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should be moved by these afflictions : for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto. For verily, when we were with you we told you that we should suffer tribulation ; even as it came to pass, and ye know. For this cause, when I could no longer forbear, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter should have tempted you and our labor be in vain," 1 Thes. 3. 2-5. The apostle himself returned to the children of God at Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra, "to confirm their souls" amid sufferings ; by assuring them, that "we must, through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God," Acts 14, 22.

Thus the meaning which we have given is in entire harmony with the analogy of faith. It is, undoubtedly, the doctrine of the Bible, that they that love God must pass through much tribulation. Why must they ? Because they "are appointed thereunto." Why are they appointed thereto ? They are predestinated to be conformed to the image of the Son, who though he was a Son, yet learned obedience by the things which he suffered, and who, through sufferings, attained to the glory which should follow.

Accordingly, the souls that have been regenerated are allowed to remain for a time in frail bodies that are susceptible of suffering. Causes of suffering crowd around them. Wicked men are permitted to persecute. And the course of physical nature is made to abound in sources of pain as well as of joy.

The arrangements
for carrying into ef-
fect the Divine will
are made and con-
tinued by Divine
Providence.

The afflictive character of the present state of nature, is, evidently, the appointment of God ; for the very same relation, aptitude, and correspondence, of parts, which are present, to prove that what is joyful belongs to the things that are made, are present, likewise, to prove, that what is afflictive belongs also to the things that are made. As the argument from design, proves that what is afflictive comes from God, as truly as what is joyous ; so does the testimony of Scripture, Thus saith God himself, "I form the light, and create darkness ; I make peace and create evil. I the Lord do all these things," Is. 45. 7. Again, in the 54th chap. and 16th ver., he says, "I have created the waster to destroy."