

Eli, in similar circumstances, silenced his heart with this single but sufficient consideration, "*It is the Lord.*"\* David, under a stroke which he declares consumed him, observes, "*I was dumb, I opened not my mouth because THOU didst it.*"† And Job, when stript of every comfort, blessed the name of Him who took away, as well as gave.‡ Whatever be the nature of your calamity, may it be attended with such an humble and child-like spirit as these possessed!

But the Sovereign Disposer is also the COMPASSIONATE FATHER. Among other instances of his tenderness, you may have observed the peculiar supports he affords under peculiar trials. Let us mark, and acknowledge, the hand which mingles mercy with judgment, and alleviation with distress. The parents I have just mentioned lost their children under circumstances far more distressing than yours:—The desire of your eyes (if not the idol of your heart) was, perhaps, almost a stranger :) you

\* 1 Sam. iii. 18. † Psal. xxxix. 9. ‡ Job. i. 21.