

SPEAK SOFTLY.

Speak softly, gently ever !
 There is no wiser part ;
 For harsh words pierce like steel
 The yearning, loving heart.

As gems reflect in brightness
 Every fitting beam,
 Let words reflect in kindness
 Love's sunny, love-lit gleam.

Speak softly, gently ever :
 There is no better plan—
 For angry words can never
 Effect what kind ones can.

For, oh ! a soft word spoken
 May move the stubborn soul,
 That still would prove defiant
 Should words of thunder roll.

Speak softly, gently ever !
 Words breathing naught save love !
 And soon our blighted Eden
 Will bloom as realms above !

BAMBOOS.

There is no tree known on earth which subserves so many purposes as the bamboo. The Indian obtains from it a part of his food, many of his household utensils, and a wood at once lighter and capable of bearing greater strains than heavier timber of the same size. Besides, in expeditions in the tropics, under the rays of a vertical sun, bamboo trunks have more than once been used as barrels, in which a water, much purer than could be preserved in vessels of any other kind, is kept fresh for the crew. Upon the west coast of South America, and in the large islands of Asia, bamboos furnish all the materials for the construction of houses at once pleasant, substantial, and preferable to those of stone, which the frequently recurring earthquakes bring down upon the heads of the lodgers.

The softest of the bamboos is the *Sammot*. In the tracts where it grows in the greatest perfection it sometimes rises to the height of one hundred feet, with a stem only eighteen inches in diameter at the base. The wood itself is not more than an inch in thickness. The fact that the bamboo is hollow has made it eminently useful for a variety of purposes ;

it serves as a measure for liquids, and if fitted with a lid and bottom, trunks and barrels are made of it. Small boats even are made of the largest trunks by strengthening them with strips of other wood where needed.

In one day they attain the height of several feet, and with the microscope their development can be easily watched. But the most remarkable feature about the bamboo is their blossoming. With all this marvellous rapidity of growth they bloom only twice in a century, the flower appearing at the end of fifty years. Like other grasses, they die after having borne seed.

"BURN HIM."

A Greek priest in Bashan has lately been cruelly beaten by his own son and others, because he wished to profess himself a Protestant Christian. His own wife also suggested to the people that the best thing they could do was to burn him. He has been a diligent student of the Bible for more than twenty years. He was obliged to flee to the guardianship of the missionary. He was found to be a decided Christian, and well instructed. His delight now is to speak to others of the way of salvation. His son threatens to kill him if he returns home.

"HATRED stirreth up strifes : but love covereth all sins."—*Prov. x. 12.*

HE who lives only to benefit himself, confers on the world a benefit when he dies.

HERE is a story of a little girl, three years old, who was charged with breaking a flower from its stem. She said : " No, I didn't b'eak it." Still, the older person argued that she must have done it, for no one else had been in the room ; but she said : "'Deed, 'deed I didn't." Thinking to make her confess, the older said : " Now, Ada, I see a story in your eye." Her reply was, " Well, that's one I told the other day, for I didn't b'eak the f'ower." And it was found that she didn't.