

it hath not works, is dead, being alone ;" but if the latter, then indeed are we doing as he further says, "Showing our faith by our works."

Truly the world hath need of *practical* testimony among not only Friends, but others, against oppression in its hydra-headed forms. It is for the lack of this that there is so much conflict between capital and labor, resulting in strikes all over the land ; so much misery, so much crime. The greed of gain is so powerful in the human mind that when uncontrolled by religion, philanthropy or any other moral quality, it gains undue ascendancy, until its possessor tramples underfoot all feelings of humanity, all thought of honor, all fear of God, giving himself up wholly to the idea, how most rapidly he can fill his coffers with his highly-prized gold, and increase his bank account, unmindful of the poor toilers in the sweat-shops, factories, mines, etc., whose unrequited labor ministers to his wants, and is one of the worst forms of oppression, grinding its victims to the very dust, and forcing them, in order to supply themselves and half-starved families with the necessaries of life, to stoop to crime and vice of every description, even to the crowning one, the taking of human life. Do Friends bear a *practical* testimony in this respect. We need not go far from home to do this. Those who work for us on our farms, in our kitchens, in our sewing rooms, *may* become slaves of an oppression which they are powerless to cast off, and of which *we*, their employers, are the cause. It is expedient, nay, it is *right*, for us as Friends, as citizens, as neighbors, to see that our conduct in this respect is such that others may safely emulate our example. Here is an excellent opportunity to manifest to others the working of the Golden Rule, and to "let our light so shine before men, that they may see our good works, and glorify our father which is in heaven." It is, indeed, a serious thing, thus to be, even in so small a way, the arbiter of another's destiny, for either good or evil.

Oaths, what are they, and why this query ? There are different definitions of the word, one being a solemn affirmation, with appeal to God for confirmation of the truth of our assertion ; another, a careless or blasphemous use of the sacred name, or of anything sacred or divine. Against both these forms we have a testimony, and why ? In early times Friends suffered much, amounting to imprisonment, loss of property, and death itself, rather than accede to the demands of those days, to substantiate their statements in courts of justice by oaths judicially administered ; neither did they adopt the custom of using them in private life, believing both to be opposed to the direct command of Jesus, "Swear not at all," no time, place or occasion was exempted, but *not at all*, and in obedience to this injunction, they conformed their practice, though often at such great cost to themselves. Would that we of this day were as particular. How many of us are entirely clear of the habit of using in common conversation slang phrases, by-words and expletives, which are an outgrowth of the spirit (in a different, and not quite so offensive a manner) that leads others to indulge in profanity ; the wish to emphasize their words, as though fearing a plain expression would not be sufficiently clear to convey to their hearers the truth of their remarks ; yet the simple unembellished truth is in reality more convincing, than when garnished with superfluous words, and phrases, besides being in accord with the teachings of Jesus, who said, "Let your communication be yea, yea, nay, nay ; for whatsoever is more than this cometh of evil." What stronger prohibition or condemnation of this practice could one wish ? It is the spirit indulging the habit that must first be overcome : make first the inside of the cup and platter clean, and it will be comparatively easy to cleanse the outside. In deference to Friends' views, and after much hard labor on their part, judicial authorities, after a long time, modified the form to be used under the law, to