

people who were of his own blood, those outward advantages of his acquired position were all used and controlled to fit him better for rescuing his fellow-slaves from their miserable thralldom, and building them up to be a great people, while he became, through the truths he was commissioned to announce then, not only the Jews', but the world's lawgiver? Examples are endless: David, the shepherd-boy, musing in the solitude of the sheepwalk on thoughts which were to become the theme of Psalms fit to be sung by him amid assembled worshippers, when God raised him to be the wise and powerful shepherd of his people; Daniel, the abstemious, God-fearing captive youth, preparing to be the truth-loving, fearless, uncorrupted minister of a despotic court, upholding God and His truth with unshaken fidelity, while reigns began and ended, and dynasties tottered, and the plots of envious evil men were ever on the watch to entrap and ruin him. So in New Testament times—remember St. Peter's watchful labours at the net, fitting him to become equally watchful and laborious as a fisher of men, his early frowardness mellowing into steady zeal, losing, through the very discipline of its falls and disgrace, all in it which was wavering and unreliable, while it retained its eagerness and fire. Or think of St. Paul—his training at the feet of the great Pharisee—the deep insight he gained into his country's