

## BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU SAY.

In speaking of a person's faults,  
Pray, don't forget your own;  
Remember those in houses glass,  
Should never throw a stone.  
If we have nothing else to do,  
But talk of those who sin,  
'Tis better we commence at home,  
And from that point begin.

We have no right to judge a man,  
Until he's fairly tried;  
Should we not like his company,  
We know the world is wide.  
Some may have faults—and who has not?  
The old as well as young;  
We may, perhaps, for aught we know,  
Have fifty to their one.

I'll tell you of a better plan,  
And find it works full well;  
To try my own defects to cure,  
Ere I of others tell;  
And though I sometimes hope to be  
No worse than some I know,  
My own short comings bid me let  
The faults of others go.

Then let us all, when we commence  
To slander friend or foe,  
Think of the harm one word may do,  
To those we little know;  
Remember curses sometimes, like  
Our chickens "roost at home;"  
Don't speak of others' faults until  
We have none of our own.  
—*Christian Observer.*

## CHOOSE GOOD FRIENDS.

Few things have a more far-reaching influence on life than the companions and friends of one's early days. There should always be the most careful judging of character before one is admitted into the inner circle of friendship. Cowper's words may seem to set too high a standard when he writes:

"I would not enter on my list of friends,  
Though graced with manners and fine sense,  
(Yet wanting sensibility), the man  
Who needlessly sets foot upon a worm."

But little things are tell-tales of character, and heartlessness shown even to a worm tells of heartlessness which may crop out some time when a worm is not the object.

There is one test in all friendships which it seems safe to apply in every case. Never choose for your friends those who mock at sacred things. You will not want such near you in the hour of sorrow, or when you have to stand in the great mysteries of life, or when you are shut up in a sick room, or when you lie on your bed of death. You will not want a jester or a scoffer at your side in such hours, but rather those who are grave and thoughtful, with reverent faith and humble trust in God. Choose for your friends in youth and all along your life those whom you will want about you in life's great hours of trial and as you are about to pass into eternity.

## THE CHARACTER OF THE BIBLE.

"There is in Holy Scriptures such access to the weak and feeble, comfort to the sorrowful, strong meat for men, milk for babies; such elevation and grandeur of mind, advancing the humanity of men to the height of bliss; in a word, it is what manna was to the Israelites—food delicious and accommodated to every man's taste. It is a deep well for depth, celestial for height. As it speaks of God, nothing is so sublime—as of men, nothing so humble; it is a bridle to restrain, a spur to incite, a sword to penetrate, salt to season, a lantern to our feet, and a light to our path. Critique and grammar have too often prejudiced the meaning of the true and genuine text. Men dare not cavil at the laws and ordinances of princes, if they are so clear as to be understood, whilst the laws of God are a thousand times more perspicuous. And, were it otherwise, men could not be religious till they understood the learned tongues. But since God has called all men to the knowledge of the truth, and, therefore, not many wise, not many learned, but industriously humble, as well as the extraordinarily knowing."—*John Evelyn.*

THE MORNING HOUR.—Set the morning watch with care if you would be safe through the day; begin well if you would end well. Take care that the helm of the day is put right; look well to the point you want to sail to, then, whether you make much progress or little, it will be so far in the right direction. The morning hour is the index of the day.—*Spurgeon.*