

chapter of the Book of Proverbs, at the 3rd verse: "The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good." This is highly poetical and beautiful, one of those gems with which the Bible is so richly studded. But though it is poetical—and, like all poetry, speaks to the imagination and feelings rather than to the understanding—its meaning is easily got at. 1. It suggests to the mind the omnipresence of God. Where the eyes of the Lord are there He must Himself be; and if the eyes of the Lord are in every place, then may we say with Robert Montgomery:

"Eye hath not seen,  
Imagination cannot paint the spot  
Above, beneath, around, where Thou art not."

2. It suggests the idea of the omniscience of God. If the eyes of the Lord are everywhere, then must He see everything, especially as in Him there is no darkness at all; the darkness hideth not from Him, but the night shineth as the day; the darkness and the light are both alike to Him. But this is not all. The eye is the symbol of intelligence. When the prophet would in the most impressive manner set forth the all comprehending perfection of the intelligence of God and the absolute character of his knowledge, he avails himself of the idea of perfection which, in the Jewish mind, was associated with the number seven, and represents Him as having seven eyes (Zech. iii. 9). Another of the inspired writers impressively sets forth the mystery of divine providence under the figure of a marvellously complicated piece of machinery, "wheel within wheel;" and in order to impress us with the fact that notwithstanding the complexity and mystery with which the subject is invested to our imperfect comprehension, the whole is regulated by the most perfect wisdom and knowledge, he represents the very "rings of the wheels" as being "full of eyes" (Ez. i. 15-20). Compare the 18th and the 20th verses in the passage referred to, and the correctness of this interpretation will be apparent. In the 18th verse the wheels are said to be "full of eyes;" in the 20th verse it is said the spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels—that spirit of supreme intelligence represented by the face of a man, of boldness and resistless energy represented by the face of a lion, of patient industry and endurance symbolised by the face of an ox, and of keen discernment and prompt and rapid dispatch typified by the face of an eagle.