

since they are of the weather-cock species, the devils of to-day will be the gods of to-morrow. They rush at conclusions respecting others from inadequate data or no data at all. Upon nothing are they unwilling or slow to utter their opinions—especially if other men are the subjects of conversation. If they happen to be favorably disposed towards these persons, palliation is found for what is bad in their characters while good traits are raised into prominence. If the contrary is the case, evil is magnified and the eyes are closed to goodness. Noble acts are attributed to unholy motives, and unsullied lives are branded as hypocrisy. If the past has been stained by deeds of sin they take malicious pleasure in reviewing the dark record and giving it a deeper dye. Truly this is diabolical! One of the noblest sights in God's universe is to see a recent wanderer from right now heroically fighting against temptation, and striving to bring himself into harmony with the vast creation. Surely the mantle of oblivion should be joyously thrown over the past if the present witnesses to a life of purity.

Occasionally men are encountered who speak no good of any person or any undertaking. No sermon is sound, Sabbath Schools are worse than useless, Temperance Societies are a fraud—in short the days of vital godliness have passed. Question these pessimists and you learn that they are divines and philosophers of the infallible stamp. It is not worth while arguing with them. Let them first make their own lives models of virtue and holy living. They are not likely to do much harm since what they utter is too wide of the truth to meet with a reception. They rejoice in fault-finding, thinking that thereby they show their standard of morality and holiness to be high; but there is every reason to fear that such individuals are in the forerank of those who are travelling to the perdition which they unhesitatingly affirm yawns to receive a ruined world.

In society there is needed a fuller exercise of the mind and judgment and less, much

less, of the tongue. A careless use of this little member not only scatters seeds of discord and strife, but also has a reflex injury. Were the object of this state of existence to be kept clearly in view, all would be more considerate in making remarks respecting others, and the scene of this momentous life-battle would be greatly changed. "If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body."

THIS PUFFING AGE.

Praise, no less than censure, should always be given where it is desired. Silence is not enough where success has been achieved. But there are limits to praise, which are prescribed by deserts. Constantly are these limits transgressed. We cannot take up a secular, literary, or religious paper without receiving demonstration of this fact. Every lecture is learned, interesting and instructive; every concert is delightful, chaste, and superb; every new book is the best which has appeared upon the subject, and its mechanical execution is elegant; every school examination is a marvellous display of advancement and precocity on the part of pupils, while the teacher is thoroughly competent and very energetic; every resignation of or entrance upon any public position witnesses an exaggerated account of what the late or future incumbent has performed or is capable of performing. The propensity passes to the literary from the commercial world. Sordid gold leads men into dishonesty by different paths.

The mark "superior" upon an article of merchandize does not now signify that the article *is* superior but *medium*: "thribble extra," or "double superfine" mean nothing more than *good*. The world is a little older than it used to be, and so are the people. More skill is now required to deceive than at any former time. No one pretends to accept commodities for what the stamp indicates; and the necessary discount is constantly increasing. Labels lie, that's the