

of peace," (Eccles. iii. 8), but servants have no right to be choosers, much less to refrain from action, when the service is arduous, and attended with difficulty, seeking into the future for excuses for in-ertness, instead of being earnest and zealous in the work of to-day.

The book of Judges gives the history of man's unfaithfulness in the very place of blessing, sinning in the very face of the bounty and grace which had put him there. It also gives the dealings of God with His people, in chastisement, and repeated deliverance. Such was His love and regard, that He pitied them in their sufferings, which their own sin brought upon them. "Yea, many a time He turned His anger away, and did not stir up all His wrath." (Psalm lxxviii. 38.) The sixth chapter of Judges opens with a renewed account of Israel's iniquity, and the consequences of it. "The hand of Midian prevailed against Israel, . . . and Israel was greatly impoverished, . . . and the children of Israel cried unto the Lord." How gracious His ways! He sent a prophet unto them, to remind them of His goodness, how He had delivered them out of the hands of the Egyptians, and out of the hand of all them that oppressed them, and gave them their land. "And I said unto you, I am the Lord your God; fear not the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell; but ye have not obeyed my voice." The testimony to their evil is recorded. The bounty of His grace is unfolded to meet it. Gideon is appointed a deliverer. And the