

God's; but the serpent knows her vision will soon be as Satan's. Half truth is often the basest lie.

"The crocodile cometh of an egg no bigger than a goose egg, yet he groweth till he be fifteen cubits long.....This setteth forth the manner of the increasing of Satan's kingdom. First he beginneth with small matters, and so by degrees to greater; from thought to consent, from consent to action, from action to custom, from custom to a habit of sin.....The devil hath an apple for Eve, a grape for Noah, a change of raiment for Gehazi, a bag for Judas."—*Spencer.*

"Satan seldom throws out a naked hook...For one he has a golden bait; for another, pleasure; for a third, worldly consequence and honor. And his line is thrown out in every place—in the place of business, in our families, studies, and at our tables, and on our pillows."—*Jackson.*

2. SIN, ver. 6. *Lust of the flesh* craves the fruit because GOOD FOR FOOD. Perhaps the serpent ate it in her presence. His example, his words, tempt. PLEASANT. Hebrew, a *desire*. Through beauty of form and color sinful desire fills the soul. "A thing of beauty is a joy forever" only when God permits its use. WISE. "The fear of the Lord, that is wisdom." (Job xxviii. 28.) Seeking forbidden wisdom, how soon will she be filled with folly. (See Rom. i. 22) TOOK. First step, *desired*; second, *took*; third, DID EAT. "Sin .....finished bringeth.....death." James i. 15. HE DID EAT. Seeing that Eve does not "surely die," (instantly,) Adam finds it easy to accept the "pleasant...fruit." Guilty Eve, guilty Adam! Sin-ruined!

"By the want of one nail the iron shoe is lost; and the shoe being lost, the horse falleth; and the horse falling, the rider perisheth. He that setteth light by small things falleth by little and little."—*Spencer*

"I will account no sin little, since there is not the least but works the death of the soul. It is all one whether I be drowned near the shore or in the midst of the sea."—*Bishop Hall.*

O cursed, cursed Sin! traitor to God,  
And ruiner of man! mother of Woe,  
And Death, and Hell—wretched, yet seeking  
worse. —*Pollok.*

3. SHAME, vers. 7, 8. EYES .....WERE

OPENED. But not to see "as gods." Paradise is full of beauty, yet they see only their own shame. Vision of sin! Eden's glory has departed! SEWED. Plaited, twisted THE VOICE—once welcome, now dreaded. COOL. Hebrew, *wind*, breeze. HID. Covered with shame, they cannot bear the once joyful PRESENCE OF THE LORD. How sin would turn heaven into hell!

"If hell were on one side, and sin on the other, I would rather leap into hell than willingly sin against my God!"—*Anselm.*

"As the ant-hill, when stirred, sets in motion its living insects in every direction, so the conscience of the sinner, disturbed by the spirit or judgment of God, calls up before its vision thousands of deeds which fill the soul with agony and woe."—*M'Coach.*

4. SALVATION, ver. 15. ENMITY. Eternal war between sin and righteousness. THY SEED. Sinners; called by Jesus "vipers," "children of the wicked one," Matt. iii. 7; xiii. 38. (The reptile now called serpent is universally hated.) HER SEED. The promised MESSIAH; he shall BRUISE the HEAD of Satan; that is, hinder his power; and Satan shall BRUISE HIS HEEL, that is, slightly hurt Christ's cause. Jesus shall be VICTOR.

The Scriptures compare sinners to ashes under the feet, beasts, briars, thorns, bulls of Bashan, chaff, corruptness, dogs, evil figs, fools, grass, lions greedy of prey, moth-eaten garments, scorpions, serpents, smoke, stubble, swine, troubled sea, wandering stars, whited sepulchres, with many other fearful comparisons.

"Every loving word that God speaks to us acts back again, and makes music in his heart. He never says with a scowl, 'Here comes that poor, limping sinner again.' The path of the sinner back to God is brighter and brighter all the way up to the smile of the face and the touch of the hand; and that is salvation."—*Beecher.*

An Indian, when asked what the Lord had done for him, gathered some dry leaves into a circle, and placing a worm in the centre, set them on fire. As the flames drew nearer on every side, and were about to consume the worm, he lifted it out, and, placing it safely on a rock, looked up and said, "This is what Jesus did for me."