



Gossip

*“A whisperer separateth chief friends”
Proverbs 16:28*

A whisperer, the chief of friends
Can cruelly separate,
When sharpened tongue and ready ears
Combine in works of hate.

"Lo! hath God said?" The tempter cried;
Then doubt and fear began,
Which snapped the happy, golden link
God's fellowship with man.

This foe still works as heretofore
To scatter and divide;
And careless talk he treasures most,
To make the breaches wide.

Beware of gossipmonger's talk,
Oft full of things untrue;
The voice you hear is just as swift
To speak the same of you!

As north winds drive away the rain,
Which tender herbs hath stung,
So shall a disapproving look,
A sharp, backbiting tongue.

Where no wood is, the fire is quenched;
Thus with tale-bearers cruel;
All strife must cease with stern rebuke,
For want of added fuel.

Think twice, speak once, and hasten not
To pass a judgment meet;
We have two ears to hear both sides,
One tongue to keep discreet!

.....Bernard Fell