

very silent tongues. True; they know their times and places, when and where to seem mute. But Jeremiah compounds the wisdom and folly of the Jews: that "they were wise to do evil, but to do good they had no understanding," Jer. iv. 22. So I may say of these, they have tongue enough to speak evil, but are dumb when they should speak well.

Our Saviour, in the days of his flesh on earth, was often troubled with dumb devils (Luke xi. 14); but now he is as much troubled with roaring devils. With the fawning sycophant, a prattling devil; with the malicious slanderer, a brawling devil; with the unquiet peace-hater, a scolding devil; with the avarous and ill-conscious lawyer, a wrangling devil; with the factious schismatic, a gaping devil; with the swaggering ruffian, a roaring devil. All whom Christ by his ministers doth conjure, as he once did that crying devil, "Hold thy peace and come out." These are silent enough to praise God, but loud as the cataracts of Nilus to applaud vanity. David said of himself, that "when he held his peace, yet he roared all the day long," Psal. xxxii. 3. Strange! be silent, and yet roar too, at once! Gregory answers: He that daily commits new sins, and doth not penitently confess his old, roars much, yet holds his tongue. The father pricked the pleurisy-vein of our times. For we have many roarers, but dumb roarers, though they can make a hellish noise in a tavern, and swear down the devil himself; yet to praise God, they are as mute as fishes.

Saint James here calls it fire. Now you know fire is an ill master; but this is *unruly* fire. Nay, he calls it the fire of hell, blown with the bellows of malice, kindled with the breath of the devil. Nay, Stella hath a conceit that it is worse than the fire of hell; for that torments only the wicked; this all, both good and bad. For it is *flabellum invidi* (the fan of the envious), and *flagellum justi* (the scourge of the good). Swearers, railers, scolds, have hell-fire in their tongues.

This would seem incredible; but that God saith it is true. Such are hellish people, that spit abroad the flames of the