

CHAP. V.—PRUDENCE.

Hear the words of Prudence, give heed unto her counsels, and store them in thine heart : her maxims are universal, and all the virtues lean upon her. She is the guide and mistress of human life.

Put a bridle on thy tongue, set a guard before thy lips, lest the words of thine own mouth destroy thy peace.

Let him that scoffeth at the lame, take care that he halt not himself. Whosoever speaketh of another's failings with pleasure, shall hear of his own with bitterness of heart.

Of much speaking cometh repentance, but in silence is safety.

A talkative man is a nuisance to society ; the ear is sick of his babbling ; the torrent of his words overwhelmeth conversation.

Boast not of thyself, for it shall bring contempt upon thee ; neither deride another, for it is dangerous.

A bitter jest is the poison of friendship ; and he who cannot restrain his tongue shall have trouble.

Furnish thyself with the proper accommodations belonging to thy condition ; yet spend not to the utmost of what thou canst afford, that the providence of thy youth may be a comfort to thy old age.

Avarice is the parent of evil deeds, but frugality is the sure guardian of our virtues.

Let thine own business engage thy attention : leave the care of the state to the governors thereof.

Let not thy recreations be expensive, lest the pain