

“ Have pity upon me; have pity upon me, O ye
 “ my friends: For the hand of God hath touched
 “ me†.”

Had he wasted his estate by luxury and extravagance; had he ruined his constitution by vice and debauchery; had he driven away his friends by insolence and unkindness, he would have saewd himself to have been one of the Devil's poor; and no man would have dropped a tear on his misfortunes. But his sufferings were not the fruit of his vices: For he belonged to the family of heaven, being a
 “ perfect and an upright man, one that feared
 “ God and eschewed evil.‡ His sufferings were
 the correction of a father's hand, who doth not
 willingly afflict the children of men, and who even
 in wrath remembers mercy.

You see men rising on the ruins of innocence and growing rich by fraud and treachery: Can you suppose a holy and righteous God approves of this? No; he only suffers such irregularities to take place, that he may manifest to all the world,
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† Job xix, 21. ‡ Job i, 1.