

the ninth commandment themselves, but teaching their servants to break it also! In the evening this lady found, to her great distress, that one of her particular friends had been taken suddenly ill, and died during the day. She was very anxious to see her, and sent several messengers to bid her come, but these were always told she was not at home. You can imagine how dreadfully she must have felt when she understood this.

After all these instances of the unprofitableness of lying, I must give you one story to show the profitableness of telling the truth, before leaving this part of our subject.

It is related of a Persian mother that, on giving her son forty pieces of silver as his portion, she

"Child," said the robber, "art thou so mindful, at thy tender years, of thy duty to thy mother, and am I insensible, at my age, of the duty I owe to God? Give me thy hand, that I may swear repentance on it."

He did so. His followers were all struck with the scene.

"You have been our leader in guilt," said they to the chief, "now be the same in the path of virtue." They immediately gave back what they had stolen, and began at once to lead an honest life.

We ought not to lie, or bear false witness, because it is *unprofitable*.

*The third reason why we ought not to do this is because it is DANGEROUS.*