

A PARENT'S JOB

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A Parent's Job by Columbus N. Millard

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By

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PREFACE

THERE are few school principals who are not frequently requested by parents to promote pupils at the end of a school year, regardless of their standings. Whether the children are fitted to do the work of the succeeding grade, is apparently a matter of no concern to the anxious parent. The mere fact that their pride will be hurt by being kept back seems to be the only point considered.

The readiness with which parents often intercede with school authorities for a child to give up a study that is irksome to him is another regrettable tendency which is unfortunately altogether too common. In such instances neither the intrinsic value of the subject nor the possibility of its affording most excellent training for the child is taken into consideration. "*He doesn't like it*" is obviously to them an all-sufficient reason.

Lack of definite responsibility for home duties and absence of deferential respect for their elders are the two particulars in which children of today differ most widely from

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young folk of twenty years ago. Teachers are deeply impressed with this fact and often comment on it; and even the casual observer on the street must recognize the same condition with no little concern.

It also often happens that pupils drop out of elementary or high school because they have lost interest through not understanding their work. It is likewise true that from the standpoints both of aptitude for work and of efficiency in making use of common practical processes, business men are far from satisfied with the product of the schools. Frequently parents who try to help backward children, become discouraged and give up the attempt because methods have changed so greatly that they do not understand the "*teacher's way*" of doing things.

From all these considerations it follows that many parents should better understand the true aims of education and the methods of instruction now prevalent in schools. That they should also co-operate more intelligently with teachers in the work of training their children is equally plain.

"A Parent's Job" has been prepared to aid in accomplishing these two most desirable ends. If it succeeds even in a moderate degree, and thus helps to make

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the work of the noble, devoted women in our public schools more pleasant and effective, the author will feel well repaid for the time and effort expended in its preparation.



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