

Prophet. The Psalms abound in reference to this providence: "The eyes of all wait on thee, and thou givest them their meat in due season. Thou satisfiest the want of every living thing. The Lord prepareth rain for the earth, he causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and herbs for the use of man. He sendeth the springs into the valleys; he watereth the hills from his chambers. He appointeth the moon for seasons, and the sun knoweth his going down." In Proverbs it is said, "The lot is cast into the lap, but the whole disposing thereof is of the Lord," and that though "a man's heart deviseth his way, the Lord directeth his steps." St. Paul tells us, that "He hath made of one blood all the nations of the earth, and hath appointed beforehand the bounds of their habitations; and that in Him we live and move and have our being." We are plainly taught that he feeds the ravens when they cry; that not a sparrow falls to the ground without his notice; that even the hairs of our heads are all numbered by him.

The history of the church of God in all ages is full of striking and continuous acts of providence; it is a continuous chain, composed of apparently small, and, to some, imperceptible links. The salvation of man, the call of Abraham, and his wanderings, of his descendants, what a succession of providences in bringing Joseph and his father's family to Egypt—in their subsequent deliverance. The Jews have providences surrounding them from the day they left Egypt to the present. And it is so with the Christian Church, in its infancy and feebleness—in its wide-spread influence, and in its corruption and darkness. The raising up of Luther,—the qualifications given him for his great work,—his dauntless courage, his preservation, all are significant that an unseen, but powerful agency, protected him. Look at the rise and progress of Methodism. The child who is the chosen instrument of awakening and purifying a sleepy and corrupt church, is providentially saved from the flames when his father's house was consumed. Methodism has been, and is still, the child of providence.

Civil history, and many of the events and incidents of common life, prove a particular providence. In these we may trace the dependence of the most important concerns upon what seems the merest trifles. The mere sight of a fig, shown in the senate house at Rome, led to the destruction of Carthage. Voltaire boasted that he would exterminate Christianity, and "*crush the wretch*," (as he impiously termed its author) but how a Protestant Church stands on, or near his grave, and the religion of Christ is preached over his ashes; whilst the very same printing press from which he once sent forth his infidel tracts and books, has since been used in printing the Bible.