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# Northern Messenger

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### A Slave Market in Morocco.

The few independent Mohammedan nations in Africa, of which Morocco is the principal, are all slave-holders, and the stories we occasionally read of slave-raiding expeditions in that continent are chiefly conducted to supply the slave markets of those states. The slaves are mostly women and children. Our picture of a slave market in Morocco represents two dealers inviting purchasers to buy their slaves. We should pray God may soon cause slavery to cease in all countries, as it has done in the British Empire and the United States.

### Only a Word.

It was only a word, spoken gently in praise,  
At the close of a weary day;  
But it set an aching heart at rest,  
And drove its care away.

It was only a look of sharp reproof,  
At an effort made in vain;  
But it crowded an overburdened heart  
With bitterness and pain.

The words we speak, the looks we cast,  
May bless or mar a life;  
May fill it full of tenderness,  
Or cause unlovely strife.

Then may our actions all be true;  
Our words whole-hearted, kind,  
That when we die, our lives may shed  
Sweet memories behind.

—'Christian Globe.'

### The Want of Moral Courage.

Moral courage has four degrees, and not to be afraid of your opponents is the first. This is really no great attainment, for he does not deserve the name of man who can be brow-beaten by scolding and threatening. Insolence of this sort is not unwelcome, for it stiffens resolution and rouses pride, and delivers one from the snare of compromise, and sets one with his back to the wall. If one is

to be tried, let him pray for an unscrupulous and venomous antagonist.

It is a higher degree of courage not to tear your friends. Hundreds who are as strong as a rock to resist those who hate them are as weak as water in the hands of those who love them. Oh, the sorrow of it, that we should be tempted to do something less than what is right by those whom we trust, and hindered from doing the highest thing we know by those who love us most! Many a woman shrinks from duty for fear of her husband—the amazement on his face; many a husband falls beneath himself for fear of his wife—the amazement on her face. So they who have stolen our hearts sometimes also steal our courage.

He is braver still who does not fear the cross of Christ; who has no secret clauses in his treaty with Christ about truth or duty; who puts no personal inclinations, no family ties, no class customs, no business profit, above Christ; who will follow anywhere when Christ leads, and do anything that Christ commands.

But the highest courage of all is not to be afraid about one's self. Is there any more admirable instance of manliness than St. Augustine, searching out the mistakes in his writings, and recanting them before he died? for there is nothing we are more unwilling to do than to confess that we were wrong.

When any one is brave enough to unsay the worse for the better, then surely he is a true man, and will stand fast for righteousness.

Certain people have special need of moral courage, and one is a young man in the city. His safest plan is to bid good-bye to compromise, and not to burden himself with an excess of courtesy in the hour of temptation. A tempter is most quickly daunted when he is most roughly handled. Have nothing to do, under any excuse, with drinking men; allow no fool to blaspheme religion in your hearing; come down upon the beast who tells an evil story; cast your shield over the weak comrade who is ready to fall. There are times when a hot temper and a sharp tongue are good servants to the kingdom of God, and when war to the death is the wisest policy.

The second person is a woman in society, for women are apt sometimes to be sad cowards. They are afraid to dress as their best friends would like to see them, because it would be unfashionable; afraid to give simple dinners, because their neighbors are extravagant; afraid to allow their daughters to work for themselves, because it might lower their station; afraid to give a children's party without wine, because they might be thought stingy; afraid to have their poor relations in the house, because of the servants; afraid to be economical, because of the same critics. They are in bondage to all kinds of