

**PARENT AND CHILD, A
TREATISE ON THE
MORAL AND RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION OF CHILDREN**

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Parent and Child, a Treatise on the Moral and Religious Education of Children by Sir Oliver Lodge

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SIR OLIVER LODGE

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A TREATISE ON THE MORAL
AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OF
CHILDREN

By
SIR OLIVER LODGE, D.Sc., F.R.S.



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PARENT AND CHILD

I

CHILD NATURE

THE first thing to realize about children is that they are separate individuals, not merely chips of the old block. Chips of the old block they are too, no doubt, but what parents sometimes forget is that they are separate persons, each with a life and destiny of its own. It is therefore quite possible, not only that the child may not understand us, but that we may not understand the child.

PARENT AND CHILD

The individuality thus isolated in a child is not always good! Certainly not. There can be, I presume, as many grades among children as among adults. The range seems to extend over the whole gamut, from something very like angels to something barely distinguishable from devils. The nearly angelic is fortunately the more common variety, and I shall assume,—what may be true,—that all children who are given a decent chance in life, both by ancestry and by nurture, will respond to judicious treatment and be a credit to their home and upbringing.

I think it more helpful to emphasize the essential goodness of human nature than its essential badness.

CHILD NATURE

There must be phenomena which have led theologians to formulate the doctrine of original sin, but there must be at least equal and I think far greater truth in the more authoritative statement, applied to typical children, that of such is the Kingdom of Heaven.

I have been astounded, occasionally even appalled, at the innate goodness of some children,—children who have come under my own observation. And, holding views which I have elsewhere expressed as to the nature of incarnation, it has sometimes struck me as an extraordinary privilege to be entrusted with the care of beings of so much interest and charm. They seem like guests