

BOOK EXTRACT: HINTS ON CHILD TRAINING

(by H. Clay Trumbull; originally published in 1890: ISBN 0-943497-86-8.)

These extracts will give you a flavour of the message in this classic.

The measure of willpower is the measure of personal power, with a child as with an adult. Every child ought to be trained to conform his will to the demands of duty; but that is bending his will, not breaking it. Breaking a child's will is never in order. (Page 19)

All the way along through his training-life, a child ought to know what are to be the legitimate consequences of his chosen action, in every case, and then be privileged to choose accordingly. There is a place for punishment in a child's training, but punishment is a penalty attached to a choice; it is not brute force applied to compel action against choice. No child ought ever to be punished, unless he understood, when he chose to do the wrong in question, that he was thereby incurring the penalty of that punishment. (Page 23)

Children need to learn how to do things which they do not want to do, when those things ought to be done. Older people have to do a great many things from a sense of duty. Unless children are trained to recognise duty as more binding than inclination, they will suffer all their lives through from their lack of discipline in this direction. (Page 30)

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