

versity. It is then, if the most latent spark of virtue be left within us, that we discover our dangerous situation.

Our feeble nature, and our manifold transgressions make us feel, that without the assistance of God, we are absolutely wretched. Adversity ever leadeth to repentance; we begin to enquire into the causes of these corrections, with a conviction that God never chastiseth his children without reason.

Have we not, we begin to ask ourselves, indulged in the pleasures of this world, rather than placed our affections on Heavenly things—has not the praise of men rather than the approbation of God been the object of our pursuit—has the grave, which to the true Christian, is the inlet to Heaven, and every day opening to receive some friend or acquaintance, induced us to make the necessary preparations for approaching death; or have we not rather conducted ourselves as if invulnerable, by its shafts. And have not the apprehensions of the pains of death, rather than the fear of an after reckoning, given us uneasiness on the bed of sickness. In our ordinary concerns, have not the arts of dissimulation and deceit, rather than honest dealings, put us in possession of wealth, and opened the way