

es for a brief period
 may be, like the
 er's knee but from
 e words, "He hath
 applicable with any
 ful in that form of
 sufferer, banishing
 m his eye, the live-
 ht beautiful in the
 ng around his head
 iful in the felt pre-
 g of terrors" hover-
 nch his dart? Is
 re the beloved ob-
 is wide and yawn-
 shall mingle with
 e melancholy but
 ppily a stranger to
 irst impulsive an-
 power of religion
 autiful in all that
 is gloomy and for-
 exercise, answers
 "its lips, though
 ejoin, "It is well."
 ur answer must of
 m. Perhaps that
 to mature years,
 e of iniquity, and
 ents, and to bring
 grave. Perhaps
 hose who feel his

loss so keenly, admonishing them of the frail tenure by which all earthly things are held, and leading them to set their affections upon those things which are above, where Christ sits at the right hand of God. Perhaps the stroke may be a means of profit to many, even beyond the household on which it has fallen, in the way of showing the vanity of time, and bringing eternity nearly and impressively home to their minds. I need not multiply such observations. Other contingencies of a similar kind will readily suggest themselves to your minds. But I make this application: if, on the one hand, the removal of a child in the very budding of his existence prevents consequences of the most unhappy kind (which for all that we can tell might occur); and if, on the other hand, his removal shall, by the blessing of God, produce positive results in the spiritual and eternal welfare of survivors (as we can easily see that it is adapted to do); then sad and painful as it undoubtedly is in itself, it must, when considered in its relative bearings, be pronounced a wise, a good, an admirable, and altogether a beautiful dispensation. It would not, on a large view of the scheme of providence, have been good for that child to live longer in the world. "Its time to die" was well chosen.

III. I hasten, however, as proposed in the third place, to notice the idea suggested by the latter part of the text, that our inability to discover the object which God has in view in any case, or to satisfy ourselves of the fitness of a particular dispensation, ought not to interfere with our belief in the necessary beauty of the divine procedure.

What does God mean by his procedure? How is his procedure adapted to gain the end contemplated? We naturally put such questions, especially when affliction befalls us; for God has "set the world in our hearts," has endowed us with a propensity to inquire into his dispensa-