

or it had been brought to an end by the miraculous interposition of Jehovah, as related in the subsequent part of this chapter, verse 36—40, they would come forth to instruct the people in the law of the Lord, and assist them in their worship.—Good Obadiah! What comfort hadst thou in this thy deed of love? Thine too, was the blessing of many that were ready to perish. It came upon thee! What fervent effectual prayers would be offered to God on his behalf? Perhaps, to these prayers it may be ascribed, that Obadiah was shielded from the fatal effects of Ahab's caprice, and Jezebel's malice.

Is it not true that most of those who have been eminently useful have been examples of early piety? The Scriptures furnish us with other instances, as Joseph, Samuel, and Josiah, David and Timothy. The age and the land of our fathers abound with examples—some of whom are fallen asleep in Jesus, others are yet pillars of the Church at home, whilst many are multiplying her converts in foreign lands. Earnestly do I desire that this important consideration, should penetrate to the central heart of all our youth, and there find a lasting abode. We ought to be profoundly concerned for the continued prosperity of pure and undefiled religion. To an extent which can hardly be over-estimated, this depends on the character, the principles, the habits of those who are rising up to take the place of our fathers in Christ, who are gradually passing away.