

The Tongue Prowls

*They (the ungodly) set their mouth against the heavens,
and their tongue walketh through the earth. Psalm 73:9*

These men spare none and leave nothing unspoken of.

If men be *poor*, they talk of oppressing and mastering of them
If men *oppose*, they discourse of violence and suppressing
If they meet with *truth*, they darken it with lies and home-made inventions
If with *innocence*, they brand it with false accusations and bitter aspersions
If with a strict *government* and *good laws*, then they cry, “Let us break their
bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.”
If with *religion*, they term it heresy or superstition
If with *patience*, they term it obstinacy and perverseness
If with the *church*, they think of nothing less than devouring it, and cry, “Let
us take the houses of God in possession.”
If with the thoughts of a *resurrection* and of *future hopes*, they cry, “Let us
eat and drink, for tomorrow we shall die.”

Thus no corner is left unsearched by their abusive tongue, which walks
through the earth. – Edward Parry 1660

Against God himself they aim their blasphemies. One would think, to hear them, that they were demi-gods themselves, and held their heads above the clouds, for they speak down upon other men as from a sublime elevation peculiar to themselves. Yet they might let God alone, for their pride will make them enemies enough without their defying him. Leisurely and habitually they traverse the whole world to find victims for their **slander and abuse**. Their *tongue prowls* in every corner far and near, and spares none. They affect to be universal censors, and are in truth perpetual vagrants. Like the serpent, they go nowhere without leaving their slime behind them. When these men’s tongues are out for a walk, they are unhappy who meet them, for they push all travelers into the kennel: it is impossible altogether to avoid them. – C. H. Spurgeon