

business life is sure to depend in a very great degree upon their good reputation. They should guard it, not only by exemplary conduct in the fulfillment of engagements, the discharge of duties, etc., but by truth-telling exactness in their reports and speeches. Those who are careless in this respect, though they may never consciously tell an untruth, soon become known as inexact and unreliable, and what they may say loses much of the weight it would carry if they had maintained a good reputation. One who is given to exaggeration has all of his sayings discounted, so that he finds it impossible to convey to those who know him an adequate idea of some really great event. He has, through a habit of exaggeration, lost to some extent the power of speech. Moreover, men who exaggerate usually defeat their own purposes, even with those who are strangers to them and do not know their faults. It used to be the rule of a writer somewhat famous for the strength of his expressions to write from the fullness of his heart, and then, when in a calmer mood, to strengthen his article by removing therefrom nearly all of the adjectives he had originally employed. It is a fact that extravagance of statement weakens a declaration, and there is no part of speech of which more sparing and thoughtful use should be made than adjectives, and especially superlatives. The boy who cried wolf too often has another companion in the common scold. People who are always complaining of others, so injure their reputation that they find themselves unable to get a real grievance redressed. It seems to be the old tale revived, and those who are forced to listen to it really pay no heed. The scold is most mischievous in the family circles, especially if he or she has to deal with children. The parent who is continually scolding, soon loses control of the child and finds fresh grievances in the latter's indifference to rebuke. One who, after living in a quiet neighborhood, settles near a railroad line, finds the unaccustomed noises almost intolerable, but after a time scarcely notices them. So also the child whose attention may be arrested by an occasional rebuke, loses consciousness of scoldings when he has heard