

The hand of the generous man is like the clouds of Heaven, which drop upon the earth fruits, herbage and flowers ; but the heart of the ungrateful is like a desert of sand, which swalloweth with greediness the showers that fall, burieth them in his bosom, and produceth nothing.

Envy not thy benefactor, neither strive to conceal the benefit he hath conferred ; for though to oblige is better than to be obliged, though the act of generosity commandeth admiration, yet the humility of gratitude toucheth the heart, and is amiable in the sight of both God and man.

But receive not a favour from the hand of the proud, to the selfish and avaricious have no obligation ; the vanity of pride shall expose thee to shame, the greediness of avarice shall never be satisfied.

#### CHAP. V.—SINCERITY.

O thou who art enamoured with the beauties of truth, and hast fixed thy heart on the simplicity of her charms, hold fast thy fidelity unto her, and forsake her not, the constancy of thy virtue shall crown thee with honour.

The tongue of the sincere is rooted in his heart, hypocrisy and deceit have no place in his words.

He blusheth at falsehood, and is confounded ; but in speaking the truth, he hath a steady eye.

He supporteth as a man the dignity of his character, to the arts of hypocrisy he scorneth to stoop.

He is consistent with himself, he is never embar-