

Afflictions of Life. *Ver. 1.* Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble. *Ver. 2.* He cometh forth like a flower and is cut down: he flieth also as a shadow, and continueth not. *Ver. 3.* And dost thou open thine eyes upon such a one, already so feeble and wretched, and bringest me into judgment with thee, to add extraordinary Calamities to a transitory, perishing Life? *Ver. 4.* who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? Not one. 'Tis a Sentence of the proverbial kind, and used to signify, that "nothing can be more perfect than its Original." And therefore, as it suits all like Cases, must be understood according to the Subject to which it is applied. Here it evidently stands in relation to our Mortality. As if he had said; Man is born of a woman: We spring from a mortal Stock, and therefore are frail and mortal. Then he goes on representing, not the Sinfulness, but the Mortality of human nature. *Ver. 5.* Seeing his days are determined, the number of his months with thee,—6. Turn from him that he may rest, &c.—7. For there is hope of a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again, and that the tender branch thereof will not cease.—8. Though the root thereof wax old in the earth,—9. yet though the scent of water it will bud.—10. But man dieth and wasteth away: yea, man giveth up the Ghost, and where is he?—11. As the waters fail from the sea, and the flood decayeth and drieth up:—so man lieth down, and riseth not till the heavens be no more, they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep.

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### SEED TIME.

*"Whatever a man soweth that shall he also reap,"*

"He that soweth to the flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting." Few persons seem to bear in mind that they are reaping every day what they have sown some days, months, or years before, even in their temporal enjoyments, or sorrows. Still more plain it is to those who believe the words of the Great Teacher sent from God, that men will hereafter reap in the long, long harvest, what they have scattered in the seed time of their existence. Others also will reap, in some sense, the seeds which we are sowing, just as we are now reaping the seeds sown by our ancestors and predecessors. These facts suggest to us the necessity of great attention to our conduct. Ourselves, here and hereafter, our children, and our children's children, with their contemporaries, may, and in many instances will, most assuredly reap what we are

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\* Dr. Patrick's Paraphrase.