

Saviour's dealings with me, remembering that he suffered for me, and that he knows what is best for me!"

"Compelled by persecution to quit his native land, Rabbi Akiba wandered over barren wastes and sandy deserts. His whole baggage consisted of a lamp, which he used to light at night in order to study the law; a cock, which served him instead of a watch to awaken him in the morning; and an ass on which he rode.

"The sun was fast going down—night was approaching, and the poor wanderer knew not where to shelter his head or rest his weary limbs. Fatigued and almost exhausted, he at last came near a village. He asked for a night's lodging, but was refused. Not one of the inhospitable inhabitants would receive him; he was, therefore, obliged to seek for shelter in a neighbouring wood. 'It is hard, very hard,' said he, 'not to find a hospitable roof to protect me from the inclemency of the weather; but God is just, and whatever he does is for the best.' He seated himself beneath a tree, lighted his lamp, and began to read the law. He had scarcely read a chapter when a violent storm extinguished the light.

'What!' exclaimed he, 'must I not be permitted even to pursue my favourite study? But God is just, and whatever he does is for the best.'

"He stretched himself on the bare earth, willing, if possible, to have a few hours sleep. He hardly closed his eyes when a fierce wolf came and killed the cock. 'What new misfortune is this?' ejaculated the astonished Akiba. 'My vigilant companion is gone! Who will henceforth awaken me to the study of the law? But God is just—he knows what is best for us poor mortals.' Scarcely had he finished the sentence when a terrible lion came and devoured the ass. 'What is to be done now?' exclaimed the lonely wanderer. 'My lamp and my cock are gone! My poor ass too is gone? But praised be the Lord, what he does is for the best.' He passed a sleepless night, and early in the morning went to

the village to see if he could procure a horse, or any other beast of burden, to enable him to pursue his journey. But what was his surprise not to find a single individual alive!

"It appeared that a band of robbers had entered the village during the night, killed its inhabitants, and plundered their houses. As soon as Akiba had recovered from the amazement into which this wonderful occurrence had thrown him, he lifted up his voice and exclaimed, 'Thou great God, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob! now I know by experience that poor mortal men are short-sighted and blind, often considering those things as evils which thou intendest for their preservation; but thou alone art just, and kind, and merciful. Had not the hard-hearted people, by their inhospitality, driven me from their village, I should assuredly have shared the same fate. Had not the wind put out my lamp, the robbers would have been drawn to the spot, and murdered me. I perceive also that it was thy mercy which deprived me of my two companions, that they might not by their noise give notice to the robbers where I was. Praise be thy name for ever and ever; for thou knowest what is best!'"

INFLUENCE OF LEARNING.

It rarely, very rarely happens, that a man of taste and learning is not, at least, an honest man, whatever frailties may attend him. The bent of his mind is speculative, and studies must mortify in him the passions of interest and ambition, and must, at the same time give him a greater sensibility of all the decencies and duties of life. He feels more fully a moral distinction in characters and manners; nor is his sense of this kind diminished, but on the contrary, is much increased by speculation.

Negligence in small things is a species of infidelity which is often punished by great falls.

We wish that God should hear us in our prayers, but we do not always hear ourselves.