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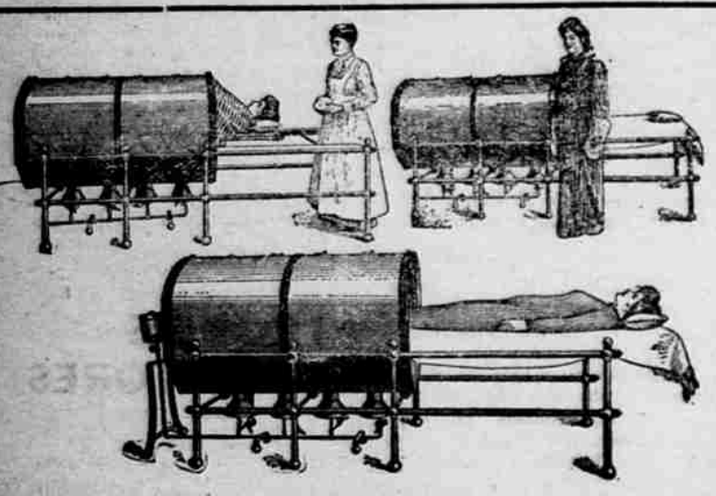

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BRADFORD, TEXAS, Sept. 16.

What a blessed inspiration that led to the writing of these lines.

Trust not to each accusing tongue,
As most weak persons do,
But still believe that story false
Which ought not to be true.

If people would act fully upon this motto, how many heart aches and saddened lives would be saved. And here we must remember that it is the property of love not to think evil, to judge the best, and so endeavor to preserve the credit of our neighbor, which is oftentimes as much shaken by unjust suspicions as it would be by the truest accusations.

He that filches from me my good name, robs me of that which ne'er enriches him, and makes me poor indeed. The wounds of reputation are of all others the most incurable, and therefore it may well become Christian charity to prevent them. A good name is the richest possession we have while living, and the best legacy we leave behind us when dead. A person of fair character, of tried and established reputation stands out to the eyes of the public as one who is above reproach. The envious may attempt to tarnish their fair name, but their efforts recoil upon their own heads. Slander may indeed for a moment fix its fangs on a spotless character but such a character has within itself an antidote to the poison, and emerges from the temporary shadow with invigorated strength and heightened beauty.

Let falsehood be a stranger to thy lips. Shame on that inglorious tongue that sold its honesty and told a lie. He that is under the dominion of envy can not see perfections. Envy is the slime of the soul. Revenge, though sweet at first, bitter ere long back on itself recoils. They talk about revenge being sweet, but it is the common experience of all who have glutted themselves at this feast, that it is a most fearful bitter sweet. Revenge and envy are no less foolish than they are detestable. There is nothing which wings its flight so swiftly, as camly, nothing which is listened to more readily or dispersed more widely.

The tongue of slander is never idle. Like death it leaves a shining mark, and is never so available and eloquent as when it can blight the hopes of the noble minded, soil the reputation of the pure and break down or destroy the character of the brave and strong. It is a singular fact, but how often demonstrated that when the current of condemnation once sets against those who have been above reproach, the tide is more heavily oversweeping than when a victim has been frequently under criticism. No soul of high estimate can take delight in slander. It indicates utter depravity. Education and refinement are not proof against it. They often serve only to polish the slanderous tongue. That man who attempts to bring down and depricate those who are above him does not thereby elevate himself. He rather sinks himself while those whom he traduces are benefitted rather than injured by the slander of one so base as he. He who indulges in slander is like one who throws ashes windward, which come back to the same place and covers him all over. Dirt sometimes acts like fuller's earth, defiling for the moment, but purifying in the end. How small a matter will start a slanderous report, while the one on whom it is started is innocent of it all, and though free from blemishes, envy and jealously can start the bloodhound of suspicion. A word once spoken can never be recalled, therefore, it is best to think twice before you speak, especially when ill is the burden of your talk. Give no heed to an infamous story handed you. Neither condemn your neighbor unheard; hear no ill of a friend. Believe not all you hear, nor report all you believe. Be cautions of believing evil of others and more cautious of repeating it. There is seldom anything uttered in malice which returns not to the heart of the speaker. It is a sign of bad reputation to take pleasure in hearing ill of our neighbors. He who sells his neighbor's credit at a low rate makes the market for another to buy his at the same rate. Deal tenderly with the reputation of a woman; evil reports are often the result of evil designs.

The most revolting creature which is elemental in the human heart, though men are seldom compared to it, is the buzzard. The buzzard of the air feasts on decoying substances. The buzzard of the heart feasts on decaying character. It revels in slander, and in all the moral debasement which is exhibited by depraved souls in their efforts to drag others down to their own wretched condition. These buzzards of the heart are found in all ranks of society. Let one of them in a crowd begin to tear at a bit of scandal ever so gently, and other similar creatures with like depraved appetites will gater round. Let the dove in a man coo good of a fellow mortal, and the same person will instinctively shrink away from him as a bore, while doves in other hearts respond with answering coos of appreciation. For one part we prefer the doves of human nature to the buzzard. Do nothing to inflict a wound on the reputation of any one, and above all things be not guilty of trying to ruin a woman's character—better take her life and leave her character. On many a mind and many a heart there are sad inscriptions deeply engraved by the tongue of slander, which no effort can erase. They are more durable than the impression of the diamond on the glass, for the inscription on the glass may be destroyed by a blow, but the impression on the heart will last forever. Let not the sting of calumny sink to deep in your soul. He who is never subject to any slander is generally of too little mental account to be worth it. Remember it is always the best fruits that the birds pick at, that wasps light on the finest flowers. So it is with an envious person, they pick for the fairest name to blacken. Remember that truth, the child of time, will appear ere long to vindicate thee, that truth crushed to the earth will rise again.

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