

so opposite to Christ's. And the churches are dumb!

Another case. A man is arrested, charged with a crime. British law regards him as innocent until proved guilty: how many so-called Christians do not regard him as guilty till proved innocent? yes, and — *after*? Talk of charity and churches!

Or, the serpent, slander, trails across some guiltless sleeper. Who blazes out against the reptile? How many steadily refuse credence, without evidence? How many are not only too willing to believe the worst? too ready to act on it? How many of these self-righteous, but shady souls, do not deem themselves the whiter of another's defilement? The slanderer is a villain. Is there no villainy in receiving and handing round his envenomed slime?

Here we have a most deadly sin, and a very general. What are the churches doing to suppress it? Very little that one can see. The people are not plainly told that they cannot be at once Christians and slanderers, or listeners to slander. "Charity thinketh no evil." Where is the charity in a greedy swallowing of calumny? "Sounding brass!" There is no deadlier scourge of society, no deadlier desolator of lives and homes, than the tongue "set on fire of hell"; but the average preacher has no mind to cut it out!