

your very words are wrested, and a meaning given them you never imagined.

(c) *Tale-bearers are Scandalizers.*—You may do a hundred good deeds and not one of them will they divulge; but make one slip only and they rejoice over it as a mother over her child, or a miser over gold. It is impossible to escape their malevolence, for your good they will call evil. When John the Baptist came with his stern call to repentance, mixing little with men, at home among the wilds of the wilderness, wearing not the common garb of men, he dressed in a raiment of camel's hair, eating not the common food, but the wild honey he found in the trees, the locust that hopped in his path, men said, "He hath a devil." But Jesus Christ came in a contrary fashion. He wore common clothes and did eat and drink with men. He went to their marriage festivals and joined in domestic feasts. He was to be found in the streets, in the markets, in the synagogue, everywhere where crowds assembled. But still these fault-finders were dissatisfied. They quarreled with John because he did not mingle with them; they quarrelled with Christ because he did. "Behold a gluttonous man and a wine bibber, a friend of publicans and sinners."

'Tis impossible to satisfy the scandalizers, they will not be pleased, no virtue is too strong for them to assail, no life too pure to tarnish.

And, as I said, they delight in the bad, they have no good word for any. If you should say, "Mr.— is very amiable." "Yes," they reply, sorry to admit to it, and then in a sprightly tone, "but he drinks very heavy," or if you hazard the remark "Mr. X. is very energetic and business-like"—"Perhaps" doubtfully, and then in a cheerful voice, "But he is frightfully mean." Thus they blast every reputation, and cast reproach on all. "They search out iniquities, they make diligent search." "They whet their tongues like a sword, and aim their arrows even bitter words."

(d) *Tale-bearers are Cowards.*—After blasting a reputation, after defaming a friend, after slandering the innocent, after heaping reproach against his neighbour, the tale-bearer turns round and says, "Don't mention my name, I have no wish to be mixed up with it." The mean cowardly hounds, after hunting a neighbor to death, they wish to slink off unseen. If Darwin's theory be true, vultures that feed on carrion and garbage must be the ancestors of tale-bearers. But I am inclined to think, they are relations of the false witnesses who accused Christ, and