

BUT amidst all his tenderness and fondness for his children, he endeavors to confine his lamentations to the same period with the child's life: This he does from a consideration that all his tears and lamentations could not in the least avail towards restoring the deceased infant to his natural life—that the child had but gone before him to his final home—that the deceased could not return, but the father must follow him, to the place appointed for all living—must soon enter that war, from which there is no discharge.

SINCE David, the illustrious saint and servant of God, made this maxim, an argument for preventing violent grief and lamentation, it is very proper that we should give attention to it, and suffer it to have great weight with us, when we find ourselves inclined to despair, to discouragement, or to extravagant grief under the chastisements of our heavenly father's hand.

MANKIND cannot absolutely and universally rule their passions, such as hope, fear, joy, grief and the like; but *some* controul and command of these passions lies within our power, yea *much more* than is generally imagined. We find upon trial, that it is (to a considerable degree) in our power to increase or diminish, our belief or disbelief of a proposition; to magnify or to lessen our hope of a benefit, or fear of an evil: In like manner we find ourselves able (beyond what is commonly supposed) to increase our joy upon prosperity, and our grief under adversity. Upon this principle David undertook to regulate his mourning, to moderate his grief at the loss of his son. He considered the impossibility of bringing back his son from the dark and silent grave: and he endeavored to let reason predominate over his passion, to regulate his conduct by the principles of a sound understanding: He argues with himself like a rational creature, and like a true child of God. If we under the same affliction, imitate the bright pattern of king David, we shall perform our duty to our God and to ourselves: we shall escape much needless distress and unavailing vexation; we shall act more consistent with our own reason, more a-