

**THE INFANT  
SCHOOL ECHO, AND  
NURSERY GUIDE**

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The Infant School Echo, and Nursery Guide by J. R. Brown

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BY J. R. BROWN,

*Author of "An Essay on the Cultivation of the Infant Mind."*

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"I would rather lead one little child to Jesus, than attain the scientific stature of Newton, the metaphysical acumen of Locke; achieve the conquest of a thousand fields, or rise to the possession of a thousand crowns."

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IN the discharge of my duty as a teacher of babes, I have ever found it necessary to adhere to a plan. The following compendium is the enlargement of a weekly course of instruction drawn up some years ago, at the request of a benevolent lady, for her village schools. Two editions of this little performance met with an encouraging reception from the public, and the Author determined in sending forth what may be regarded as a third edition,\* to enter into detail. To effect this purpose, he noted down the labour of one week, and trusts that this little work will prove an acceptable service to those who are interested in the present, permanent, spiritual, and everlasting welfare of little children.

There is one point to which the public mind has not been sufficiently directed, or to which it has not fully yielded; namely, the moral bearing of the system. I would that I possessed talents equal to the task of arousing my countrymen to a practical consideration of this infinitely important subject. Could those especially who profess to be the friends of human kind, be brought to a full recognition of the imperative mandate of Jehovah, "Ye must be born again;"

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\* Preface to the first edition.

could they be led to a deep and powerful sympathy with the stirring interrogation, "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?" could they be excited to pray, plead, supplicate, yea, agonize, in all vehemence of desire and the simplicity of faith, for the accomplishment of the prophetic promise, "All thy children shall be taught of God,"—education would tell with ten-fold greater energy on the rising generation.

Fathers, mothers, guardians, ministers, teachers, magistrates, judges, senators, princes, come, O come, to the help of the Lord against the mighty; and, for the sake of the rising race, do not sanction Sabbath-trading and profanation, parading in Hyde Park, &c. Discountenance, yea, frown upon, the ball-room, the theatre, and those sinks of sin, ruin, and perdition, the gaming-houses. Do fully turn to God; turn this day; fall on your knees, and pray till your eyes are suffused with tears, and your hearts are melted into very tenderness. Believe on Jesus with all your soul, and you shall surely find mercy. God will speak to your heart, to your inmost being, in mercy, as he has to mine. But sin, in all its forms, however specious, pleasurable, or profitable, must be abandoned. "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me." While righteousness exalteth a nation, sin is a reproach to any people; and we, alas! alas! with a constitution based on the Bible, are "a sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity;" and there is no way of escape from temporal calamity, and the *fierce anger* of the Almighty, but by a personal, *social, and national* abandonment of sin, coupled

with a heartfelt and instant trust in Christ for individual, present, full, and everlasting salvation. Again I urge, in the name of the Most High, come to the help of the Lord, in the prayerful, spiritual, and orthodox education of the rising generation. Pity, O pity, little children! They are cast upon your sympathy by the God of all grace: care for them; you may lead them to heaven, or ruin them for ever. Let me speak on their behalf; let my plea come home. Train them for Jesus and heaven; the God of love, the Christ of God: the Holy Ghost demands this service of you, and it is a reasonable one. Do not cast away my words because I fill a humble station in society. Are they not the words of truth and soberness? Does not your conscience now, while you read, bear witness to the correctness of them? Then do them justice; do yourself justice; do the blood of Jesus justice; and bring the little ones to him for his blessing. Confirm precept by example; come to him first yourself, make sure your hold here; and do make a point of keeping holy the Sabbath, now-a-days most awfully trifled with by professors of religion. Ministers and hearers are seen on this holy day riding to their different places of worship, in coaches, cabs, and omnibuses. I have been often pained at what has transpired before mine eyes, in the vicinity of the metropolis. It is imperative on all who have erred, to put away the evil. Do not cavil at the law, but keep it: \* and then imitate the conduct of Ezra, who proclaimed

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\* I do not include weak or aged persons, who must needs be carried.



a fast by the river Ahava, that they might seek of the Lord a right way, for themselves, for their little ones, and for all their substance. (Ezra viii. 20—23.) Happy shall I be, if by any means I can excite parents and teachers to care more and do more for the young. It would be productive of much good, if the children belonging to our different churches could be brought together once in every three months, say of a Sabbath morning. The Minister could address suitable words to them, and bespeak the united prayers of the congregation on their behalf. What a lovely sight to behold fathers and mothers combining with their little ones to seek the Lord. When this is done, and done as it should be, complaining and riot shall cease, the earth shall yield her increase, and God, even our own God, shall give us his blessing: O that he would arouse the professors of religion in this country! Some of these, though loaded with riches, have done scarcely anything to spread the Gospel. Interrogate them about erecting a school or place of worship, and they ask in a panic, "Where is the money to come from?" You might easily answer, "From your banker, Sir;" but they give a practical answer themselves, by the erection of useless, yet very expensive, appendages to their dwellings; and will it not be found, at the last day, that though some have given a portion to charitable purposes, it is nevertheless not a tithe of the property devoted to luxury. Surely God has a controversy with the merchants and worldlings of this country on account of these matters? Is there not a *cause*? Has not a mint of wealth been sacri-

ficed to folly by rich and poor that might have been applied to the temporal and spiritual improvement of our countrymen. I should be glad, therefore, if meetings were convened in all the churches and chapels throughout the nation every Friday, to entreat the Lord to turn his threatened anger away. The increasing population has been allowed to overspread and settle down on immense districts, while nothing like adequate provision has been made for their religious wants. It is however a solace to know that some of God's people do feel concerned at the overspreading abominations of the day; and though not possessed of princely fortunes, are distinguished by princely liberalities. These consistent Christians wish the poor man to live in peace here, and dwell with God for ever. All hail! ye genuine friends of human kind. "I do shake hands with you all in my heart this day; \* and mean, by divine grace, to meet you in those blissful regions where the ghost of a miser shall never come.†

It will be quickly perceived by all who admit the propriety of the preceding remarks, what sort of persons are necessary as agents in this arduous toil? The office of infant school teacher is one of very great responsibility; he has an indescribable amount of moral power (instrumentally considered) over the child in its best state, the morning of life, and this power must be employed in training it for immortality. Viewing the work, then, in the

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\* A saying of Peter Jones, the Indian Chief.

† See *Infant Cultivation*, pp. 28—33, 155.

light of eternity, (and he who is unwilling to bring himself and it to this test has no business with the employment,) it strikes me, that those who are entrusted with the education of infants will have as heavy an account to render to their Judge, as those who preach the Gospel to crowded congregations. Reader, whether parent or teacher, was thy mind ever impressed with this momentous subject? Were you ever led to look on the children as fallen and depraved, but immortal, creatures; that their derived, dependent, and conscious being will exist for ever in endless happiness or everlasting woe? Was thy heart ever moved to serious reflection on thy own state, character, and destiny? Didst thou ever yield to the conviction, "I am a polluted and guilty creature?" And didst thou ever cast thy poor and wretched soul, with all its weight of condemnation, of immortality, or deathless existence, on the infinitely meritorious blood of Him who came into the world to save sinners, and who is emphatically "the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world?" Do you know these things experimentally? If not, whatever deference may be awarded to you on the ground of respectability or sufficiency of professional attainments, you are but ill prepared for the moral culture of the human mind. If "an undevout astronomer is mad," what can be said of you? O repent, forsake every sin, cry to God for help; read the Bible, haste to hear the Gospel; pray for pardon, conscious pardon; believe on Jesus, and "you shall not perish, but have everlasting life." *Cry to God, cry now, in the language of Dr. Watts,*