

taste? the water he drinketh, is it not pleasant to his thirst? yea, far more delicious than the richest draughts of the luxurious.

His labour preserveth his health, and produceth him a repose, to which the downy bed of sloth is a stranger.

He limiteth his desires with humility, and the calm of contentment is sweeter to his soul than the acquisitions of wealth and grandeur.

Let not the rich, therefore, presume on his riches, nor the poor despond in his poverty, for the providence of God dispenseth happiness to them both, and the distribution thereof is more equally made than the fool can believe.

CHAP. III.—MASTER AND SERVANTS.

Repine not, O man! at the state of servitude; it is the appointment of God, and hath many advantages; it removeth thee from the cares and solitudes of life.

The honour of a servant is his fidelity; his highest virtues are submission and obedience.

Be patient, therefore, under the reproofs of thy master; and when he rebuketh thee, answer not again. The silence of thy resignation shall not be forgotten.

Be studious of his interests, be diligent in his affairs, and faithful to the trust which he reposeth in thee.

Thy time and thy labour belong unto him. Defraud him not thereof, for he payeth thee for them.

And thou who art a master, be just to thy servant, if thou expectest from him fidelity, and reasonable in thy commands, if thou expectest a ready obedience.