

**Concerning the Control of the Tongue.**

A man who cannot control his tongue is unfit to occupy a prominent and responsible position anywhere. He is very likely to be dangerous in the family or in society, or in the state or in the church, or in any kind of organization made up of members of the human family. Were there just one man in the world he might exaggerate, or misrepresent, or slander, or even lie with impunity. Even one man on each continent could not do much harm with a bad tongue to anybody but himself. But there are a great many of us here and a tongue not under control cannot wag long enough without hurting somebody. Hence the necessity of keeping the unruly member under something like control.

Always and everywhere uncontrolled tongues do a vast amount of mischief. Pens not controlled by a good conscience are a scourge in every free country. Liberty of the press and freedom of speech are more abused than any other privilege free men enjoy.

Sometimes an uncontrolled tongue is nothing more than amusing. Listen to that orator whose mouth has run away with him. He began fairly well. His first few sentences were good enough. As long as his mind and his voice worked together he got on not so badly. But after a while his mind seemed to get behind his voice. Then it went clean out of work and his tongue went on alone. Noise takes the place of ideas. Having nothing to say he says it louder and still louder. Finally he "hollers" and gasps and gets out of breath. What is the matter with that orator—sometimes a preacher? Merely this, his mouth ran away with him and careered wildly along like a runaway horse.

Far be it from us to say that a speaker does no good even after his voice has run away with him. . . . A runaway horse may keep in the middle of the street and get to the other end in safety. Still it is better to have either horses or tongues under control.

The trouble that often arises between public speakers and reporters comes in right here. The speaker gets heated up, loses control of his tongue, and says things that in his cooler moments he never intended to say. The reporter is quite cool. Reporting speeches is his daily business and there is nothing about an ordinary meeting to excite him. If he is an honest and capable fellow the chances are ten thousand to one that his report is correct.

If uncontrolled tongues were only amusing they might be tolerated. A little harmless amusement is not a bad thing. But uncontrolled tongues are a scourge. They disturb families, distract congregations, raise quarrels among neighbors, and pollute the public life of a country. One reason why high-class men refuse to take any part in public affairs is because they know they will be assailed by the tongues and pens of assassins the moment they enter public life. Canada suffers more in this way than any other civilized country except, perhaps, the United States. In many cases the man

member of parliament who uses his privileges to say what he dare not say outside, may not care for abuse, but his friends and relations do care very much and they use their influence to keep the good man at home. In this way Canada is deprived of the help that many a good citizen would willingly give towards the building up of this young nation. Tongues and pens controlled by envy, jealousy, political hate, sectarian venom, personal hate, inordinate ambition are a greater scourge to this country than epidemic diseases has ever been.

Uncontrolled tongues are very expensive to this dominion. The sessions of parliament and of the legislatures are often twice as long as they need be just because some members speak more than twice as much as there is any necessity for. The country, of course, has to pay the bill.

Uncontrolled tongues sacrifice time as well as money. Let any business man of affairs look back over his life and ask himself how much of his precious time has been sacrificed listening to speakers who seemed to think that the rest of mankind were created for the express purpose of listening to them.

These tongues try temper as well as squander time and money. There are few things more irritating than to have to listen to a prosy, prolix man say things that have been said better a dozen times already and that he himself has repeated at least half a dozen times.

Moral: If you can't control your tongue when speaking, take a back seat and keep silent.—*Knoxonian, in the Presbyterian.*

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The missionary who ventures into the wilds of Alaska and other regions of the far North shares with the trapper, the miner and the explorer, the perils and hardships incident to life in those remote and desolate parts of the earth. But it is not often that these hardy pioneers are called upon to undergo such a trying experience as befell the Right Rev. Peter Rowe, Episcopal Bishop of Alaska, in a tour of visitation last March. The bishop was one of a party of three men, including a mail-carrier. The snow was very deep, making the trip specially difficult and perilous. The three men wandered from the trail one day and missed another mail-carrier inbound, whom they expected to meet with provisions. This mishap left them without food, except the game which they were able to kill. For three days the party subsisted on wild rabbits. The entire route covered on this visitation, from Fairbanks to Valdez, was five hundred miles through an unpeopled and untravelled region. The trail had to be broken all the way. The temperature for the greater part of the time was seventy degrees below zero. The bishop froze his face and hands severely. Indians were found nearly starving, and the party shared its food with them. Before Valdez was reached the supply for the dogs was so short that three of the animals were shot to end their sufferings. In crossing the Coast Range a blizzard was encountered, which for a time threatened

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