

**TRY: A
BOOK FOR BOYS**

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Try: A Book for Boys by Old Jonathan

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OLD JONATHAN

**TRY: A
BOOK FOR BOYS**



"ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE" - SHAKESPEARE.



A Book for Boys.

If you find your case is hard,
Try, try, try again,
Time will bring you your reward,
Try, try, try again
All that other people do,
Why with patience should not you?
Only keep this rule in view,
Try, try, try again,

By "Old Jonathan."

FIFTH THOUSAND.

LONDON:
W. H. COLLINGRIDGE, LONG LANE.

MDCCLVIII.

BONMARON INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL.]

[CO. WATERFORD.

A Word to Parents.

DEAR FRIENDS,—

As the Father of thirteen children—eight of whom are living, and five long gone to their rest—I would say one word to you. Seeing that God is a God of order and a God of means, I feel it behoves us, in reference to our children, to endeavour to ascertain what may be their early bias or inclinations. This discovered, it should be by no means discouraged; but (like Mary of old) there should be “a keeping all these sayings in our hearts;” and, by watching the openings of Divine Providence, and making the matter a subject of earnest prayer, wait for and expect the leading and guiding of our God. It is not for us to *dictate* to the

child, but look for an indication of the Lord's mind and purpose *through* the child.

Much evil has often accrued from going counter to what has been a distinct and forcible predisposing in the youth ; the bringing him up to this or that profession, because the *parent* preferred it, or it was the most eligible. This is oftentimes to run in opposition to Providence.

I knew a youth, exceedingly intelligent, the son of a talented Minister. That youth had the most passionate love of chemistry ; but, because it was more convenient, his father artieled him to a bookseller. Whilst his *hands* were at the counter or in the counting-house, his *heart* was in the laboratory ; and he went, in consequence, to speedy and absolute ruin.

In my own case, my father was most anxious to train me up to follow him as a merchant ; but, seeing my strong predilections for the press, my mother thought it might be " the finger of God ;" and to her perseverance, under God, I

attribute the furtherance of my very youthful and long-cherished wishes.

I may remark also, as an encouragement to parents to cherish certain desires which *they* may possess, and to pray over them, that my beloved mother was commonly heard to say, "Oh, to have a child a witness for Himself!" Long after she had gone to her rest, that wish was gratified. And who knows but the same God may, in *His* time, confirm and ratify the like ardent desire in some of our hearts, on behalf of *our* dear children? "Is anything too hard for the Lord?"

That the Lord may direct you in all things; that He may give us grace "to train up our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord;" and that this little volume may be a humble means of stimulating your dear children, and drawing out their young and ardent minds, is the hearty desire of their devoted Friend and

Your obedient Servant,

OLD JONATHAN.

Nov. 10, 1856.

A Word to All!

MY DEAR READERS,—Young, and old, and middle-aged,— I have thought it would not be right of me to allow a new edition of this little book to go forth, without an acknowledgment of the reception which the former edition met with. I have had very many most pleasing testimonials. They are most grateful to my heart. I thank my God for them, and earnestly do I desire that this little volume may richly contribute to the present and lasting well-being of my dear young friends especially.

It is, as I have elsewhere said, a simple, truthful, uncoloured narrative. It proves the power of prayer. It shows that parental advice and example are not lost. It witnesses that a parent's prayers are heard and registered in

heaven, to be answered, perhaps, long after that parent has joined "the general assembly and church of the first-born whose names are written in heaven." It clearly intimates that early impressions should not be crushed, but prayed over—that they should be observed and cherished.

Parents have indeed cause to be very cautious upon this ground. I would repeat the warning given in a former page. The early leadings of a child may run so counter to the course in Providence which its parents had previously pursued, as to claim ardent importunity at the throne of grace—habitual watchfulness—and, it may be, much self-denial.

The need of the exercise of the latter principle was singularly confirmed in the narrative that occupies the following pages. Though abundantly satisfied afterwards, yet at first—and for a long season—Alfred's father was much opposed to his choice of a profession, and refused to afford any help in order to further his views.

Parents! be mindful of this. It behoves us, as parents, most heartily to desire grace to watch the Lord's hand in the