart is by nature overflowing with sympathy, so that unless she is the happy possessor of husband, home, or children, and she creates some object in life such as congenial employment, her life becomes vapid and uninteresting; and as it is a law, and nature abhors a vacuum, she at last descends to pet dogs and cats, which are frequently and speedily killed with that kindness which proves too much for them, and with which she is brimming over. I think if self-preservation is the first law of nature, obedience may be considered the first rule. It was the lack of this desirable quality, we are told, that lost our first parents Paradise.

Before the world began it was, for God said, "Let there be light, and there was light." This is the very highest type of obedience; it is a Divine example, and a command of nature. Things terrestrial, things celestial, all show us the same. The sun, the moon, the stars, the lightning, the raging sea, all obey the voice of a mightier Power. Nature never errs; it has its unalterable laws, which, if we hope for life, health, and prosperity, we must obey, or we are the sufferers—indeed, we must choose obedience or death.

We are taught in our catechism and in our Sunday-schools to obey our parents and those in authority over us. Besides being a Divine command, and an example laid before us by the

works of creation, obedience is the mainspring on which rest the world's movements—its great successes, its noble achievements, depend on discipline, and the subjection of a lesser to a higher power or will.

Considering this as the first and greatest rule of nature, I do not think it is sufficiently inculcated in us at the earliest period of our existence. Our great-grandparents were more rigid in this respect, and the obedience shown to parents in those days amounted to a reverence seldom, if ever, witnessed now. This is the only command given with promise, and bitter is the remorse of those who have neglected to honour their parents; it is the voice of nature making lamentation.

Time will never efface, or unavailing regret blot from the memory, the anguish caused by some act of our disobedience, to recall which no sacrifice would be too great. Those who know this by sad experience can only warn others off the quicksands before the present merges into the past, and, like others, they, too, may be grieving over lost opportunities, the burden of whose thoughts echoes the sentiments of the poet Tennyson—

"Oh, for the touch of a vanished hand,
For the sound of a voice that is still."

The result of this falling off in subjection to elders shows an entire disappearance of the peasant class, and an almost total or general want of respect shown by young persons to the aged and those above them in position. It is a subject for wonder what it will be in generations to come, that is unless, when it can no further go, nature uses her authority and compels them to return to the old-fashioned ways, well knowing it to be for their welfare.

Martin Tupper writes, and it seems rather *apropos* of the present subject:—

"The master of a well-ordered home knoweth to be kind to his servants. Yet he exacteth reverence, and each one feareth at his post. There is nothing on earth so lowly but duty giveth it importance, no station so degrading but it is ennobled by obedience."

Coming nearer to the matter especially under consideration, we know the need of discipline, and some of us have experienced the want of it, even in ordinary daily life. In large organisations such as the army, for example, where every action is regulated by rule, where insubordination is a crime—all large bodies of people congregated together must have a higher power—discipline,

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