

That God is good, and to be loved and worshipped, we are convinced from his care of the whole creation.

*For his tender mercies are over all his works*, Psal. cxlv. 9. Therefore have his creatures the comfort of the rain and sun, of food and shelter; the earth yields increase, and the seas are stored with creatures innumerable.

In the hand of God are these and all other blessings, which he withholds, or giveth, according to his good pleasure, to teach us, that we wholly depend on him; *that man liveth not by bread alone*, nor by his own industry, but by the providence of God, who ordereth all conditions of life for the best, for those that cannot choose for themselves.

And if he suffers *some to be poor*, it is because that condition is best for them *now*; but he will make them a great amends in the next world for what they want in this, if they will be content and honest, neither murmur in their own lot, nor envy that of others.

*When God giveth riches*, it is not to make them an occasion of our ruin, but to try our virtue; for, *if we are not high-minded, if we trust not in uncertain riches, but in the living God; if we do good with them, and readily distribute to the necessity of others; then are riches a real blessing, and help to bring us to eternal life.* 1 Tim. vi. 17.

*If he bringeth us into affliction*, is it not that he is pleased with the miseries of his creatures, *but he is shewing them their transgression, he is opening their ear to discipline, that they may return from iniquity, and save their souls from death eternal.* Job xxxvi. 9.

*If he suffers us to be tempted*, it is not that we might fall, but to make us more sensible of our own weakness, that we may come to him for help, on whom we depend, *who will not suffer us to be tempted above what we are able to bear*; and who will reward our poor endeavours with unspeakable happiness.