

bable that he looked with envy upon the youth and health of his son, and could not bear that he should live to enjoy the kingdom he himself would so soon be forced to resign. He therefore ordered him to be executed upon some trifling pretence of jealousy or suspicion.

Knowing that he was generally hated and dreaded by the Jews, and that his death would occasion a general rejoicing as soon as it was announced, he summoned all the principal Jews of the kingdom to assemble in Judea, and when they obeyed his orders, he caused them all to be shut up in a secure place, called the circus; he then sent for his sister, Salome, and her husband, and gave directions that as soon as he was dead, a party of soldiers should be sent into the circus, to murder all the Jews who were there; in order, as he said, to cause a general mourning throughout Jerusalem, and all the country of the Jews, though it would not be for him.—Salome, however, was not so wicked as to perform such a bloody command, and when Herod died, a few hours after, the poor Jews were released from their confinement, and permitted to return in safety to their homes.

It appears scarcely possible to us that so wicked a man as Herod should ever have existed, but when the heart of man is not converted and subdued by the restraining grace of God, and by the mild influence of religion, there is scarcely any degree of depravity to which the evil tempers and passions of our nature are not capable of leading us. Read, *Harriet*, the third and fourth verses of the twenty-seventh chapter of Proverbs.

*Harriet*.—"The sand is weighty, and a stone heavy; but a fool's wrath is heavier than them both.

"Wrath is cruel, and anger is outrageous; but who is able to stand against envy."