

The Scriptures say:—"Thou shalt not speak
and down as a tale-bearer among thy people."
"A tale-bearer revealeth secrets; but he that is
of a faithful (honorable) spirit concealeth the
matter." "The words of the tale-bearer are as
wounds that go down into the innermost parts
of the belly." The Hebrews thought that the
affections had their seat in the bowels; and by
this phrase, "go down into the innermost parts
of the belly," they signify how sharp and exas-
perating to the deepest feelings of our nature
are the cruel offices of a common tattler.
"Where no wood is the fire goeth out; so where
there is no tale-bearing the strife ceaseth." As
if he had said that so much of the strife of society
arises from tattling that, if that were cured,
there would hardly be any cause of quarrel left.
Commend us to that religion which makes a
man humane with his tongue and honorable
with his ear.