

—no conflict, no discord, but sweetest accord and harmony would have prevailed. The united whole family would have abode in peace, and each man's character would have been a pure fountain out of which his fellows would have drunken, each in turn, producing an increase of benedictions for the other so naturally that even angels would have had a joy in it, all free from astonishment as they would have said, "Behold how these children love each other."

But how wide the contagion has spread, how plentiful the poisonous crop which has grown from the Cain-spirit. At its root it may appear to be little more than self-assertion, or self-independence. Now any man can assert his own independence, yes, any devil can do that much, but it took the Son of God to be great enough to make himself of no reputation, taking upon him the form of a servant, to lay down his life for the world. Self-assertion! Yes, indeed, little children have had their happy hours blighted and blasted with its murderous sweep. Oh, the pity of it! Two little children could not play together without the quarrel. A sweet little girl of four years was talking very rapidly and eagerly to her father, who had returned home after a prolonged absence. Her little brother, who was two years her senior, whispered humorously to the father, "She thinks she is mistress here, don't