

SPARE MOMENTS WITH GOOD AUTHORS.

I FIND David making a syllogism, in mood and figure ; two propositions he perfected :

"If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.

"But verily God hath heard me, he hath attended to the voice of my prayer."

Now I expected that David should have concluded thus :

Therefore I regard not iniquity in my heart.

But far otherwise, he concludes :

"Blessed be God, who hath not turned away my prayer, nor his mercy from me."

Thus David hath deceived, but not wronged me. I looked that he should have clapped the crown on his own, and he puts it on God's head. I will learn this excellent logic ; for I like David's better than Aristotle's syllogisms, that, whatsoever the premises be, I make God's glory the conclusion.—*Fuller*.

AMIAILITY IN RELIGION.—The brilliancy of the most valuable diamond may be hidden by earthly incrustations, the lustre of gold may be dimmed for want of polish, and the most majestic portrait be half covered with dust or mildew. So religion, which is more precious than rubies, more valuable than gold, and the very image of God in the soul of man, may have its worth and its excellence depreciated by infirmities of temper, and a want of amiable deportment. Be it your desire, your endeavor, your prayer, to unite the holy and the amiable : let the diamond with its flashing hues be thus seen in its most tasteful setting, the gold in its brightest polish, and the picture exhibiting the freshest colors, and surrounded by the richest frame.—*J. A. James*.

UNPARDONED SIN will never let us rest or prosper, though we be at ever so much care and cost to cover it ; our sin will surely find us out, though we find not it out. The work of confession is purposely to make known our sin, and freely to take the shame to ourselves ; and if "he that confesseth and forsaketh his sins shall have mercy," no wonder if "he that covereth them shall not prosper." If we be so tender of ourselves, and so loath to confess, God will be the less tender of us, and he will indite our confessions for us. He will either force our consciences to confession, or his judgments shall proclaim our iniquities to the world.—*Baxter*.

IT IS TERRIBLE to remember the quenched strivings of the Spirit which will rise in judgment against many almost Christians. "There have been times when the lost sinner was 'not far from the kingdom' of God ; times when life had chastened and subdued him ; or when it had startled him into thought ; times when he proved the emptiness of his creature-delights, and said of them 'Vanity of vanities, all is vanity.' Then, perhaps, he came very near the gate of the kingdom : he took the knocker in his hand ; he even knocked faintly, and heard the cry, 'Come in.' One step more and he had been saved ; but then Satan grew uneasy, and he dressed up the objects of time and sense with such fictitious attractions, he shed upon them such unreal light, he suggested how well it would be to secure both worlds, that the sinner drew back, intending to return at a more convenient season."—*Sayings of the King*.

"EXTRAORDINARY afflictions are not always the punishment of extraordinary sins, but sometimes the trial of extraordinary graces."—*Henry*.