

Discipline: Ellen White's Methods In Teaching Obedience

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- 1 I. Ellen White's Method of Teaching Obedience
- 2 A. Mrs. White had perfect success working with
- 3 challenging children!
- 4 1. **I have taken children to bring up, clothed them and**
- 5 **fed them and schooled them.** I explained to them that I
- 6 was **willing to take them and would give them every**
- 7 **advantage possible, that I would care for them, clothe**
- 8 **them, teach them to obey all my orders and to love**
- 9 **and serve the Lord,** that they might have a home in the
- 10 city of God. Then I have said, **Bear in mind that the**
- 11 **Lord Jesus will help you if you will act your part.** It
- 12 would be a **great grief to me to give pain to your flesh**
- 13 **at any time. But because of your stubborn will, we**
- 14 **cannot allow you to grieve the Lord Jesus by your own**
- 15 **works. And we cannot allow evil works to go**
- 16 **uncorrected. I could not present them to the Lord**
- 17 **Jesus Christ without weeping. After a season of**
- 18 **prayer, they would cling to me with confession and**
- 19 **weeping, and I had gained a decided victory.** I have
- 20 clothed and educated and schooled quite a number of
- 21 children, although I was traveling. {Ms 62, 1911, par. 4}
- 22 **It means much to train up children that have not had**
- 23 **proper discipline. But I have proved the matter; it can**
- 24 **be done. I thank the Lord that I have had success,**
- 25 **perfect success, in this line of work.** {Ms 62, 1911, par.
- 26 5}
- 27
- 28 B. She was called to take in children as an example to
- 29 others.
- 30 1. **After my marriage I was instructed that I must**
- 31 **show a special interest in motherless and fatherless**
- 32 **children, when possible taking them under my own**
- 33 **charge and finding homes for them.** Thus I would be
- 34 giving others an example of what they could do. {Ms140-
- 35 1905.14}
- 36 I have felt it my duty to bring before our people that for
- 37 which those in every church should feel a responsibility. **I**

38 **have taken children from three to five years of age,**
39 **and boys of twelve and upward, under my care. In**
40 **Australia I carried on this work, taking into my home**
41 **orphan children who were in danger of being exposed**
42 **to temptations that might cause the loss of their souls.**

43 {Ms140-1905.15}

44 I have had the privilege of taking into my home from
45 **time to time boys from ten to sixteen years of age,**
46 **feeding and clothing them, and giving them a training**
47 **for service. These boys have now grown to manhood,**
48 **and I meet them now and then as I travel from place**
49 **to place. Some of them occupy positions of trust in our**
50 **institutions.** One of them has long been a valued worker
51 in the Review and Herald Publishing House, having
52 charge of the presses. **I met him during my recent visit**
53 **at Battle Creek, and I felt as a mother does when**
54 **meeting her son. And he was just as hearty in his**
55 **expressions of tenderness and love as he would have**
56 **been were I indeed his mother.** He has been a
57 professing Christian ever since he was a lad. {Ms140-
58 1905.16}

59 **Another boy whom we took as a member of our family**
60 **became a printer and stood for years as foreman of a**
61 **department in the Review and Herald.** He is now
62 connected with my son Edson in his work in the South,
63 and his services are most highly prized. He is one of the
64 elders of the Nashville church. {Ms140-1905.17}

65 2. **After my marriage I was instructed that I must**
66 **show a special interest in motherless and fatherless**
67 **children, taking some under my own charge for a**
68 **time, and then finding homes for them.** Thus I would
69 be giving others an example of what they could do.

70 {Ms63-1906.14}

71 ...

72 **Although called to travel often, and heaving much**
73 **writing to do, I have taken children of three and five**
74 **years of age and have cared for them, educated them,**
75 **and trained them for responsible positions.** I have
76 taken into my home from time to time boys from ten to
77 sixteen years of age, giving them motherly care and a
78 training for service. I have felt it my duty to bring before

79 our people that work for which those in every church
80 should feel a responsibility. {Ms63-1906.15}
81 While in Australia I carried on this same line of work,
82 taking into my home orphan children, who were in danger
83 of being exposed to temptations that might cause the loss
84 of their souls. {Ms63-1906.16}

85 3. **I have taken children into my family and have**
86 **educated them, traveling from east to west nearly all**
87 **over the globe,** and Oh, I have had such satisfaction. **One**
88 **says, “I cannot do a thing with my child. He is 14, and**
89 **stronger than I am. I cannot manage him. Here is the**
90 **sister two years younger.” I said, “Give them to me. I**
91 **will take them right home.” And there I helped him,**
92 **and these children became useful.** One has worked in
93 printing offices as head man and in different positions.
94 {Ms153-1904.47}

95 I met one that came into our family, a driver of horses on
96 the towpath. Someone said, Do take pity on him. See
97 what you can do with him, Sister White. I took him into
98 my family, and he was converted, and he sat in the type
99 rooms. He was the head man there. Another has the
100 machinery. He has taken charge of the machinery in
101 Battle Creek. He is getting old now, and I met him in
102 Nashville at my son’s. He is just as bright and sharp and
103 interested in the Scriptures. They have made him an elder
104 of the church. He is almost as old as I am now, but he was
105 a young man when we took him into our house. Let us
106 help one another. {Ms153-1904.48}

107 4. **When my children were small we had a large**
108 **family of adopted children.** We would have our work
109 away before the setting of the sun. **The children would**
110 **hail the Sabbath as a joy. They would say, Now father**
111 **and mother will give us some of their time. We would**
112 **take them out for a walk.** We would take the Bible and
113 some religious instruction to read to them, and explain to
114 them the Scriptures. **We would keep praying that they**
115 **should know the truth of God’s Word. We would not**
116 **lie abed Sabbath mornings because it was Sabbath.**
117 **We would have our preparations all ready the day**
118 **before so that we could go to service without the hurry**
119 **and worry.** We would not stroll off and have a nice time

120 to ourselves. **We wanted our children to have all the**
121 **privileges and blessings of God's sanctified rest day.**
122 {2SAT 107.3} [THIS IS ALSO IN THE SABBATH
123 SECTION]

124 5. **If you cannot get along with ____ and love him and**
125 **do abundantly well for him, and consider it a privilege**
126 **to do this, a blessing Heaven has sent you, we will take**
127 **the boy and do the best we can for him, treat him as**
128 **our own son, till some place is provided for him. We**
129 **have done this to many. Although we now have a little**
130 **girl, which I took from a widowed mother who could**
131 **not do for her all she needed to have done, although**
132 **we are at home but a part of the time, the salvation of**
133 **the soul is precious and I am willing to be put to**
134 **inconvenience and care to do some good.** A dying
135 father and mother left their jewels to the care of the
136 church, to be instructed in the things of God and fitted for
137 heaven. When they shall look about for these jewels and
138 one is found missing through neglect, **what shall the**
139 **church answer? They are responsible in a great degree**
140 **for the salvation of these orphan children.** {Lt15-
141 1869.13}

142 6. "Thy children shall be all taught of the Lord, and great
143 shall be the peace of thy children." [Verse 13.] O how
144 many times I have brought this promise to the Lord and
145 have proved its truthfulness. **I have taken many children**
146 **into my home and by patient labor and prayer have**
147 **sought to instruct them according to the light God has**
148 **given. The Lord has co-operated with my efforts, and**
149 **these children have responded to my labors in their**
150 **behalf.** {Ms 93, 1909, par. 15}

151 7. My husband and I, though called to arduous labor in
152 the ministry, **felt it our privilege to gather into our**
153 **home children who needed care, and helped them to**
154 **form characters for heaven. We could not adopt**
155 **infants, for this would have engrossed our time and**
156 **attention, and would have robbed the Lord of the**
157 **service He required of us in bringing many sons and**
158 **daughters to Him. But we felt that the Lord's**
159 **instruction in (Isaiah 58) was for us, and that His**
160 **blessing would attend us in obedience to His Word to**

161 **His Word.** All can do something for the needy little ones
162 by helping to please them in homes where they can be
163 cared for. {Ms 35, 1896, par. 4}

164 C. Here is how she disciplined those children.

165 1. **I used to say to my children, as they were leaving**
166 **home in the morning: “Now, children, you are going**
167 **out for the day’s work. Remember that you are to**
168 **guard your tongue. Speak not one word that will**
169 **provoke a wrong act. If you fail, then when we meet at**
170 **family worship during the evening hour, we shall talk**
171 **the matter over and make it right with God.** You see,
172 children, kind words never cause you any pain and
173 sorrow. **Speak kindly, tenderly to one another, and see**
174 **what a refreshing, what a blessing, comes to your own**
175 **heart.** But if you begin to contend one with another, then
176 passions arise, and you have to strive with all your might
177 to retain control over yourself. Be brave, be true.” –
178 {1SAT 374.2}

179 **And at eventide, when the children would gather**
180 **together before going to bed, we would talk over the**
181 **happenings of the day.** Possibly during the day one of
182 the children had said, **“Mother, someone has done thus**
183 **and so to me.”** I had replied that when we all came
184 together in the evening we could talk it over. When
185 evening came, they had all had time for reflection, and
186 they did not feel inclined to bring charges against one
187 another. They would say, “Mother, I have done thus and
188 so,” and the tears would start from their eyes, as they
189 would add, **“I feel as if I would like to have you ask the**
190 **Lord to forgive me. I believe He will.”** And then we
191 would bow in prayer and confess the sins of the day,
192 and pray for forgiveness. After confessing their
193 wrongdoings, these little fellows would soon fall asleep. –
194 {1SAT 375.1}

195 2. **Fathers and mothers, never quarrel with your**
196 **children or provoke them to anger. Train them to**
197 **obey you to the letter.** I know by experience that this can
198 be done without provocation. **I have taken charge of**
199 **children that were said to be incorrigible, and at the**
200 **close of the year I have told them that I should not ask**
201 **them to obey me any better in the year to come than**

202 **they had obeyed me during the past year.** In dealing
203 with them, **never would I allow them to gain an**
204 **advantage over me by causing me to lose my temper.** I
205 knew that the enemy wanted me to become angry when
206 **the children disobeyed; but I would always say to**
207 **them: “Children, I shall leave you now to think over**
208 **your course of action. In your excited, angry state of**
209 **mind you are not prepared to see things in the right**
210 **light.** Tonight before you sleep we will talk the matter
211 **over together.”** Thus I gave them opportunity for calm
212 reflection. When night came and we met together for
213 worship, they were ready to break down and cry like
214 babies. They would ask my forgiveness, and then we
215 would kneel and ask God’s forgiveness. {Ms57-1902.39}

216 3. Let us do all we can to show our children that there is
217 a heaven to win and a hell to shun. Let us teach them to
218 strive for everlasting life. And **remember that you will**
219 **not help them by scolding. This stirs up the worst**
220 **passions of the human heart.** Make home pleasant. **Be**
221 **kind and gentle, but at the same time, be firm,**
222 **requiring obedience.** I have brought up children who
223 **by others were pronounced incorrigible. I never**
224 **struck them a blow. I won their love and their**
225 **confidence. They knew that I would ask them to do**
226 **nothing but what was for their happiness. I did not**
227 **whip them, knowing that this would not make them**
228 **righteous. Prayer was my strength.** Bring your children
229 up in the admonition of the Lord, and you have fitted
230 them to work in the church, you have fitted them to go
231 forth into missionary fields, you have fitted them to shine
232 in the courts of the Lord. {Ms 31, 1901, par. 29}

233 4. We should pray to God much more than we do. There
234 is great strength and blessing in praying together in our
235 families, with and for our children. **When my children**
236 **have done wrong, and I have talked with them kindly**
237 **and then prayed with them, I have never found it**
238 **necessary after that to punish them.** Their hearts would
239 melt in tenderness before the Holy Spirit that came in
240 answer to prayer. { 2SAT 301.4 }

241 5. **You cannot make a child understand spiritual**
242 **things when the heart is stirred with passion. At such**

243 **times I would say to my children, “We will wait until**
244 **your bed hour,”** and then we would talk the matter over
245 and see what was best to be done. **I would pray with**
246 **them, and would tell them that I could not have my**
247 **children displeasing the Lord and grow up to**
248 **disregard His requirements. I do not know of a single**
249 **instance when this plan failed.** They would throw their
250 arms around my neck, asking my forgiveness and
251 promising to do differently. {10MR 103.2}
252 **Do not strike your children a blow until everything**
253 **else had failed.** Many times you will find that **if you will**
254 **reason with them kindly, they will not need to be**
255 **whipped. And such a method of dealing will lead them**
256 **to have confidence in you. They will make you their**
257 **confidant. They will come to you and say, “I did wrong**
258 **today at such a time, and I want you to forgive me and**
259 **to ask God to forgive me.”** I have gone through scenes
260 like this, and therefore I know. I have adopted children,
261 and have tried to bring them up in the nurture and
262 admonition of the Lord, and I had success in this work. I
263 thank the Lord with heart and soul and voice that I can
264 see today some of these children occupying responsible
265 positions in the work of God. **I am thankful that I had**
266 **courage, when they did wrong, to deal with them**
267 **firmly, to pray with them, and to keep the standards**
268 **of God’s Word before them. I am glad that I**
269 **presented to them the promises made to the**
270 **overcomer, and the rewards offered to those who are**
271 **faithful. – {10MR 103.3}**
272 6. **When I have seen children mismanaged I have**
273 **said, Give them to me. And I have taken child after**
274 **child, and I tried to fashion them after Christ’s order.**
275 **I never found it did much good to pound them.** {Ms77-
276 1910.16} **Once I thought I would have to punish the**
277 **child, but I took her in the room with me, and I said,**
278 **We will pray. After I had prayed, I asked her if she**
279 **would like to say a few words to the Lord. I told her**
280 **that it was the first time that I had brought anything**
281 **in my hand with which to correct her, and that I did**
282 **not want to use it this time. I said, Can you just ask**
283 **the Lord to forgive you for what you have done? The**

284 **lips were opened, and the moment the lips were**
285 **opened the heart was broken, and there she wept and**
286 **wept.** Could I have struck a blow to that child? I told her,
287 **I am so thankful that I did not have to correct you. It**
288 **hurts me worse than it does you. If you will try to do**
289 **right, we will take you out in the fields where you can**
290 **pick the flowers,** and we will kneel down there and pray
291 all together. {Ms77-1910.17}] **When there are evil**
292 **traits in your children’s characters, you are to talk**
293 **with them and pray with them and seek to soften their**
294 **dispositions,** and you will in doing this soften your own
295 dispositions. {Ms77-1910.20}

296 7. I have adopted children in order that they might be
297 trained in right lines. **Instead of punishing them when**
298 **they did wrong, I would hold out inducements to them**
299 **to do right. One was in the habit of throwing herself**
300 **on the floor if she could not have her own way. I said**
301 **to her, “If you will not lose your temper once today,**
302 **your Uncle White and I will take you in the carriage,**
303 **and we will have a happy day in the country. But if**
304 **you throw yourself on the floor once, you will forfeit**
305 **your right to the pleasure.”** I worked in this way for
306 these children, and now I feel thankful that I had the
307 privilege of doing this work. {Ms95-1909.11}

308 8. When my children were very young, **I determined**
309 **that they should never, never gain an advantage over**
310 **me by disturbing my feelings. I never let them see that**
311 **they could annoy me.** When they disobeyed, I did not
312 shake them roughly or strike them. **Instead of punishing**
313 **them at once, I said to them, We will say nothing**
314 **about this matter before evening worship; then we will**
315 **talk it over and settle it.** When evening came, they were
316 subdued, ready to ask forgiveness. Thus I avoided many
317 difficulties. {Ms 87, 1902, par. 24}

318 9. **I never allowed my children to see mother out of**
319 **patience. I did not try to correct them until I knew**
320 **that I had perfect control over all my feelings of**
321 **impatience.** When I approached them with voice and
322 spirit subdued, I gained their confidence. We are to
323 learn meekness of spirit from the divine Master. {ST July
324 15, 1889, par. 9}

325 10. From the light that God has given me, there will have
326 to be reformation in this church. There will have to be a
327 depth of searching of heart, a reconversion with many,
328 many, that profess the truth. And you cannot afford to
329 make a mistake here, where eternal interests are involved.
330 We want to follow Christ, and to obey Him. And we want
331 to be fitted up for the kingdom that He is fitting for us.
332 {Ms82-1912}
333 Fathers, mothers, we want to know what you are doing
334 for your children? **Are you waiting for somebody else to**
335 **come in and convert them, or are you doing the duty**
336 **of fathers and mothers?** Are you bringing them to a
337 position where they must be obedient if they are in your
338 household? For this is what God requires. And if not then
339 what? **If no restraint can be brought to bear upon**
340 **them, what are you going to do about it? The fathers**
341 **and mothers must do their duty.** They must bring their
342 children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord;
343 and we want that all that shall connect with this church
344 shall follow on to know the Lord, that they may know His
345 going forth is prepared as the morning. {Ms82-1912}
346 There are plenty of youth in our world that have no light,
347 but when the light of heaven is shining every Sabbath
348 here, and when the light of truth is presented, what
349 influence does it have upon the youth of professed
350 Sabbathkeepers? We want to say that there must be, from
351 the light God has given me, a diligent work with our
352 young men, and when this takes place, we shall see such a
353 moving of the Spirit of God as we cannot now describe.
354 To let the youth come up, do about as they please, go
355 when they want to go, and come when they want to come,
356 dishonors God. Our Saviour is dishonored. {Ms82-1912}
357 We want every one that shall hear these words to believe
358 that it is the truth. And **we want the salvation of God to**
359 **come into our families. No scolding; no fretting. I**
360 **made up my mind I would not have that, at any rate,**
361 **in my house.** When the children disobeyed, I would take
362 them and talk with them. **I would tell them I would not**
363 **do as I knew many were doing, lay the rod upon them,**
364 **or the rattan, but I would tell them: Now, you have**
365 **done a wrong thing. You have grieved the Spirit of**

366 **God. You have grieved Christ who gave His life for**
367 **you.** I have taken you and adopted you as my children,
368 and if you will come into right order, I will help you in
369 every way possible. **My husband was an invalid, and**
370 **so we would take them out to ride in our carriage, and**
371 **we would take our dinner, perhaps, out in the grove,**
372 **and we would make it as pleasant for them as we**
373 **could.** {Ms82-1912}
374 But then I told them, **You have done a wrong thing, and**
375 **now what are you going to do about it? I am going to**
376 **let this go until the evening, and I do not want you to**
377 **go to bed with this sin upon you.** I would make them see
378 that they had done wrong, and they must repent of that
379 wrong. And here, said I, is the whip. I never want to
380 strike you a blow. I never want to do it. And I am not
381 going to use it on you now, because you are all stirred
382 up in yourself, and it would not be much account. But
383 you go to evening, and then we will talk matters over.
384 And when it come to the evening, as we would talk
385 matters over, and they had the whole day to think of
386 it, they said, We did do wrong. I would find that they
387 would make their confession, and in that way I was
388 molding their character so that I did not have to strike
389 them a blow. **They were boys, and rude and rough,**
390 **but they saw I did nothing in passion.** {Ms82-1912}
391 Now, said I, the evening is come and I am going to
392 pray with you. I knelt down, and I prayed with them. I
393 asked the Lord that their hearts might be subdued,
394 and they be converted. Well, before I would get
395 through they would come right to me, and put their
396 arms around me, and say, Forgive us; we won't do it
397 again, we won't do it again. {Ms82-1912}
398 Well, this is the way. **Instead of giving them a hurried**
399 **blow that made them ten times worse,** it was to have
400 them melted down. **If I could get an apple it was a**
401 **strange thing, for there were scarcely any around. I**
402 **would always purchase them, and I would put one**
403 **under their bowl at the table.** Well, they knew that I
404 cared for them, and this is the way we tried to manage
405 them. {Ms82-1912}
406 Now, the light given me is that something needs to be

407 done right here on these very grounds. We need the
408 converting power of God. **The fathers need to manage**
409 **their children in such a way that their hearts will be**
410 **broken, and when their hearts are broken, then you**
411 **can expect that there will be some reformation.**

412 {Ms82-1912}

413 The Lord of heaven is looking down upon us; and I want
414 to tell you how it is presented to me. Here is God who has
415 given His only begotten Son, that these unconverted
416 youth might be converted and brought into the truth. **Now**
417 **this is the way that I tried to manage it. I would get**
418 **them something that they could not get themselves,**
419 **and I would try to talk with them, and soften their**
420 **hearts, and the Lord blessed me in it.** But to let the
421 youth go unchecked in such a place as this, which it is so
422 sacred to me, [is not the way to manage.] **My husband**
423 **and I searched out this place, and then how carefully**
424 **we worked to preserve every penny, that we might**
425 **erect the building here, the first building.** We would
426 move so that we did gain special victories, and then we
427 added house to house, that we might put in our patients. I
428 want to tell you that the Lord worked with us, and the
429 salvation of God was right with us in doing our work in
430 this line of reform. {Ms82-1912}

431 **It is no use to scold and to fret and all this, because**
432 **you are educating yourself and you are educating your**
433 **children in that line.** What we want is to be conformed
434 to the image of Christ. What we want is that we shall in
435 our character represent Jesus Christ, and that will bring
436 more souls to the truth than anything else that we can do.
437 {Ms82-1912}

438 11. ... **let not passionate words escape from our lips,**
439 **fathers and mothers. No; your children are to learn**
440 **from you what you have learned from Christ, and if**
441 **you get impatient and shake them and make them**
442 **angry,** and they cannot see the beauty of holiness in you.
443 But **father and mother can go away and offer prayer**
444 **for their children that God may grant that they shall not**
445 **perish with the wicked.** {Ms71-1911.17}
446 I understand this business; **I have taken children right**
447 **into my home. I have prayed with those who had**

448 **known nothing but the rod over them. I do not know**
449 **that I ever had to strike them but once, and that was**
450 **after repeatedly telling them what the right was. Most**
451 **always they would submit, and throw their arms**
452 **around my neck, and with tears confess their wrong.**

453 We must not let our children go. We must keep hold of
454 them by living faith in a living God; and if we do this, let
455 me tell you the future. The gates of the city of God will be
456 thrown back upon their glittering hinges, and the nations
457 that have kept the truth will enter in, and the crown of
458 gold will be placed upon the brows of your children. The
459 golden harp will be placed in their hands, and there will
460 go forth music and rejoicing and triumph in the city of
461 our God. But it must be as overcomers. {Ms71-1911.18}

462 12. I have taken quite a number of children into my
463 family, notwithstanding all the writing that I have had to
464 do. I would tell those children, “Now the Lord has given
465 me a work to do, and I have taken you because I see your
466 souls are in danger, and those that had charge of you were
467 willing to entrust you to me. I want to teach you the way
468 of the Lord.” {Ms66-1911.19}

469 **I took two children who had the rattan over them**
470 **continually. They were stubborn children, but I would**
471 **bow down and plead with the Lord about it, telling**
472 **Him that I was so sorry that they had grieved Him,**
473 **and I would ask the Lord to pity and forgive them and**
474 **teach them His way. I did not have to strike them a**
475 **blow.** {Ms66-1911.20}

476 ...

477 In the night season I was before a congregation, and **I was**
478 **telling fathers and mothers, “Never speak a word in**
479 **passion. Wait until you are cooled off yourself.”**

480 {Ms66-1911.24}

481 I would come into the room where these children that I
482 took were, and instead of doing what I had asked them to
483 do, they were down under the table. I would say to them,
484 “What are you hunting for under the table?” And they
485 would come out very quickly. {Ms66-1911.25}

486 **Parents, do we not make ourselves more to provoke**
487 **than to win? If you see the children doing things that**
488 **they should not do, tell them kindly, “The Lord is not**

489 **pleased with your course of action, and you must work**
490 **to please the Lord,** or you can never go with Him to
491 heaven.” {Ms66-1911.26}

492 **Such words will do a great work for your children.**
493 **This was what I was saying last night in the night**
494 **season. I was talking to a congregation and telling**
495 **them that parents and children needed the softening,**
496 **subduing influence of the Spirit of God, and then**
497 **angels will be round about them.** The glory of the Lord
498 will go before them. **We want, not to provoke, but by**
499 **pleasant words to try to induce a change of attitudes**
500 **so the factional spirit will be forgotten.** {Ms66-
501 1911.27}

502 13. **Some may say it is not possible. I know it is. I have**
503 **taken the children who had nothing but the rod put to**
504 **them, and I want to tell you that I know that if the**
505 **right influence was exerted there would be many more**
506 **Christian families than there are today.** {Ms70-
507 1911.16}

508 14. Right where you are now, if you took hold of the
509 management of your child, you could make it a success,
510 but this requires more time, more thought, more
511 steadiness of purpose, a more unyielding demand for
512 obedience than you have thought of putting forth. Your
513 child has none too much spirit, but he needs the hand of
514 wisdom to guide him aright. He has been allowed to cry
515 for what he wanted until he has formed the habit of doing
516 this. He has been allowed to cry for his father. Again and
517 again, in his hearing, others have been told how he cries
518 for his father, until he makes it a point of doing this. **Had**
519 **I your child, in three weeks he would be transformed.**
520 **I would let him understand that my word was law,**
521 **and kindly, but firmly, I would carry out my purposes.**
522 **I would not submit my will to the child’s will.** You
523 have a work to do here, and you have lost much by not
524 taking hold of it before. {Lt5-1884.4}

525 15. There is a living God, and although the world is going
526 into wickedness, it is not the higher education that God
527 wants us to have. **The higher education is that which**
528 **yields to the Higher Will, the Higher Power, and that**
529 **will improve the character that will receive it.** That is

530 what we want for the people. We want you to have peace
531 of mind; we want you to have grace; we want you to have
532 salvation, because you have [the] minds of your children
533 that you are training up in the way of the Lord. **Never,**
534 **never speak to them in a sharp, harsh way. You**
535 **cannot afford it. Just take them away and talk to them**
536 **tenderly. I have taken children that were not my own,**
537 **and trained them in this way, and they are believers**
538 **and alive today.** Every one of us should work out our
539 own salvation with fear and trembling. {Ms84-1910.43}

540 16. Now that is what you are to know. That He is God,
541 that He is to be honored, that your characters must be
542 brought into harmony with God. **You are not to be**
543 **fretful, even in your own family. You can speak kindly**
544 **and teach them without being cross and irritable.** We
545 believe you can do it. **I have taken children from many**
546 **families, child after child. Brother George Amadon, in**
547 **whom we have so much confidence, was a mischievous**
548 **boy working on the tow path with the horses. And**
549 **then there was another one that his mother could not**
550 **do anything with. She said that his salvation depended**
551 **upon his being with someone that he respected. She**
552 **asked me if I would take him, and I said, Certainly.**
553 {Ms83-1910.23}

554 We would take these boys aside and tell them what we
555 took them for. **We told them that we wanted them to be**
556 **prepared to stand in review before God. We wanted**
557 **them to stand where they would have strength before**
558 **God, and could call Him their Father. They are alive**
559 **today, and when I go into Battle Creek, there is a hack**
560 **that comes up, and these two gray-headed men meet**
561 **me, and call me Mother; and they say, Where should**
562 **we have been today had it not been for you?** That is all
563 the pay I want. I thank God we can help one another.
564 {Ms83-1910.24}

565 17. Now here are your families, here are your children. It
566 is no small item to bring up children in the nurture and
567 admonition of the Lord. I have taken child after child that
568 I saw was going to destruction. **I took Brother Amadon**
569 **when he was a little boy, driving on the tow path. He is**
570 **alive today, and is one of our main pillars in Battle**

571 **Creek, and he often speaks of the time when I took**
572 **him away from his associates. {Ms78-1910.15}**
573 **Girls have come to me, saying, Sister White, Will you**
574 **take me? Certainly, I said. I took them, and we**
575 **worked together.** One of them lies in the grave now, and
576 there are several living whom I took and educated. I kept
577 someone to educate them. I did not begrudge the money
578 at all. My husband and I had to keep together while he
579 was living, and I want to tell you that we have seen the
580 grand workings of the Holy Spirit of God upon human
581 hearts, and we want to be in that position that we can
582 understand that the Lord has His Holy Spirit to help us, to
583 strengthen us, to lead us, to guide us. {Ms78-1910.16}

584

...
585 **Now, let the fathers and mothers bring up their**
586 **children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord,**
587 **not scolding or fretting or beating them, but pray with**
588 **them.** And who do you think is with them when you
589 pray? The angels of God are there. **I have taken children**
590 **who were just as stubborn as they could be, who have**
591 **had their own way. The blessing of God would come**
592 **upon us as we would pray together. {Ms78-1910.33}**

593 18. **When the children will beg that they may go to this**
594 **company or join that party of amusement, say to**
595 **them, “I cannot let you go, children. Sit right down**
596 **here and I will tell you why. I am doing up work for**
597 **eternity and for God. God has given you to me and**
598 **entrusted you to my care.** I am standing in the place of
599 God to you, my children; therefore I must watch you as
600 one who must give an account in the day of God. Do you
601 want your mother’s name written in the books of heaven
602 as one who failed to do her duty to her children, as one
603 who let the enemy come in and preoccupy the ground that
604 I ought to have occupied? **Children, I am going to tell**
605 **you which is the right way, and then if you choose to**
606 **turn from your mother and go into the paths of**
607 **wickedness, your mother will stand clear, but you will**
608 **have to suffer for your own sins.” {Ms13-1888.59}**
609 **This is the way I did with my children, and before I**
610 **would get through, they would be weeping, and they**
611 **would say, “Won’t you pray for us?” Well, I never**

612 refused to pray for them. I knelt by their side and
613 prayed with them. Then I have gone away and have
614 pleaded with God until the sun was up in the
615 heavens—the whole night long—that the spell of the
616 enemy might be broken, and I have had the victory.
617 Although it cost me a night's labor, yet I felt richly paid
618 when my children would hang about my neck and say,
619 "Oh, Mother, we are so glad that you did not let us go
620 when we wanted to. Now we see that it would have been
621 wrong." {Ms13-1888.60}

622 19. *Well may the mother inquire with deep anxiety, as
623 she looks upon the children given to her care, What is the
624 great aim and object of their education? Is it to fit them
625 for life and its duties, to qualify them to take an honorable
626 position in the world, to do good, to benefit their fellow
627 beings, to gain eventually the reward of the righteous? If
628 so, then **the first lesson to be taught them is self-**
629 **control; for no undisciplined, headstrong person can**
630 **hope for success in this world, or reward in the next.**
631 **Children should be taught that they must not have**
632 **their own way, but that the will of their parents must**
633 **guide them.** One of the most important lessons in this
634 connection is the control of appetite. They should learn
635 to eat at regular intervals and to allow nothing to pass
636 their lips between these stated meals, which should be
637 served twice or at most three times a day. {Ms2-
638 1877.18}

639 **For more than twelve years we have taken only two**
640 **meals each day of plain, unstimulating food. During**
641 **that time, we have had almost constantly the care of**
642 **children, varying in age from three to thirteen years.**
643 We worked gradually and carefully to change their habit
644 of eating three times a day to two; **we also worked**
645 **cautiously to change their diet from stimulating food**
646 **as meat, rich gravies, pies, cakes, butter, spices, etc., to**
647 **simple fruits, vegetables, and grains.** The consequence
648 **has been that our children have not been troubled**
649 **with the various maladies to which children are more**
650 **or less subject.** They occasionally take cold by reason of
651 carelessness, but this seldom makes them sick. {Ms2-
652 1877.19}

653 **We have, as an occasional experiment, changed the**
654 **number of their daily meals from two to three; but the**
655 **result was not good. In the morning their breath was**
656 **offensive; and after testing the matter for a few weeks,**
657 **we were thoroughly convinced that the children were**
658 **better upon two meals a day than upon three; and we**
659 **therefore returned to our former system, with marked**
660 **improvement in the health of the children as a result. If**
661 **tempted with the sight of food prepared for others,**
662 **they incline to think they are hungry, but usually they**
663 **do not miss or think about the third meal. Children**
664 **reared in this way are much more easily controlled**
665 **than those who are indulged in eating everything their**
666 **appetite craves, and at all times. They are usually**
667 **cheerful, contented, and healthy. Even the most**
668 **stubborn, passionate, and wayward, have become**
669 **submissive, patient, and possessed of self-control by**
670 **persistently following up this order of diet, united with**
671 **a firm but kind management in regard to other**
672 **matters. {Ms2-1877.20}**

673 **20. Eating suppers creates a feverish state of the**
674 **system and indigestion. This destroys her appetite for**
675 **breakfast. All things are turned out of their natural order.**
676 **The child should arise in the morning with sweet**
677 **breath and a good appetite for breakfast; but the meal**
678 **of the night before has done its work in debilitating**
679 **and unfitting the stomach for food. Then at the noon**
680 **meal there is over eating, when the digestive organs**
681 **would do much better work if nothing passed the lips**
682 **until the next morning. {Lt66-1896.7}**

683 **I have gone over this program with my children and**
684 **myself, and I testify to the fact that the third meal of**
685 **the day, if taken at all, should be strictly confined to**
686 **simple crackers and homemade coffee. To dispense**
687 **with the third meal entirely would be better for your**
688 **family. You have not treated your stomachs wisely. As I**
689 **reason with mothers about this, they say, I was just as my**
690 **child; I could not take breakfast. No; for there lay in the**
691 **stomach the food eaten just before retiring, and it was not**
692 **digested. Of course, there was no appetite for breakfast.**
693 **Too much was taken for the noon meal, and supper was**

694 eaten before the food previously placed in the stomach
695 had been disposed of. Thus we go on, if we will, in a
696 blind, heedless state, not studying from cause to effect;
697 and the effect is miserable health. Tea is doing the work
698 for the stomach and also for the head. {Lt66-1896.8}
699 These things I would not agree to give either of you. I
700 have disciplined myself strictly, because I greatly desired
701 my mind, my memory, my stomach [to be] in the best
702 possible condition to preserve, to receive the molding of
703 the Holy Spirit of God, that I might co-operate with Him,
704 and not work contrary to the Holy Spirit's guidance. We
705 may follow impulse and the imagination of our own
706 human wisdom independently of the light which God has
707 seen fit to give us, and we will reap the consequence in
708 disordered digestive organs, clogged liver, and disturbed
709 bowels. {Lt66-1896.9}

710 21. It is the duty of every parent to look after their
711 children as a faithful priest over the household, and He
712 wants the mother to guide, like a queen in the house, and
713 yet so that these little children shall respect her. Teach
714 them how to do this job, and that work, and the other
715 operation. **Begin soon in an early period of their life to**
716 **teach them usefulness, to use the hands for some**
717 **purpose. But now it is to play, play, or to go out in**
718 **companionship with boys where they learn evil. Evil**
719 **companions corrupt good manners, so you must keep**
720 **you children under your supervision, a great deal**
721 **more in their younger days than is now given them.**

722 {Ms184-1907.19}

723 **I told my children, "Now you ask me if you can go to**
724 **such a house and see the members of such a family.**
725 **You may be surprised that I tell you that in the**
726 **evenings I want my children in my own house.** You
727 may invite these children; you may have your parlor; you
728 may have music there, and you may interest your young
729 friends in that way, **but to go out, to get up a great time**
730 **of it, of mischief making, and one thing and another, I**
731 **forbid it. It shall not be."** {Ms184-1907.20}

732 22. **When the children do a wrong thing, it is not right**
733 **to come upon them suddenly and strike them. I would**
734 **not have dared to correct my children in that way. I**

735 would just sit down and talk it over with them, and tell
736 them that they are God's property and I wanted them
737 to form characters for the future immortal life. You
738 just throw your arms right about them, and say, Let
739 us pray about it and ask God about it. When you bow
740 down and start to pray, they will begin to weep and pray
741 to God that He will forgive them. {Ms73-1911

742 23. Fathers and mothers, educate your children in the
743 nurture and admonition of the Lord. The admonition is
744 here in this chapter. You will find it in many ways, and
745 you will find that it requires strict discipline in love.
746 **Don't scold, don't fret, because you gain nothing by it.**
747 **But just present to them that Christ gave His life for**
748 **them. I have always gained the victory in that way.**
749 {Ms86-1910}

750 I have tried to approach children, presenting how Christ
751 loved them, how He took children in His arms. And when
752 those mothers came, the disciples wanted to send them
753 right off. "Why, the Master is teaching," they said. But
754 Christ catches that word. Did He not see those children
755 come from home, and in the dusty path, and calling on
756 neighbor after neighbor, and neighbor after neighbor? Did
757 He not observe this? Certainly He did. He caught the
758 word. He said, "Suffer little children to come unto Me,
759 and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of
760 heaven." {Ms86-1910}

761 24. **I began to educate my children, as soon as they**
762 **could know anything to keep busy. They would say,**
763 **Mother, can I help you? Now won't you take out all**
764 **this? Children, I tell you, you help me in more ways**
765 **than one.** If you make a mistake, I can correct that
766 mistake, I can take it out, and still keep you learning all
767 the time. I cannot tell you that your work is perfect yet,
768 but you keep learning. **I would keep their hands busy as**
769 **I could. But yet they had their opportunities to work**
770 **on the land, and to amuse themselves, but never,**
771 **would I allow a cross word spoken from one to the**
772 **other.** I would not allow it in myself, nor would I allow
773 the children. {Ms186-1907.24}

774 D. She would occasionally tap a hand in the course of
775 discipline.

776 1. If your child reaches out to take some forbidden
777 thing, say kindly, but firmly, “No, do not touch it,”
778 and you will find after telling him this two or three
779 times that he will learn to obey. Touch the hand a little
780 severely, if necessary. When he reaches after the
781 forbidden object again, say, “No, no! No, no! Mustn’t
782 touch! Mustn’t touch!” Time and again I have seen
783 this method followed successfully in dealing with little
784 children who wanted to grasp everything that their
785 hands could handle while sitting at the dining-room table.
786 Such children should be restrained. Tell them that there
787 are things which they must not touch. If thus trained in
788 their babyhood and early childhood, they will learn to
789 obey while very young. {Ms 87, 1902, par. 21}

790 E. She occasionally threatened to spank.

791 1. Sister White: That is it. We must have an abiding
792 Christ; and unless we have an abiding Christ, we shall be
793 all out of line. In **Addie and May Walling I had two of**
794 **the most passionate children to bring up. Their**
795 **mother kept a whip at the table, and I think there was**
796 **not a meal eaten, but what that mother used that**
797 **whip—a rawhide—on those children.** I took them in
798 my care, and brought them up. **I never struck them a**
799 **blow except once, and then it was because I could not**
800 **help it.** But I put out every kind of inducement to
801 **them.** I would say, “If you do not show passion today,
802 your uncle and I will ride out with you, and we can gather
803 flowers,” and so on. Well, I would not say anything more
804 all day. Then I would ask them about it. **During the day I**
805 **would see them throw themselves on the floor, and**
806 **kick, and scratch, and then they would get their hands**
807 **together and they would be ashamed** It is a great thing
808 to know how to do, but there is a way. **When Satan is in**
809 **the person, the one in error is to be rebuked right**
810 **there, and there is to be no passing over the evil. It**
811 **must be rebuked.** {Ms 82a, 1901, par. 54}

812 F. Here we see how she encouraged her children when they
813 were learning a new skill.

814 1. Quotes

815 a. We have much to learn in regard to child-training.

816 **When teaching the little ones to do things, we must**

817 **not scold them. Never should we say, “Why did you**
818 **not do this?”** Say, “Children, help mother do this;” or,
819 “Come, children, let us do this.” Be their companion in
820 doing these things. **When they finish their work,**
821 **praise them.** {BEcho February 23, 1903, par. 3}
822 Years ago the children in my home were learning how
823 to knit. One of them asked me, “**Mother, I should like**
824 **to know whether I am helping you by trying to do**
825 **this knitting-work?”** I knew that I should have to
826 **take out every stitch, but I replied, “Yes, my child,**
827 **you are helping me.”** Why could I say that they were
828 helping me?—Because they were learning. **When they**
829 **did not make the stitches as they should have made**
830 **them, I took out every stitch afterward, but never**
831 **did I condemn them for their failure.** Patiently I
832 taught them until they knew how to knit properly.
833 {BEcho February 23, 1903, par. 4}

834 b. Educate your children from their babyhood to be
835 cheerful and obedient. Teach them to help you. Tell
836 them that they are a part of the firm, and that you need
837 their help, so that you will be spared to care for them.
838 “**Oh,” say some mothers, “my children bother me**
839 **when they try to help me.” So did mine, but do you**
840 **think I let them know it? Praise your children.**
841 Teach them, line upon line, precept upon precept. This
842 is better than reading novels, better than making calls,
843 better than following the fashions of the world. We
844 shall go through this life but once. We cannot afford to
845 fail of reaching the goal for which Christ has told us to
846 strive. {Ms 31, 1901, par. 22}

847 G. Comments on children that were in her home.

848 1. Quotes

849 a. Lt144-1896.21

850 I thought I had finished twice, but **I must say a word**
851 **in regard to the children, Ella May and Mabel. They**
852 **are good-behaved children. They both try to please**
853 **me in everything. Mabel is as thoughtful and**
854 **caretaking as a little woman. Such keen perception!**
855 **She anticipates the wants of all.** She is so wonderfully
856 accommodating to me, and to others as well. Ella and
857 Mabel are both little workers. They have outgrown the

858 clothes I have made for them, which when made and
859 worn made them look like small women, but they have
860 expanded and lengthened, especially since coming here
861 to Cooranbong. They work about home helping Sarah. I
862 have a girl about Ella May's age. These two help Sarah
863 nicely. Mabel is not confined to any steady work. She is
864 helpful everywhere. I do not think she should be taxed
865 with sedentary work. If she is, her nose bleeds. {Lt144-
866 1896.21}

867 **Both girls are in excellent health. Their flesh is solid**
868 **and they eat and sleep well. They are happy. Ella**
869 **May White is a conscientious Christian. Mabel has a**
870 **very tender conscience. I have not passed a**
871 **disagreeable word with either of them.** Their mother
872 is always kind, cheerful, pleasant, and full of affection.
873 The children love her as well as Mary Mortenson. **They**
874 **love Mary, too, and I want them to love her, but**
875 **both are devoted to me. They are not a particle of**
876 **annoyance, but a real blessed comfort.** We are close
877 neighbors, for our laundry and washhouse has been
878 fitted up nicely for them. I am so glad that everything is
879 so harmonious. Well, Sara has just come to see that I
880 get to bed, for I have been up since half past one
881 o'clock a.m. {Lt144-1896.22}

882 Mother.

883 Was written to Edson

884 H. Here is how she sought to reach an infidel young man.

885 1. **I labored for a young man who was an infidel. He**
886 **wanted me to place my hand on his head to see how**
887 **low his reverence was, and he said it was impossible**
888 **for him to honor God. I told him that he must. I**
889 **labored and prayed with him, and at times it seemed**
890 **like a hopeless case, but the Spirit of the Lord followed**
891 **this young man until one day while on a steamer going**
892 **down the Mississippi he yielded his stubborn will and**
893 **gave his heart to God.** It makes no difference about the
894 head; if we only have a willingness, the Lord will assist
895 us in overcoming as He did this young man. **This man**
896 **now stands at the head of the General Conference.**
897 **Now that the Lord has worked for him, he knows how**
898 **to work for infidels.** {Ms46-1886.12}

899 I. Here are some thoughts on her keeping the Sabbath with the
900 children in her household.

901 1. When my children were small we had a large family
902 of adopted children. **We would have our work [put]**
903 **away before the setting of the sun. The children would**
904 **hail the Sabbath as a joy. They would say, Now father**
905 **and mother will give us some of their time. We would**
906 **take them out for a walk. We would take the Bible and**
907 **some religious instruction to read to them, and explain**
908 **to them the Scriptures. We would keep praying that**
909 **they should know the truth of God's Word. We would**
910 **not lie abed Sabbath mornings because it was**
911 **Sabbath. We would have our preparations all ready**
912 **the day before so that we could go to service without**
913 **the hurry and worry.** We would not stroll off and have a
914 nice time to ourselves. We wanted our children to have all
915 the privileges and blessings of God's sanctified rest day.
916 {Ms26-1894.15} [Also found in EA 172.4]

917 J. Growing the children spiritually.

918 1. **I have been very careful in the education of my**
919 **children that there should be no element of unbelief**
920 **woven into their early teaching. They have never**
921 **heard one word of questioning or doubt in regard to**
922 **the word of God, the plan of salvation, or the truth for**
923 **this time. I have kept the Saviour before them. I have**
924 **repeated the story of his life, pictured the scenes of his**
925 **suffering, humiliation, crucifixion, and death. I have**
926 **sought to impress them with the importance of faith**
927 **and obedience.** I have presented before them the
928 mansions of Heaven, and the future immortal life. We
929 should seek to make these themes attractive to our little
930 ones. {ST February 10, 1888, par. 9}

931 2. Are you representing Christ to your children? Are you
932 teaching them to obey the commandments of God? **I**
933 **educated my children from their babyhood to look**
934 **upon God as a kind Father. I did not present him as a**
935 **stern judge, lest they should fear to come into his**
936 **presence.** But how many homes there are in which prayer
937 is not offered, where there is no acknowledgment of God
938 or his goodness! O, let us not have prayerless homes. Let
939 us live so that the shield of Omnipotence may cover the

940 family. I want to be on the Lord's side. I want Jesus to
941 build a barrier around me, so that the temptations of the
942 enemy may not come from the inside but from the
943 outside. {RH April 30, 1889, par. 9}

944 K. Thoughts on keeping them separate from the world.
945 1. This is our work, mothers, but not that they should go
946 out into the pleasures of the world. I have had people say
947 to me, "**Why, Mrs. White, your children will not know**
948 **how to act in society.**" Said I, "**I am educating them**
949 **for the society of heaven. I want them to be educated**
950 **to do right because it is right and well pleasing to**
951 **God.**" {Ms 84, 1886, par. 16}

952 L. Praying for her children.
953 1. **I have wrestled day and night with God in prayer,**
954 **Give me my children.** I cannot give my children to the
955 powers of the enemy, but I have felt that I must have their
956 influence in this work of saving souls and thus we could
957 be missionaries for God. And they stand by my side in
958 this great work; I feel grateful to God for this. {Ms 84,
959 1886, par. 20}

960 M. Read about how she related to her grandchildren.
961 1. **I am much pleased with W. C. White's family. The**
962 **mother is full of tenderheartedness. There is no**
963 **scolding, no fretting. The two older children love their**
964 **mother and love their twin brothers. The twins are**
965 **quite obedient. They come to see me and sometimes I**
966 **give them passion fruit and apples in a little bag.** The
967 other morning there came a rap upon my door and here
968 were James Henry and Herbert White who held out to me
969 a bag similar to the one I used to send them fruit in. It had
970 a long string for handle which they could scarcely
971 manage. **They were runaways, and finding they could**
972 **get out of the gate they came straight to Grandma. I**
973 **said, What do you want, children? They presented the**
974 **bag. Oh, you want me to put something in this bag?**
975 **They said they wanted apples. I went and got them**
976 **apples and passion fruit, of which they are very fond,**
977 **and put them in the bag, and tied up the long string.**
978 One took hold of one side of the bag and the other the
979 opposite side, and they went down the smooth road to the
980 gate, which was open, and home. They are just the

981 happiest, rosy cheeked boys that I have. **I tell them, You**
982 **take this fruit to your mother and tell her to put it on**
983 **the shelf and at your mealtime you may eat the fruit.**

984 They do precisely as I tell them. They are obedient, and
985 oh, how thankful I am they are full of life and vigor!

986 {Lt145-1898.8}

987 Mabel is a real little mother not only to the twins but to
988 all the little children that come round her. She seems so
989 much like her mother. She was baptized two weeks ago.
990 In Sabbath school she marks if there is a child comes in
991 who has no teacher. It seems to be as natural as her life to
992 find them a place in some class. **No child remains**
993 **unnoticed where she is. There is never a harsh word**
994 **passes their lips to these twins or any children. She**
995 **will mother them all, and all children take to her.** She
996 has her mother's looks, her mother's ways, and her
997 mother's expressions. Ella also reminds me of her mother
998 so much. They are a kind, courteous, happy family.

999 {Lt145-1898.9}

1000 **May is about as tall as was Mary White. She is a good**
1001 **looking, wholesome woman, kind, thoughtful to the**
1002 **poor, and is a true Christian. Ella is short in stature.**
1003 **Mabel is a few inches taller, although five years**
1004 **younger.** I wish you and Emma could see them. **The**
1005 **children have the uttermost confidence in their**
1006 **grandmother, and they are very courteous and kind to**
1007 **me in every respect, and heed every word of advice**
1008 **and caution. I have not spoken one harsh, faultfinding**
1009 **word to them, and I hope never to be guilty of being**
1010 **unreasonable in any way toward them or other**
1011 **children.** Children should be surrounded with an
1012 atmosphere of love, and not harshness. {Lt145-1898.10}

1013 N. Here we see her working with Edson

1014 1. There is a right way, and there is a wrong way. **I**
1015 **never lifted a hand to my children before I talked with**
1016 **them; and if they broke down, and if they saw their**
1017 **mistake (and they always did when I brought it before**
1018 **them and prayed with them), and if they were**
1019 **subdued (and they always were when I did this), then I**
1020 **had them under my control. I never found them**
1021 **otherwise.** When I prayed with them, they would break

1022 all to pieces, and they would throw their arms around my
1023 neck and cry like children. {Ms82-1901.39}
1024 **Edson ran in one day. “Come,” said he, “come,**
1025 **Mother, I want you to pray with me.” “Well,” I said,**
1026 **“what is the matter? What’s up now?” Said he, “My**
1027 **little cousin struck me, and I struck him back, and,”**
1028 **said he, “I’m afraid it will be written in the book. I**
1029 **don’t want it to be written in the book.”** Well, I took
1030 him into the bedroom, knelt down, and prayed with him;
1031 and then he prayed. He asked the Lord to forgive him and
1032 not to put it in the book. He seemed so afraid his mistake
1033 was going to be written in the book. He had heard me talk
1034 in meeting concerning the wrong deeds of persons being
1035 recorded in the book. **He just cried and broke all to**
1036 **pieces, saying, “Now, Mother, you don’t think it will**
1037 **be put in the book, do you?” Said I, “No, I know it will**
1038 **not be.”** Then he was very much pleased. But **passion,**
1039 **the jerking and twitching of children, and hurting**
1040 **them, bruising them, I cannot tolerate anywhere nor**
1041 **in any way.** {Ms82-1901.40}

- 1042
- 1043 O. Telling parents to give difficult children to her.
- 1044 1. We should have just as large an interest for the youth,
1045 no matter what their hereditary tendencies are. **When**
1046 **they are the most objectionable, they need your help**
1047 **the most.** And when I travel—**O what pity I have for**
1048 **families that cannot manage their children. “Send**
1049 **them to me,” said I.** One mother said she could not do
1050 anything. Said I, **“Send them to me,” a brother and**
1051 **sister. I took them, and I know that the Spirit of God**
1052 **helped me in changing their disposition.** {Ms187-
1053 1905.14}
- 1054 P. She guarded her children against evil associates
- 1055 1. **Mothers, you cannot be too careful in preventing**
1056 **your children from learning low habits. It is easier to**
1057 **guard them from evil, than for them to eradicate it**
1058 **after it is learned.** Neighbors may permit their children
1059 to come to your house, to spend the evening and the night
1060 with your children. **Here is a trial, and a choice for you,**
1061 **to run the risk of offending your neighbors by sending**
1062 **their children to their own home, or gratify them, and**

1063 let them lodge with your children, and thus expose
1064 them to be instructed in that knowledge which would
1065 be a life-long curse to them. {SA 55.2}
1066 To save my children from being corrupted, I have not
1067 allowed them to sleep in the same bed, nor in the same
1068 room, with other boys, and have, as occasion has
1069 required, when traveling, made a scanty bed upon the
1070 floor for them, rather than have them lodge with
1071 others. I have tried to keep them from associating with
1072 rough, rude boys, and have presented inducements
1073 before them to make their employment at home
1074 cheerful and happy. By keeping their minds and
1075 hands occupied, they have had but little time, or
1076 disposition, to play in the street with other boys, and
1077 obtain a street education. {SA 56.1}

1078

1079 Q. Addie and May Walling

1080 1. We have the charge of two little girls of Mr.
1081 Walling's, aged 4 and 6 years. They are placed in my
1082 charge to be molded and disciplined, and I have managed
1083 them as I did my own children. **One, the youngest, was a**
1084 **most stubborn child, but we have her under perfect**
1085 **control without whipping or scolding.** We are decided
1086 and uniform, and we have them think that it will not
1087 answer at all for them to have their own way, for they
1088 would be very unhappy. **We do not pet and indulge**
1089 **them as children are generally, but we seek to make**
1090 **them happy, and I think I never saw children as**
1091 **happy as these.** From morning until night it is singing
1092 **and happy laughter.** Children who are indulged to do as
1093 they wish and have their own way in almost everything
1094 are not happy. {Lt10a-1874.4}

1095 2. Sister White: That is it. We must have an abiding
1096 Christ; and unless we have an abiding Christ, we shall be
1097 all out of line. In **Addie and May Walling I had two of**
1098 **the most passionate children to bring up. Their**
1099 **mother kept a whip at the table, and I think there was**
1100 **not a meal eaten, but what that mother used that**
1101 **whip—a rawhide—on those children.** I took them in
1102 my care, and brought them up. **I never struck them a**
1103 **blow except once, and then it was because I could not**

1104 **help it. But I put out every kind of inducement to**
1105 **them.** I would say, “If you do not show passion today,
1106 your uncle and I will ride out with you, and we can gather
1107 flowers,” and so on. Well, I would not say anything more
1108 all day. Then I would ask them about it. **During the day I**
1109 **would see them throw themselves on the floor, and**
1110 **kick, and scratch, and then they would get their hands**
1111 **together and they would be ashamed** It is a great thing
1112 to know how to do, but there is a way. **When Satan is in**
1113 **the person, the one in error is to be rebuked right**
1114 **there, and there is to be no passing over the evil. It**
1115 **must be rebuked.** {Ms 82a, 1901, par. 54}

1116 3. There had been a silence on your part for years. They
1117 seldom heard from you and had not seen you. I had the
1118 sole management of them. Would it, then, not have been a
1119 proper course to have communicated with me in regard to
1120 your children as to what plans I had in view for them?
1121 Certainly someone had to plan for them, someone had to
1122 devise as to the proper course for them in the future. My
1123 husband and myself had borne the burden of them, a
1124 heavier burden than I ever carried for my own children.
1125 {Lt81-1889.2}

1126 I treated them in all their perversity of disposition as I
1127 wished the Lord to treat me. **During the whole period of**
1128 **my care for your children I did not punish them but**
1129 **once, then I saw that nothing better could be done to**
1130 **correct certain evils that must be cured. Once I**
1131 **corrected Addie; once I punished May, and the object**
1132 **was gained.** My manner was **not to threaten, to drive,**
1133 **to scold and jerk them about, as some mothers do**
1134 **their children. I looked upon them as the younger**
1135 **members of the Lord’s family.** To the Lord I must
1136 render my account for how I had dealt with these
1137 children. {Lt81-1889.3}

1138 ...
1139 **It takes grace to overcome evil influences and if we**
1140 **have not that grace, there is no telling how low we may**
1141 **conduct ourselves. I tried to fasten the truths of God’s**
1142 **holy Word in the minds of the children,** not knowing
1143 how soon I might be called away from my work to rest in
1144 the grave in Mount Hope Cemetery beside my husband. I

1145 have done my work for your children, that they should
1146 keep eternity in view and live for the future, immortal
1147 life. {Lt81-1889.4}

1148 ...

1149 **I determined to exercise my own judgment and give**
1150 **these children a practical education, that if they were**
1151 **separated from me they would have the solid branches**
1152 **of education in science and in practical life.** The want
1153 in this age is not so much a classical education or Greek
1154 scholarship as it is **for a thorough knowledge of the**
1155 **duties so essential in practical life, for good health,**
1156 **morals, and self-government, and to determine what is**
1157 **truth by the cultivation of a constant reverence for the**
1158 **God of truth and His holy Word and by an earnest**
1159 **searching of the Scriptures.** {Lt81-1889.6}

1160 You accuse me of weaning the affection of your children
1161 from you. I did not make it in my line to dwell largely
1162 upon your virtues, and said nothing of your mistakes.
1163 **There was nothing particularly noble and grand in**
1164 **character that I could present before the children for**
1165 **them to admire and imitate. I could not testify to**
1166 **falsehood. I simply repeated to them the expressed**
1167 **desire of yourself that they should become intelligent**
1168 **in school education, but above everything else know**
1169 **the science of housekeeping. This I repeated to them**
1170 **often and told them now surprised their father would**
1171 **be to find them at an early age able to make good**
1172 **bread and cook a good meal all themselves.** Could I
1173 clothe you with all the moral acquirements and perfection
1174 of character as a pattern man, Mr. Walling, when I had
1175 not the knowledge that you were thus? For years we knew
1176 not where you were or what you were doing. But **I deny**
1177 **the charges you have made that I alienated your**
1178 **children from you, for I surely did nothing of the kind.**
1179 **I said nothing of your mistakes and errors.** {Lt81-
1180 1889.7}

1181 4. The principles set forth in this history are such as I
1182 have tried to implant and to encourage for the minds of all
1183 under my care. It was regard for principle that forbade the
1184 Hebrew youths to consent to any sinful custom of the
1185 Babylonian court. **It was similar regard for principle**

1186 **that made it impossible for Addie Walling to concede**
1187 **in all things to the plans and requirements of her**
1188 **father.** It is true that a child is under obligation to obey
1189 the parents, but there is a higher law to which parent and
1190 child are alike required to bow. If the parent refuses
1191 allegiance to God, must the child therefore consent to
1192 prove disloyal? the true principle is set forth in that grand
1193 declaration uttered eighteen hundred years ago by the first
1194 persecuted apostles when brought before the Sanhedrin,
1195 “We ought to obey God rather than man.” [Acts 5:29.]
1196 {Ms2b-1895.27}

1197 **Mr. Walling’s daughters whom I have educated and**
1198 **trained, are very dear to me. From their childhood**
1199 **they have listened to the teaching of the Word of God,**
1200 **line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little and**
1201 **there a little. Morning and evening they have bowed**
1202 **with us in prayer in the family circle.** From their early
1203 years, Christ has been lifted up before them, and both at
1204 an early age gave their hearts to God, and the peace of
1205 Christ rested upon them. **While quite young, Addie was**
1206 **selected as a teacher in Sabbath-school. The children**
1207 **were early taught that attention must be given to little**
1208 **things, that faithfulness in that which is least will**
1209 **insure faithfulness in greater things.** As new paths
1210 opened before them, they were taught to inquire, Is this
1211 the way of the Lord? Is Christ my leader? {Ms2b-
1212 1895.28}

1213 **Mr. Walling did not educate these children, he did not**
1214 **watch the unfolding of their minds, he did not study**
1215 **their dispositions, and did not understand that they**
1216 **would be ruined by unkindness, harshness, and an**
1217 **overbearing, dictatorial manner. To accuse, taunt, or**
1218 **ridicule them, would make them despise him unless**
1219 **their hearts were wholly under the sweet influence of**
1220 **the grace of God. These children could never be**
1221 **driven, but if one gained their confidence by a**
1222 **consistent forbearance and the manifestation of love,**
1223 **they could be easily managed.** I am not surprised that
1224 there was not harmony between Mr. Walling and his
1225 daughters. The soul of Mr. Walling is surrounded by an
1226 atmosphere entirely different from that which surrounds

1227 those who love God and are doers of His Word. **If Mr.**
1228 **Walling constantly makes light of the principles that**
1229 **his daughters have respected from their childhood,**
1230 **can it bring them anything but pain? This is an**
1231 **alienation that has not been created by me.** It lies
1232 between the Word of God and the soul that rejects its
1233 control. {Ms2b-1895.29}
1234 **I have tried to do my duty in the fear of God. I have**
1235 **not made the father of these children a subject of**
1236 **conversation and reproach, to alienate their minds**
1237 **from him, but have ever tried to set before them**
1238 **principles that would make them faithful missionaries**
1239 **for Christ wherever they might be.** If it should be true
1240 that under trials and temptations Addie and May have not
1241 manifested all the grace that Christian youth should
1242 manifest, ought I be held responsible for that? If trying to
1243 please God and do His will, they have received no help
1244 from their father, but an opposing influence, and they
1245 have not in all things yielded to his ideas, am I therefore
1246 to be judged and condemned? {Ms2b-1895.30}
1247 If my teaching has resulted in keeping Addie and May
1248 steadfast to principle, if it has led them to be doers of the
1249 words of Christ, and because of this, after reaching the
1250 years of womanhood, they could not in all things be in
1251 harmony with their father, and accept his way as the best
1252 way, am I to be charged with alienating them from their
1253 father? Then to what lengths might not such a charge be
1254 carried? On such grounds a suit might be instituted
1255 against every faithful minister of the gospel. All persons
1256 would who, having been placed in charge of children,
1257 train them to a consistent Christian life, contrary to the
1258 practice of parents that are living a godless life, are to be
1259 condemned in having alienated the children from their
1260 parents. If Roman Catholic parents should send their
1261 children to a Protestant school, and allow them to remain
1262 from infancy to womanhood without the slightest
1263 restriction or influence from the parents, could it be
1264 expected that the children would be found perfectly in
1265 harmony with the views and wishes of those parents? And
1266 if not, who would be responsible for the alienation?
1267 {Ms2b-1895.31}

1268 **In the fear of God I take my stand that in my care of**
1269 **the children I have taken no course to alienate their**
1270 **affections from their father, unless it be to educate**
1271 **them to love truth and righteousness, and to keep the**
1272 **fear and glory of God ever in view.** {Ms2b-1895.32}

1273 5. Later in life, Mrs. White threatened to place Addie and
1274 May Walling in another home if they did not begin
1275 helping around the home.

1276 a. **We want you to learn to be useful wherever you**
1277 **are. You may both be a blessing.** We do not propose
1278 to give you merely a book knowledge, but an education
1279 in the common duties of life. I want you both
1280 to **accustom yourselves to work, and by practice**
1281 **learn to do things handily. Practice will give you an**
1282 **aptness in household labor. Unless you accustom**
1283 **yourselves to work, you will ever be slow and**
1284 **without tact.** You know how much we all think of Mrs.
1285 Hull. The reason is, she is always helpful and
1286 understands how to make herself useful. She began to
1287 work when she was much younger than you. **She**
1288 **worked because she felt that it was her duty to**
1289 **work, and that idleness was displeasing to God. She**
1290 **is able now to fill in any and every position, and**
1291 **everyone thinks she is a treasure.** I want you to learn
1292 to work, both of you, that you may become independent
1293 in taking care of yourselves. 3LtMs, Lt 22a, 1879, par.
1294 5

1295 No one is pleased to have girls in the family who
1296 cannot see the commonest duties in practical life. A day
1297 or two of such persons is all any family wants. **We all**
1298 **have to work for what we have, and I should do you**
1299 **a great wrong should I allow you merely to attend**
1300 **school and pay from my own purse your tuition and**
1301 **you feel that no burdens must rest upon you. You**
1302 **will become careless and inefficient and a**
1303 **burden.** 3LtMs, Lt 22a, 1879, par. 6

1304 **In the first place, your room demands your**
1305 **attention without your being reminded of it. You are**
1306 **both old enough to discipline yourselves to care and**
1307 **thoughtfulness, to educate yourselves to habits of**
1308 **neatness and order. Correct at once any habits of**

1309 **slackness, and discipline yourselves to make neat**
1310 **and thorough housekeepers that you may one day, if**
1311 **necessary, keep your father's house. And I shall**
1312 **expect you to learn all that you can every day in**
1313 **becoming useful and helpful, that you will pay back**
1314 **the care we have given you. 3LtMs, Lt 22a, 1879, par.**
1315 **7**

1316 You are very apt to have a zeal in doing new things, but
1317 the common duties of life wherein you can help the
1318 most have no attraction for you, and you become weary
1319 of the task. **You do not have stick-to-itiveness. You**
1320 **soon get tired of a thing. Now if I see and hear that**
1321 **you are averse to doing those things you can and**
1322 **should do, and you neglect even your own room and**
1323 **leave it in disorder, neglect your own clothes and do**
1324 **not mend them, I shall take you both from school**
1325 **and place you under a teacher to educate you to do**
1326 **these things. 3LtMs, Lt 22a, 1879, par. 8**

1327 **You are both old enough to learn to do much of**
1328 **your own sewing. I had to pay out six dollars for the**
1329 **mere item of making your summer clothing. Now I**
1330 **do not think it is my duty to do this much**
1331 **longer. You have time which you can and should**
1332 **improve in becoming apt and thorough in household**
1333 **duties. No one wishes to teach girls how to work**
1334 **while they are filled with discontent and**
1335 **dissatisfaction, as though something were required**
1336 **of them they ought not to do. When do you expect to**
1337 **learn to sew and to cook, to place things in order, to**
1338 **tidy up a room, to do it with thoroughness and**
1339 **neatness? You are old enough to learn how to do, in**
1340 **order to be useful. 3LtMs, Lt 22a, 1879, par. 9**

1341 **We must soon throw you on your own resources, for**
1342 **your own good, because just as long as we pay your**
1343 **tuition and clothe and feed you, you take it as a**
1344 **matter of natural consequence that we always shall**
1345 **do just as we have done. Now the very love we have**
1346 **for your future happiness, and your future**
1347 **usefulness, will not allow us to let you come up**
1348 **disinclined to work. You should work according to**
1349 **your years and strength, work in any capacity,**

1350 washing dishes, sweeping, picking up, mending,
1351 repairing, and making your own clothes. 3LtMs, Lt
1352 22a, 1879, par. 10
1353 I want you to consider what I write to you, **for if you**
1354 **do not show any interest to learn how to work**
1355 **wherever you are situated, then I must place you in**
1356 **families where you will have to labor for your**
1357 **support. Whenever you neglect to do the work you**
1358 **can and should do, you should be kept from school**
1359 **until the work is done. 3LtMs, Lt 22a, 1879, par. 11**
1360 **Addie, you must not indulge in scolding May, not**
1361 **once.** Your mother made the life of your father very
1362 unhappy by this scolding and it resulted in breaking up
1363 the family. You profess to be a child of God. **Be very**
1364 **careful that you do not, by your conduct, show that**
1365 **you are the child of the wicked one. Christ's**
1366 **followers should be patient, meek, forbearing,**
1367 **humble, and courteous. 3LtMs, Lt 22a, 1879, par. 12**
1368 I have noticed **one thing that is very wrong in you**
1369 **both. I have seen Sister Lockwood and others who**
1370 **showed you some attention, saying, "Good**
1371 **morning," and you would not return the kindly**
1372 **attention, but never look up or answer one word,**
1373 **and pass along without answering. Do you realize**
1374 **how impolite this is? If you wish to be loved, you**
1375 **must be courteous. If one says, "Good morning,"**
1376 **look up with a pleasant smile and say, "Good**
1377 **morning!"** If one notices you and speaks with you,
1378 return some answer. 3LtMs, Lt 22a, 1879, par. 13
1379 In much love. 3LtMs, Lt 22a, 1879, par. 14
1380 **My dear little girls, I want you to be good and true. I**
1381 **want you to be kind, cheerful, and happy. Be more**
1382 **anxious and earnest to be pure in heart and truthful**
1383 **in your words and actions than to be flattered for**
1384 **your appearance.** It is the true goodness, the moral
1385 worth, that makes noble men and women. **Your Aunt**
1386 **Ellen has not written thus plainly because she has no**
1387 **love for you. It pains me to write thus, but I do it for**
1388 **your good. I know that you will have to meet the**
1389 **stern realities of life, and I want you to be prepared**
1390 **for them.** As yet you know nothing of hardships and

1391 cares, but you may know these. Although I may try to
1392 shield you, I may not be able to do so. We have given
1393 you a religious education, and we want you to love and
1394 fear God. 3LtMs, Lt 22a, 1879, par. 15

1395 **I have my fears, Addie, that you do not realize what**
1396 **it is to be a child of God. There are little crosses to**
1397 **bear, self-denial to practice. I want you both to love**
1398 **to read your Bibles, and do not forget to pray. The**
1399 **Lord loves to have children pray to Him, and the**
1400 **dear Saviour will hear that prayer that is offered in**
1401 **sincerity. A young soldier of the cross of Christ will**
1402 **have temptations, but he must be prepared to resist**
1403 **them. You must not feel that your life is to be spent**
1404 **in pleasing yourself. Our dear Saviour lived not to**
1405 **please Himself, and His followers must be self-**
1406 **denying. And they must try to make others**
1407 **happy. Religion is to give shape to your character, to**
1408 **make you mild, kind, and considerate of others. You**
1409 **must not have the name of being a lamb of the fold**
1410 **of Christ unless you seek to be, in your words and**
1411 **actions, all that you profess. 3LtMs, Lt 22a, 1879, par.**
1412 **16**

1413 **You may be overcome and may do wrong**
1414 **sometimes, but this should not discourage you. Jesus**
1415 **pities us and loves us even if we do make mistakes**
1416 **and do wrong. He does not leave us to perish, but He**
1417 **pleads with His Father in our behalf; and if we feel**
1418 **sorry for the wrongs we have done and ask Jesus to**
1419 **forgive us, He will do it. Every one of us, even little**
1420 **children, may have a rich experience in the knowledge**
1421 **of God's will and ways. Children cannot have the**
1422 **experience that older persons may have, but children**
1423 **may have a child's experience in overcoming, as well**
1424 **as those who are older. 3LtMs, Lt 22a, 1879, par. 17**

1425 **I want you to be very fearful lest you shall grieve the**
1426 **Spirit of God. You must seek to please others. Addie**
1427 **must not choose her own way and be unwilling to**
1428 **receive counsel and reproof. Addie must overcome**
1429 **her set and determined disposition. She must be**
1430 **yielding, and not persistent to carry out her will and**
1431 **her purposes. I have seen this inclination to tease and**

1432 urge and reason and talk to carry out her plans which
1433 were not thought, by those who were more experienced,
1434 to be wise. I think Addie can do a good work in
1435 overcoming on this point and yield her own plans and
1436 ways without arguing about it. **This trait of character,**
1437 **unless corrected, will make Addie great trouble and**
1438 **be very troublesome to those around her. Addie will**
1439 **need to guard against getting into a passion and**
1440 **showing temper if her way is crossed.** Addie, you fret
1441 at others a great deal. This is displeasing to God. You
1442 grieve the angels of God when you do this. **You want**
1443 **to be meek and patient, like your dear Saviour, or**
1444 **you cannot be His child and be with the holy ones in**
1445 **His kingdom.** 3LtMs, Lt 22a, 1879, par. 18
1446 **May must not be careless and depend upon Addie to**
1447 **do those things for her she should do for herself.** She
1448 must be thoughtful and tender and kind. I must close.
1449 The team takes us to Swan Lake. The cars will not run
1450 till next Monday. 3LtMs, Lt 22a, 1879, par. 19
1451 Write to me and tell me just what you think of my letter
1452 and what you propose to do in reference to it. 3LtMs,
1453 Lt 22a, 1879, par. 20
1454 Aunt Ellen.

1455

1456 II. More Resources

1457 A. You will find much more on the subject of Christian
1458 families and the raising of children at discipleheart.com.
1459 Contact Dan by email: discipleheart@protonmail.com, 269
1460 471 5415. Best Longer 2023b