

The Forgotten Commandment.

The Fourth Commandment is the only commandment with a promise attached: "Honor thy father and thy mother -- that it may be well with thee and thou mayest live long on the earth." Honor means three things: reverence, love and obedience. Family life stands or falls by this commandment. Where do we stand?

I.

Ever since Cain brained his innocent brother, boys and girls have been bringing ~~the~~ gray hairs and sorrow, and not a little embarrassment to their progenitors. Many a worn-out father must say, as he puts his drunken prodigal to bed, "Why, oh why didn't I stick to raising hogs!"

II.

Richard Bennet, the actor, according to a grapevine dispatch relayed by one of our correspondents, has applied for legal relief from the embarrassment of caring for a 17-year-old daughter. Richard and Mrs. separated last spring, dividing their daughters between them. Richards Barbara was driving him frantic, so when she failed to show up at four o'clock the other morning he telephoned her mother. Mother arrived in time to meet Barbara alighting from the limousine. Richard tried to spank Barbara, but Mother and a cop intervened. Richard has retired from the fight.

III.

"All is fair in love and war." Mother can't see the flapper, and Father has a terrible crust to keep you in every night. That might have been all right in their day, but times have changed. Have it your way. All is fair in love -- until you get married and start raising disobedient children of your own. What Holy Scripture says about it is very simple: "The eye that mocketh his father, and that despiseth the labor of his mother, let the ravens pick it out, and the young eagles eat it." -- Proverbs 30:13.

IV.

David had a very handsome boy, the pride of his life. David loved him not wisely but too well. He knew how to have his own way. Absalom finally disturbed the family peace by leading an army against his father. You remember what happened to him. If you don't recall, read the Second Book of Kings, chapters 15 to 18. David still loved the boy and wept for his untimely death.

V.

The obedient are in good company:

1. St. Joseph obeyed the Roman Law, the Jewish Law and the voice of an angel;
2. The Blessed Virgin obeyed St. Joseph;
3. Our Lord "went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them." -- Luke 2:51.