

were kept carefully out of sight. Again, the sarcasm of the Jebusites, who said that the blind and the lame would hold their citadel

against David (2 Sam. 5: 6), made that class of persons peculiarly repugnant to him; yet his affection triumphed over all.

APPLICATION

Kindness for Jonathan's sake, v. 1. In the city of Pittsburgh, in front of a library erected by Mr. Andrew Carnegie, the great donor of library buildings, stands a small monument, with an inscription showing that it was erected to the memory of a gentleman, who, when the millionaire was a poor boy, had permitted him to use the books in his own private library. Through all the years of his climbing up fortune's ladder, Mr. Carnegie cherished the memory of this kindness shown to him in his early years, and when he became a rich man, he showed his appreciation of the advantages opened up to himself, by seeking to place them within the reach of others. Gratitude for benefits received is best shown by generosity in sharing them with others.

The kindness of God, v. 3. A slave in climbing a mountain missed his footing and fell. He grasped a little bush to save himself, but it gave way and he
 God's Surprises went rolling down the slope with it in his hand. When he reached the bottom, he noticed little white particles adhering to the roots of the bush. They looked like silver. He climbed again to the spot, dug with his fingers into the soil, and found that his hopes were well-founded, and that he was the discoverer of a mine that secured for him a great fortune. When he slipped, he became alarmed; when the bush gave way, he cursed his misfortune; but the very events that filled his heart with anxiety and misgiving, were the greatest material blessings that ever came to him. God's kindness is oftentimes veiled, and surprises us in the most disconcerting ways. Some serious illness, an unexpected loss, a disastrous fire, a sore disappointment,—and we think we are undone. Then God discovers His kindness to us, and through these very misfortunes enriches us in a thousand ways that we had not dreamed of; and we find that behind "a frowning providence" He has hid "a smiling face".

Fear not, v. 7. When Catherine the Great ascended the throne of Russia, she cast a jealous eye on the young Princess Tarakanoff, only sixteen years of age, whose claims to the crown she dreaded, and who had found refuge in Italy. She sent Alexis Orloff to entice her by false promises to place her foot once more on Russian soil, where she could be arrested. But the young princess was too suspicious to be easily entrapped. Then Orloff made love to her, went through the form of a marriage ceremony, conveyed her as his bride to Leghorn, and, amid echoes of artillery and the shouts of a thousand throats, placed her on board a Russian warship. In a moment all was changed, her pretended husband deserted her, she was informed that the marriage was a mockery, and that she was Catherine's prisoner. For five long years she lay in a Russian dungeon, until the friendly waters of the Neva overflowed their banks, invaded the prison, and drowned the sorrows of the innocent victim of imperial displeasure. In vivid contrast with this cruelty, is David's generous treatment of Mephibosheth, a possible claimant to the throne of Israel. By his example the noble king teaches us how the kindness of God to us should constrain us to deal kindly even with those who may be our rivals.

Such a dead dog as I am, v. 8. Poor Mephibosheth was lame. He could neither join in the race, nor mount the war-horse, nor perform those brilliant feats of arms, which in those rough times secured a man power and fame. He felt he was of no more use than a dead dog. But it was his very infirmity that was his strongest appeal to the interest of his fellows. It was the appeal of the weak to the strong. "O, please do not kill me, I am so small", cried the little child to the rough soldier who had seized him when everyone was being put to death, and the appeal was respected. It is brutal to trample on helplessness, weakness or deformity. God has

Wherein the
Weak are
Strong