Nay, Speak No Ill

1. Nay, speak no ill, a kind - ly word Can nev - er leave a sting be - hind;
2. Give me the heart that fain would hide— Would fain an - oth - er's faults ef - face:
3. Then speak no ill, but le - nient be To oth - er's fail - ings as your own;

And oh, to breathe each tale we've heard, Is far be - neath a no - ble mind.
How can it please the hu - man pride To prove hu - man - i - ty but base?
If you're the first a fault to see, Be not the first to make it known.

Full oft a bet - ter seed is sown By choos - ing thus the kind - er plan,
No, let us reach a high - er mood— A no - bler es - ti - mate of man,
For life is but a pass - ing day, No lip may tell how brief its span;

For, if but lit - tle good is known, Still let us speak the best we can.
Be ear - nest in the search for good, And speak of all the best we can.
Then, O the lit - tle time we stay, Let's speak of all the best we can.

Text: Charles Swain (1801–1874), ca. 1845

Music: Unknown, ca. 1891

Tune Name: 'Kindly Word'

Source: Relief Society Song Book, 1919—no. 75