

the left, who from that tender age was characterized as one that sought after the God of David his father, consequently setting his face against idolatry even to the purging of the land and the house ; until, in the eighteenth year of his reign, having cared for the house of Jehovah his God, the passover is kept on the fourteenth day of the first month, and there was no passover like to that kept in Israel from the day of Samuel the prophet ; neither did ail the Kings of Israel keep such a passover as Josiah kept, and the priests, and the Levites, and all Judah and Israel that were present, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem ;—"after all this," of such an one it has to be recorded, that he goes out in a conflict unwarranted by Jehovah his God ; and (as with David, so with Josiah) down he falls. David failing to maintain conflict at the time of conflict, "at the time when kings go forth to battle ;" and Josiah becoming involved in a conflict that brought him into variance with God Himself. (2 Chron. xxxv. 21, 22.) And such is the blotted, besmeared history of the first man, look at it where we may.

Beloved ! what volumes do those three words, "after all this," speak to one's heart ! If perchance, through grace, a measure of steadiness may have marked our pathway hitherto, while many leaders have fallen, what sorrow, if after so much grace shewn us, the Spirit of God should have to write an "after all this" in our history, to chronicle our declension of *heart* (for surely that