

SLANDER.

Slanderers are not only true children of the devil, but, like him sure to put forth every effort to make others as miserable and as mean as themselves, or have people believe them to be so, at least.

The children of the devil called Jesus Beelzebub. This may be set down as a rule: the slanderer attempts to transfer his or her character to the innocent victim. It is wonderful how aptly they attribute some devilish principle, or charge some devilish passion or act. Those, for instance, most apt to charge licentiousness and lust are very far from being the most pure, if they are not themselves eaten up by those vile passions.

The tongue speaks the thoughts of the heart. An accuser is but a devil, perhaps, in human form; but what of that, if he or she does his work? O what a wretched end for such noble powers, and what ruin to a noble soul!

The law of Moses says you shall not lie, neither shall any man deceive his neighbour. Lev. vi. 2.

Lies are of three kinds; (1) Malicious lies, which are spoken directly to the injury of others; (2) officious lies, which are excuses for ourselves or others; (3) jesting lies, which are made to please and entertain company; and to these may be added boasting lies and flattering lies. These are all mean and included under the apostle's injunction, "Wherefore, putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour," Eph. iv. 25.

The very common and evil practice of rash judgment—that is censuring and condemning the actions of others, without good and justifiable cause. Jesus said, "Judge not, that ye be not judged." Matt. vii. 1.

It forbids detraction. Speaking ill of others with a design to blacken their reputation, or in some degree lessen their good name—if this be done by falsely accusing them, then it is a slander; if it is in discovering another's secret sins, or by putting an ill-construction on well-meant actions or good intentions, or by denying their good and commendable qualities, or neglecting to render every possible defence—it is detraction; if this is done in the presence of the person, it is affronting; or if behind the back, it is backbiting; and as in all these our neighbor is made to appear worse than he is, it is bearing false witness against our neighbor. A slanderer is worse than a robber, and a detractor is equal to a sneak-thief. God's word again says, Thou shalt not be detractor, nor a whisperer among the people. Lev. xix. 16.

All these injuries against our neighbor are never more grievous and heinous than when the church and her ministers are evil spoken of.

SKIPPING THE HARD POINTS.

Boys I want to ask you how you think a conqueror would make out, who went through a country he was trying to subdue, and whenever he found a fort hard to take left it alone? Don't you think the enemy would buzz wild there, like bees in a hive, and when he was well into the heart of the country, don't you fancy they would swarm out and harass him terribly?

Just so, I want you remember, will it be with you; if you skip over the hard places in your lessons, and leave them unlearned you have an enemy in the re that will not fail to harass you and mortify you times without number.

"There was just a little bit of my Latin I hadn't read," said a vexed student to me, and it was just there the professor had to call upon me at examination. There were just two or three examples I had passed over, and one of those I was asked to do on the blackboard."

The student who is not thorough is never well at his ease; he cannot forget the skipped problems; and the consciousness of his deficiencies makes him nervous and anxious.

Never laugh at the slow, plodding student; the time will surely come when the laugh will be turned. It takes time to be thorough, but it more than pays. Resolve when you take up a new study that you will go through with it like a successful conqueror, taking every strong point,

If the inaccurate scholar's difficulties closed with his school life, it might not be so great a matter for his future career. But he has chained to himself a habit that will be like an iron ball at his heel all the rest of his life. Whatever he does will be lacking somewhere. He has learned to shirk what is hard, and the habit will grow with years.—School-day Visitor.

THE CHILD MISSIONARY.

One Sabbath, on an island in the Indian Ocean, a missionary was studying a sermon to preach in the language of the people. A little boy about half clad, came in and said: "O, I do so love my Jesus! May I do something for his house?" "And what can you do?" said the missionary. Blushing and stammering, as if afraid to say anything, he replied: "I will be always there; I will do it loud. Please let me ring the bell." While he was a boy he rang the bell that invited the people to church, and when he became a man he preached to his people the same glad news that he commenced calling the people to hear when he rang the Sabbath bell. Little boys, begin while you are young to call the people by bell or mouth, or tract, or inviting children to a Sabbath-school; and as you grow up, you will be trained servants and soldiers to serve Christ anywhere.

HANG ON LIKE A BEAVER.

When Tom was six years old, he went into the forest one afternoon to meet the hired man who was coming home with a load of wood. The man placed Master Tommy on the top of the load, and drove homeward. Just before reaching the farm, the team went very briskly down a steep hill. When Tommy entered the house, his mother said: "Tommy, my dear, were you not frightened when the horses went trotting so swiftly down Crow Hill?" "Yes, mother, a little," replied Tom honestly; "I asked the Lord to help me, and I hung on like a beaver." "Sensible Tom! Why sensible? Because he joined working to praying. Let his words teach the life lesson; in all troubles, pray and hang on like a beaver by which I mean, that while you ask God to help you, you must help yourself with all your might.—Young Pilgrim

Hood used to tell a story of a hypochondriac, who was in the habit, two or three times a week, of believing himself dying. On a certain occasion he had one of his terrors while riding out in his gig, and happening to see his family physician, he applied the whip to the horse to overtake the old doctor. The doctor applied the whip to his own horse, and they had a close time of it for about three miles. The hypochondriac finally came alongside the doctor, and exclaimed, "Hang it, doctor, pull up! Pull up instantly! I am dying!" "I think you are," cried the doctor; "I never saw any one going so fast."

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