

THE REPROACH OF WOMAN.



GENESIS, THE THIRD CHAPTER.

THE 'SERPENT DECEIVETH EYE.

NOW the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made, and he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden. And the woman said unto the serpent, we may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said ye shall not eat of it lest ye die. And the serpent saith unto the woman thou shalt not surely die. For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof then your eyes shall be opened and ye shall be as gods, knowing good from evil. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was pleasant to the eye and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit and did eat and gave also unto her husband with her and he did eat. And the Lord said unto the woman what is this thou hast done."

Now, dear sisters, this to me seems very humiliating language. Let us prayerfully contemplate upon it, and seeing that womans' weakness was the cause of man's shameful fall, we thereby losing the favour of God and the esteem of man, it therefore be-