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Speak kindly; gracious words, God-sent, God-given,
Are never lost;
They come, all fragrant with the breath of Heaven,
Yet nothing cost.
Kind words are like kind acts, they steal along
Life's hidden springs:
Then in the darkest storm some little song
The sad heart sings.

OVER LAND AND SEA.

"I cannot," said the child. "You must," said the father harshly. And the two were farther apart. One discouraged was ready to be disobedient, the other irritated, became severe in his manner. And the lines of life continued to diverge until the father and child seemed to have little in common.

When one professing Christian tells another that an absent brother has a prejudice against him, or is misrepresenting him, the presumption is that the informer is not trustworthy. When he communicates his information in confidence and will not allow himself to be quoted to the absent brother, the presumption becomes a practical certainty. He is also a mischief maker and a sneak. Only through weakness will the brother who listens to him in turn be prejudiced. Occasionally letters are written and words spoken simply with the motive to create unhappiness and distrust among brethren. Those who receive such letters and listen to such words, if they feel called on to do more than to receive them in silence, may do real service by saying, frankly, "Get thee behind me Satan."

Most every General Assembly has a new gravel to be presented to the Moderator to aid in preserving order. The presentation is generally the occasion of speech-making. This year the gravel was presented by ex-President Harrison on behalf of the Synod of Indiana. "I hope," said he, "you will have no need for it, but we want you to be equipped for emergencies. The gravel has been constructed wholly of hard grade wood, that can easily be converted into pulp, which would not properly typify the Presbyterian Church. The oak," we said, "stands for the Calvinistic ribs of the Presbyterian Church; the poplar for the systematic and orderly system of Government of the Presbyterian Church, which has become a model for Government the world around; the black walnut, the timber of which no one ever paints even with varnish, stands for the polished love of education and individualism which so strongly characterizes the Presbyterian Church; the beech, which holds on its lower branches the leaves of Autumn through all the storms, stands for the sheltering, folding care of the Church for the lambs of God; the sugar-maple, a tree beautiful in its proportions, and one which does not address itself solely to the eye but includes the palate also, means Dr. Withrow and the General Assembly." The handle of the gavel is from the first Protestant Church organized in Indiana, at Vincennes, in 1806. In the centre is a piece of oak from Hanover College, the mother of McCormick Seminary. In the head of the gravel are pieces from a tree that once grew on the grounds of Wabash College. In the gravel is also a piece of wood from the First Presbyterian Church Indiana-

polis, and also pieces of wood from the Second Presbyterian Church Indianapolis, where Henry Ward Beecher was pastor eight or nine years. A Church," continued the ex-President, "that is all aglow with missionary enterprise should be a growing Church. When a spirit of self-sacrifice takes hold of the Church it has large accessions of useful members." The Moderator returned thanks, and said if he had any of the spirit of missions it came from Indiana. He could not forget that the Church had grown in Indiana from a little log cabin to its magnificent proportions of a Synod with 42,000 members.

The Sultan of Johore has made a grant to the Rev. J. A. B. Cook, one of the Presbyterian Church of England's missionaries at Singapore, of a plot of land 300 acres in extent, for the purpose of a Christian Chinese settlement. The grant is for 999 years.

The recently erected German Evangelical church in Jerusalem is an imposing structure, costing \$125,000. A parsonage and school are soon to be added to the church.

Never before, in the history of the American Church, has there been a General Assembly which registered among its commissioners an ex-President of the United States and a member of his Cabinet, and having the latter as Vice Moderator. It is surely something upon which the Assembly of 1897 may congratulate itself. Without doubt many commissioners will esteem it a great privilege to look in the faces of Benjamin Harrison and John Wanamaker, and hear their voices in the discussion of ecclesiastical themes.

Rev. S. B. Rossiter, D. D., pastor of the North Presbyterian Church, of New York exchanged pulpits for June, July and August with Rev. E. G. Thurker, the pastor of the American chapel in Paris. Each congregation is to be congratulated upon this arrangement, which gives two excellent preachers a vacation and supplies two important churches so well. More of this sort of exchanges might be made to advantage.

Mr. Bellamy Storer, of Cincinnati, who lately entered the Roman Catholic Church, has been appointed United States Minister to Belgium. Mr. Storer goes to a land where Protestantism was mercilessly stamped out in the sixteenth century, but where a small number of mission churches are striving to uphold the pure Gospel, and where *Le Chretien Belge* says "all versions of the sacred books made by non Catholic writers, whomsoever they may be, in any vulgar tongue, and especially those published by the Bible Societies are prohibited."

Rev. Newton Smith, of New York, was approached by one of the representatives of a metropolitan newspaper for a "bright, terse, interview about hell," and he was rewarded with this statement from the reverend gentleman: "Hell, in my opinion, is the place where the Sunday edition of your paper should be printed and circulated."