

than any other member of the Church. I wanted to go and ask him to give ten dollars for a ton of coal for widow Smith; how he would have groaned, instead of saying 'hallelujah.' When he joined the church, he promised to give as the Lord should bless him. Look at his houses, his lands, and his cattle! I just think he is breaking that promise to the Lord every day; and he lives—well, I won't say any more; but it is enough to stir up a saint to hear such men talk.

"Then, who should speak but Mr. Greyton, who said that he, too, 'had been on the mount all the year,' and the Saviour had been constantly with him; and O, mother, he is just as cross in his family as he can be. If you should hear him, you wouldn't wonder that Tom ran away; and I've heard him talk to Ella in such a manner that if it had been my father talking so to me, I'd have walked out of the house and never walked in again.

"Mrs. Kaine spoke after Mr. Greyton, and she felt that Christ was her soul's most dear, familiar friend; and I don't believe she understood what she was saying. Do you think that she can be a Christian? Don't you know that when Lizzie Gray's good name died, how Mrs. Kaine seemed to delight to talk about it? She said that she was 'so sorry for poor Lizzie, but had always expected it!' when, you know, mother, that she was very intimate with her for years! And it was Mrs. Kaine who started the stories about Mrs. Elwood, who lived in the other part of their house on Summer Street. It is said that she bored a hole through the wall, and used to watch Mrs. Elwood when she had callers, and listen to the conversation; and as she only heard snatches of it, she would make up the rest. And she nearly ruined Emma Allyn, by misconstruing her motives and acts when Emma boarded with her. And you know how she will always have her own way in church affairs. How she put you on oneside when we were furnishing the parsonage, and you chairman of the committee—you just allowed her to run over you rather than have a quarrel. You'll never catch me being so good! I think she is just horrid; and I don't believe that she knows what it is to be a Christian. Mrs. Kaine being meek, humble, loving her neighbor as herself! The very idea is absurd.

"Then May Lincoln spoke. She said she wanted to lead a new life, and I presume she does; but then she won't after warm weather comes, and she begins to think about going to Newport or Long Branch. There were half a dozen others that spoke, but they did not do much good, and I think it would have been better for them to have kept silent. There, mother! I've told you why I did not enjoy the meeting—and do you wonder?"

"No; I do not wonder that you received no benefit from the meeting," said Mrs. Dearborn, sadly; "but I cannot express how deeply I am pained at hearing you criticise the members of our church as you have, and at the state of heart which your words have revealed to me."

"But, mother, what I said was all true."

"It may be, in a measure, true; but their motives you know nothing about, and our judgments are often incorrect, though we think, like the servant Ritchie, 'we can judge better for ilk ither than in our ain cases.' Then, we do not know how bad their lives might have been if they never had tried to live as they think a Christian ought. They may overcome more besetting sins in one day than another would in a year. If we only knew how many wrong things they were tempted to do, but resisted the temptation, we might look upon them with admiration. It is a great comfort to me when I am misjudged, and it must be to others, that God knows the motive; He knows all about it. They may have done the best they could; but my daughter has been educated in such a manner that she knew she was grieving the Spirit by allowing herself to 'talk evil' about others."

"Why, mother!" exclaimed Carrie.

"What milder term can I use?" said Mrs. Dearborn. "You have not cherished that charity which hopeth the very best of them, but have believed the evil which you have heard, and now you have 'spoken evil.' You have so soon forgotten the lesson of last Sabbath, 'let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers; and grieve not the Holy Spirit of God; let all evil speaking be put away from you; be followers of God; walk in love; walk as