

tea with a few drops of vinegar instead of milk, or gruel, and the like, should be given *in small doses* frequently repeated. Great caution is necessary at the moment of restoration, and for some time afterward.

## OPENING THE BOOK OF RECORDS.

ILLUSTRATION of Mal. iii. 16.

Light is thrown upon this passage by a reference to the practice of chronicles, or books of record, being kept by Eastern princes, in which books were entered many matters of importance relative to the state. Thus, "When the adversaries of Judah and Benjamin heard that the children of the captivity builded the temple unto the Lord God of Israel," and set to work to oppose it; "Rehum, the chancellor, and Shimshai, the scribe, wrote a letter against Jerusalem, to Artaxerxes, the king" of Persia, in which they petitioned the king in these words: "That search may be made in the book of the records of thy fathers: so shalt thou find in the book of the records, and know that this city is a rebellious city, and hurtful unto kings and provinces, and that they have moved sedition within the same, of old time: for which cause was this city destroyed." The king, in consequence, searched the book of the records, and found as they said, and prevented Jerusalem at that time from being recovered from its ruins. So we read in Esther, that Mordecai the Jew had discovered a plot of two of the chamberlains of king Ahasuerus, to dethrone or destroy him, and having made it known to queen Esther, she immediately told it to the king. "And when inquisition was made of the matter, it was found out; therefore they were both hanged on a tree, and it was written in the book of the chronicles before the king." Some time elapsed, and no notice was further taken of Mordecai, except by the king's proud minister of state, Haman, who, mortified that

Mordecai would not pay him the homage he received from the obsequious Persians around him, determined, in revenge, to destroy both him and his people. For this purpose, he, as a favorite servant of the king, obtained a royal decree, which was on the eve of execution, when Providence remarkably interposed. One night, the king could not sleep, and he commanded to bring the book of records of the chronicles; and they were read before the king. It was found in reading them, that Mordecai had rendered the greatest service to the king in discovering the plot of his chamberlains, and, on further inquiry, that he had never been rewarded. This led to the elevation of Mordecai, the downfall of Haman, the preservation of the Jews, and the destruction of their principal enemies.

These little scripture narratives at once illustrate the expression of "the book of remembrance" kept before the Lord, "for them that feared the Lord, and thought upon his name." Such there were during the most wicked state of the Jews, just prior to the destruction of Jerusalem, and the gracious eye of God was upon them. As the scribe of an earthly prince would record all the actions of distinguished subjects, so every one that feared and revered God was carefully noticed by him, and would be safe in the day of approaching calamity. "They shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in the day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him." We may stretch our thoughts still further, to that awful day of which the destruction of Jerusalem may be considered as a faint type, and then, when the wicked shall be consumed in the flames of Divine wrath, the great King of kings shall see, infinitely more clearly than ever monarch saw the register of his subjects' deeds, all the evidences of his people's charac-