

intemperance, luxury and lust destroy the health of men ; sloth and prodigality make them poor ; and pride and ambition create quarrels and revenge, and a train of other miseries, which men, by indulging their lusts and passions, bring upon themselves, and are the sure punishment of their vices. Intemperance is generally the origin of distress to men in every situation ; rich and poor equally feel its direful effects. Drunkenness destroys the faculties, enervates the frame, inflames the blood, lets loose the passions, and leads human nature into breaches of the commands of God ; and brings on calamities, destructive to man's peace of mind, and hopes of felicity, either in this life, or in that which is to come.

These commandments were delivered by the Almighty, and dictated by his wisdom. They are replete with the most salutary truths, rules and restrictions ; suited to the understanding of men, and so well adapted to correct all irregular passions and propensities, that to act contrary to them, is to act contrary to our very nature, our happiness and our truest interest ; therefore, they verify our Saviour's declaration before mentioned, that his yoke is easy, and his burthen is light.

Cavillers at religion, have however arrogantly disputed the justice of Providence ; saying, that God permits the wicked to prosper, and, as the Psalmist says, to spread like a green bay tree ;* when the godly are depressed and borne down. It must be confessed, that to our weak apprehensions, the ways of Providence are often dark and intricate. We cannot fathom them ; yet we may be certain of this, that the Almighty cannot err, and that his goodness will incline

* Psalm xxvii. 35, 36. But see on this head, Psalm lxxiii ; where it is declared, that the ungodly who prosper, are set in slippery places, and their destruction is sudden and fearful.