

THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT.

(ITS MOSAIC ENUNCIATION.)

**HONOUR THY FATHER AND THY MOTHER
THAT THY DAYS MAY BE LONG UPON THE
LAND WHICH THE LORD THY GOD GIVETH
THEE.**

This commandment forms the connecting link between our duty towards God, the Creator, and our duty towards our fellow creatures. Those with whom we have to do in this world may be classified as our superiors, inferiors and equals. This commandment therefore embodies the law of obedience, respect and compassion.

Disrespect towards one's parents has been ranked, by the severity of its punishment, an offence as heinous as murder. 1. "He that curseth his father or his mother shall surely be put to death." 2. "He that smiteth his father or his mother shall surely be put to death." 3. "And they shall say to the elders of the city, This our son is stubborn and rebellious; he will not obey our voice. And all the elders of his city shall stone him with stones that he die." These three quotations are startling from the emphasis they give to the com-