Nay, Speak No Ill

Thoughtfully \( \frac{4}{4} \not= 76–84 \\

1. Nay, speak no ill; a kindly word Can never leave a
   sting behind; And, oh, to breathe each tale we’ve heard
   fault of face. How can it please the human pride

2. Give me the heart that fain would hide, Would fain another’s
   faults as your own. If you’re the first a fault to see,
   Is far beneath a noble mind. Full oft a better seed is sown
   To prove humanity but base? No, let us reach a higher mood,
   Be not the first to make it known, For life is but a passing day;

3. Then speak no ill, but lenient be To others’ failings
   By choosing thus the kinder plan, For, if but little
   A nobler estimate of man; Be earnest in the
   No lip may tell how brief its span. Then, oh, the little
good is known, Still let us speak the best we can.
search for good, And speak of all the best we can.
time we stay, Let's speak of all the best we can.

Text and music: Anon., ca. 1833

James 4:11
Ephesians 4:29–32