

ligious in pointing out the sins and transgressions of those who are dishonoring the God who made them. But the poor blind devotee of censure is so fully occupied in exposing the errors of others, that he never finds time to look at his own. The censorious belong rather to the Vulture than the Dove class of birds. Not because they feast on putrid carcasses, but from the fact that few can, for any length of time, be kept in one flock.

These would-be-reformers annoyed the ancient disciples, even in the Apostle Jude's time. He calls them "murmurers and complainers"—"sensual not having the spirit." Indeed, many of our modern murmurers, glory in being free of the superstition of even believing that men need the Spirit of God dwelling in them since the days of miracles.

Censoriousness operates upon men professing christianity much as it does on individuals in the domestic relation. Disposed to magnify the faults of each other, they see little else than faults; and, by dwelling upon them they always greatly increase the evil. Acids corrode, destroy, and almost invariably produce poisons. Such also are the fruits and effects of some fault-finding dispositions. Inharmonious words are used to express the characters of these unlovely ones. Men are called grumblers and cynics; women, fretters and scolds! But as I wish to say a few words, by way of warning, I shall simply call them "murmurers and complainers." They destroy the peace and comfort of families. In parents the disposition is fully ripe when the "word and the blow" come in close proximity—and the "blow first." Among children, they see others getting greater favors than themselves—and can see nothing but partiality and favoritism in parents, uncles and aunts; its fruit is manifest in sour looks—peevish language, or silent stubbornness.

Young men and women possessed of this demon are peculiarly jealous of every attention bestowed on others. Woe to the young man or woman so unfortunate as to get yoked up for life with one of this acid class. Better live and die in a state of single blessedness.

In rural districts these murmurers will foment strife in whole neighborhoods, and will always have a case in court.

But, as church members, we have at this time to do with them. No cause has ever suffered more from this unfortunate class of mortals than the present reformation. When men and women go from house to house to dilate on the faults and errors of their neighbors, their influence becomes at once so obvious that the wise and good lift the warning voice and shun them as slanderers. Such should be our