

there are a lot of lies ready for the occasion. She had such and such things to do, and was overburdened with work, or she felt unwell, or the fire would not kindle, or the stove would not draw; anything, for an excuse. The mistress may be deceived sometimes, but she at last finds out that these excuses are a pack of lies; and the result is, more scolding and vexation, and dismissal from the service. While, had all been frankly owned and sincerely amended, this speaking the truth would atone for many a shortcoming.

Sometimes the lying is to cover up some injury to the property of your employer. You have broken dishes, or allowed something to go to ruin through carelessness. You think something may be taken from your wages, and you deny it. Have you not deserved all this? Of course. Well, then, if you will not commit a double sin, own up and take the consequences, like a Christian. Oh! but it was but a small matter; what is the use of having a fuss about it? — Let me tell you what happened once from telling a lie about these small matters. The Empress Eudoxia received the gift of a perfect and beautiful apple from her husband, the Emperor. She sent it as a present to a sick nobleman, called Paulinus. The Emperor by chance found out that Paulinus had this apple; and being of jealous disposition, he asked his wife what she had done with the apple he gave her. Through fear of a little displeasure, instead of owning that she had given it away, she said that she had eaten it. Her reply fixed the evil suspicion so deep in the Emperor's mind that Paulinus was ordered to be slain, and the Empress was divorced, and sent away into banishment. So much for a lie about an apple.

Sometimes the lie is to conceal a petty dishonesty. You have taken some trifling thing for your own use, or given it away to your friends. Shame puts you up to deny it and tell lies to screen yourself. This is sometimes a very dangerous snare, and arises from the sins of others. There are others in the house who are dishonest, and who want you to carry on their designs, so that they may not be told of. No matter what their reason may be, have nothing to do with it, never tell a lie for them. — But suppose it is the head-servant of