

whatever is ordained by the All-wise and holy Creator, must be good, and infallibly promote our eternal interests. Our Lord teaches us that God chastens, proves, and exercises us, because he loves us, and because this love embraces the whole of our existence both here and hereafter. He tells us that calamities are benefits, when God inflicts them on his children, producing the precious fruits of fortitude, obedience, and faith; and therefore, he most justly infers, that the sufferings of the present time are not worthy to be compared to the glory that shall hereafter be revealed to us. Christ exhorts us to persevere in well doing, and not to faint, for our Father knows our wants and abilities. Are we perplexed and alarmed at the calamities which befall ourselves and others? he refers us to God who directs and governs all things by unerring wisdom and goodness.

His example illustrates and confirms his exhortation, for he himself was made perfect through sufferings. "Not my will, but thine be done," was his prayer of resignation in the hour of his agony, receiving the cup of sorrow with acquiescence and thanksgiving. "Bear," says he to his disciples, "as I have borne, fight the battles that I have fought, and in which so many of my friends have been victorious; the conquest is certain, and the glory it confers shall last forever.—Offer your will to the far wiser will of God, for in his administration all is good, and his purposes can never fail."

From having the mind of Christ, both in precept and example, we cease to murmur and complain; we become resigned. In a little time, we rejoice in our filial obedience, our passions no longer rebel against a ready acquiescence in the dispensations of Providence. How delightful to copy after Christ, and be like unto him, who never murmured against God, never doubted of his justice and goodness, never complained of his severe afflictions; but cheerfully submitted himself to be guided and governed by his Father in heaven, convinced that whatever he decrees is holy, just, and fit.

Thus the same mind shall be in us, which was also in Christ Jesus, and we shall never repine when the hand of adversity is upon us, or accuse God of injustice, because he chastens and tries us; but, we shall worship and adore him as our Creator and Benefactor, convinced that all that comes from God is benefit and blessing, and proofs of parental affection, though the narrowness of our vision may