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The Silent Gossip

It isn't always what you say that hurts your fellow man;
There are other ways of giving him the "hooks."
And knockers long since learned to try a more effective plan—
They simply do it by their knowing looks.
No spoken word—why waste the breath? Just give a little wink,
Or elevate your eyebrows half an inch.
Just toss your head a trifle, smile a bit and slyly blink,
And you've done the dirty business—that's a cinch.

There's Brown, your nearest neighbor, he's distasteful unto you
But you haven't nerve enough to speak it out.
So whenever you hear him mentioned as a fellow good and true,
You only wink your eye, expressing doubt.
You grin a knowing kind of grin, your eyes are narrow slits,
But never say a word—from that you flinch.
But your actions tell your story, and his name is smashed to bits,
And you've done the dirty business—that's a cinch.

You envy Mrs. Jones a bit, and know no reason why;
But never stop to give her half a chance.
You merely hate the woman, though you smile on passing by
And curl your lips when taking backward glance.
You hear her kindly mentioned and you toss your head and smile,
But wouldn't dare a word in tightest pinch.
But your nodding tells your feelings, and in just a little while
You have done the dirty business—that's a cinch.

It isn't always what you say—you needn't say a word
To blast a woman's name beyond repair.
Perhaps you never spoke her name that anybody heard,
Yet smooched a reputation that was fair.
And all the while you do it you are puffing up with pride
That you wouldn't gossip even in a pinch;
But your nod or wink or smiling in a knowing way aside—
And you've done the dirty business—that's a cinch.

It's Too Often the Case

That you spend too much time criticizing and too little time helping.
That your boasted "plainness of speech" is merely boorishness.
That you content yourself with giving advice instead of lending a helping hand.
That you are planning such big things for tomorrow that you forget to attend to today's duties.
That you grumble at the wrongs that abound on all sides and fall to make any effort at righting them.
That you attend to the business of others without warrant and neglect your own business without excuse.
That you waste time envying the man who has a fortune and fall to make use of what lies at your hand.
That you yearn for reforms without

giving any assistance to those who are striving earnestly to bring them about.
That you waste a lot of time denouncing politics as "dirty business" and neglect to go to the primaries and purify it.

That you wish you could give millions to save the heathen and forget to speak the kind word that might help your neighbor.

That your boasted optimism is merely a laziness that impels you to accept what you have rather than hustle for something better.

That you spend a lot of time wishing you could do big things and fail to do the little things that amount to a great deal in the aggregate.

A Papa Goose Rhyme

John, John, the pipe line's son,
Went to Kansas on the run.
But Kansas balked and John was calked
And sadly homeward Johnny walked.

A Mental Reservation

"Do you not believe that senators should be elected by the people?" we asked of Senator Graball.
"I have no objections," replied the senator after a judicial pause. "However, I see nothing objectionable to the present system of selecting the proper man for the people to elect."

Gradual

"It is a sin to steal a pin,"
To steal a loaf is crime.
To steal a beef makes you a thief
And sets you doing time.
But steal some laws and get your paws
On every fellow's throat,
And take his wealth by crook and stealth—
And you're a man of note.
Indeed, that is your greatest chance
To be called "captain of finance."

Brain Leaks

Easy made, soon spent.
Real service is never servility.
The nearer one gets to God the closer one gets to one's neighbor.
The fact that there is no law against it does not always make it right.
The way to make tomorrow better than yesterday is to work today.
It isn't the money that counts; it is the intent and purpose of the giver.
The men who talk the loudest about politics being dirty are the men who are too lazy to help clean things.
A man may burn so much "midnight oil" that he has none left to oil the day's machinery.
The man who starts out looking for trouble usually finds it just about to enter his own door.
When a man begins to imagine that he "doesn't look his age" it is a sign that he is growing old.
The man who has no business of his own is a mighty poor man to engage to attend to your business.
A man may buy the reputation of being a philanthropist, but he can not buy the real philanthropist's character.
If a man is real honest he will admit that the proudest moment of his life was when he could see faint signs of a little bunch of beard in front of each ear.

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