

that he observes and describes in others, nor guilty of treating the subject improperly, and moreover is reputable for good behavior in the house or family of God, we are under more than human obligation to receive his instructions, and observe them with all the scrupulosity of brethren who are united in the bonds of christian love.

The subject is by no means exhausted. Falsehood is a vice much more common than is generally acknowledged or supposed. How often do we observe persons who falsify in their looks!—falsify in their manners!—falsify in their general religious duties!—and even falsify in their prayers!! A hundred eyes are not required to perceive all these delinquencies among the professed members of the christian church. Professors are not wanting, who, with all the externals of devout humility, kneel at their morning altar and pray for divine assistance to withstand temptation and live to the honor of their Lord; and before the day is closed their heads are as full of sordid plans for the gain of this world, their tongues as busy in speaking evil of a neighbor or defaming the name of some good man, or allowing their hatred to obtain the mastery and burst out in passionate words and actions against some unfortunate object of vengeance, as though there was no power in virtue or as if christianity itself were a novelty. So true is all this, that he who in these things sustains a character of sterling honesty, personal restriction, and self-control, appears to stand before us as a moral wonder.

“Lying is the vice of slaves.” It is a slavery too of the most degrading character. The spirit of selfishness which induces to deception, whether this selfishness seeks after silver and gold, or the more honorary treasures of praise and fame, or the glory of party, has never attained a very high rank even among genteel sins. And indeed when fairly analyzed, the last species of deception—the deception to sustain and aggrandize party—is not the least among the vices of lying in the year of grace eighteen hundred and forty six. How low the intrigues, how abundant the frauds, and how rich and varied the falsehoods to uphold party interests and destroy everything anti-orthodox. No later than last week a cargo of charges were brought against “Mr. Oliphant,” one of which was, that he denied the endless punishment of the wicked, when the fact is that this same Mr. Oliphant debated a proposition before the whole public on the sixth of January that contained this very doctrine—the doctrine he is said to deny! Verily in this age we have need of a *Witness of Truth*.

Some of our great classifiers have divided falsehood or lying into various chapters or classes. Accordingly there is the commercial lie; the national or political lie; the boasting or self-praising lie; the novel or wonder-loving lie; and then we have