

plans of benevolence which they have devised, or by favorable circumstances in which they have been placed, they may have been enabled to achieve such improvements in literature, make such discoveries in art or science, or introduce such institutions, as shall carry down their names with honour to future generations, or they may at their deaths so dispose of the wealth which they have acquired during life, as to render it productive of benefit to mankind, for many generations after they have been removed from the land of the living. Yet none of these things will excuse them from serving their own generation. David was serviceable to succeeding generations by the preparations which during his lifetime he made for the erection of that Temple which his successor, Solomon, built, for the service of God at Jerusalem, and by the composition of Psalms, which have been employed by many generations in the worship of God. Yet David did not neglect to serve his own generation. By establishing the kingdom of Israel in righteousness, setting an example of piety and goodness, and encouraging others in all that was good, he was eminently serviceable to his own generation. So we ought all to seek to serve our own generation. This we can all do by showing an example of patient submission to the divine will, faithfulness in the discharge of relative duties, diligence in business in the various stations in which Providence has placed us, and fervency of spirit in serving the Lord.