

blow cold and summer sun gives place to winter's frost and snow; but as long as we have *life* we are ever-green—always the same—always showing forth God's glory and praising Him by wearing the garment which He has provided for us. So, if you would follow our example, put on the garment of His righteousness, and in heat or cold, joy or sorrow, cloud or sunshine, glorify Him. As long as you *live* in Him He will clothe you with the beauty of His grace and cover you with His presence.

"Once more, look at us closely, for we are not all the same. Though we grow side by side and belong to one great family, there are among us the dark fir-tree, the paler spruce, and the graceful larch; so, in like manner, to

you—who, separate from the world, are one family in Christ—God gives His special gifts of grace and virtue, though you have not all the *same* beauty: one aim, one object borne out in each individual, linking them together.

"And, lastly, there is the *message* we bear—the sound you hear—a voice different from that of any other tree or flower; and yet it is not our own voice, but the wind breathing through us. So, surely, have not *you* a message to deliver? Not of yourself, but the Spirit of God speaking through you; and the message which is sent forth by the inspiration of God's Spirit can '*never*' return unto Him void,' though they who hear it may not always understand the meaning of His voice."

ON SPEAKING THE TRUTH.

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"Putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour."—EPHESIANS iv. 25.



IT is so easy to tell a lie, and its apparent advantages are often so attractive, that we cannot wonder at its occasional employment and seeming expediency.

Of course, indeed, lies are witnesses to truth.

There would be no bad money unless the good were in use. A liar is trusted only when honesty is the rule. Thus, so far, any success in falsehood testifies to the value of fairness.

There are, indeed, some foolish people who yield a sort of admiration

for ingenious deceit, like the lord in the parable who commended the unjust steward. But this is bestowed on the cleverness shown by the liar, not on the lie he tells. I am happy to believe that lying is not a prominent English sin. It prevails in Eastern countries abundantly, but, as a rule, English people believe one another.

Still, there is enough of it among us to demand great watchfulness over ourselves among Christians, for there are lies and lies, of all shades between black and white, and a habit of deceit is easily formed. Nothing, moreover, breeds faster than a lie. A man who tells one is tempted to tell another to conceal it, and so the string or sum of lies grows on at compound interest, until the liar cannot tell how to get free.

Suppose we look shortly at a few forms of deceit. There is the manufacturing lie, when an article is made of bad materials, in order to look like the good; or when work is scamped, that only which is "seen" being done