

that this huge creature hath been tamed ; " but the tongue can no man tame," &c.

3. In the air, the birds fly high above our reach, yet we have gins to fetch them down. A lure stops the highest soaring hawk ; nay, art makes one fowl catch another, for man's delight and benefit ; incredible things, if they were not ordinary. Snares, lime-twigs, nets, tame them all ; even the pelican in the desert, and the eagle amongst the cedars. Thus saith our apostle, verses 7, 8 : " Every kind" (not every one of every kind, but every kind of nature of all), " of beasts, of birds, of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of the nature of man ; but the tongue can no man tame," &c.

Thus far then St James's proposition passeth without opposition. " The tongue can no man tame ;" the tongue is too wild for any man's taming. It would be a foolish exception (and yet there are such profane tongues to speak it), that woman stands without this compass and latitude ; and to infer, that though no man can tame the tongue, yet a woman may. It is most unworthy of answer. Women, for the most part, hath the glibbest tongues ; and if ever this impossibility preclude men, it shall much more annihilate the power of the weaker sex. " She is loud ;" saith Solomon ; a foolish woman is ever " clamorous," Prov. ix. 13. She calls her tongue her defensive weapon ; she means offensive ; a firebrand in a frantic hand doth less mischief. The proverb came not from nothing, when we say of a brawling man, He hath a woman's tongue in his head.

*The tongue can no man tame.* Let us listen to some weightier exceptions. The prophets spake the oracles of life, and the apostles the words of salvation ; and many men's speech ministers grace to the hearers. Yield it ; yet this general rule will have no exceptions : " no man can tame it : " man hath no stern for this ship, no bridle for this colt. How then ? God tamed it. We by nature stammer as Moses, till God open a door of utterance. " I am of unclean lips," saith the prophet, " and dwell with a people of unclean lips,"