

we know to be right and acceptable to God, and just to our fellow-creatures. Let us persevere in this study of the Bible, my dear children, with a resolution to have no other standard of action, and in all difficult cases to refer to the Word of God to decide what course we shall pursue. Let that Word be "A lamp to your feet, and a light to your path," and you need fear no darkness, for it is "sight to the blind," and "strength to the weak," and "wisdom to the simple." It is only by neglecting and forgetting this unerring and unchanging guide that we are overcome by the trials and perplexities of our journey through life.

Had Herod and the wicked King of Babylon made use of such light as the Scriptures of the Old Testament afforded them, they could never have fallen into such depths of sin as we find recorded against them, and which are of a nature from which all our feelings revolt; but do not, when you read or hear of such a fearful degree of depravity, imagine that you have less of it than others, because it has not in you brought forth such terrible fruits; the human heart is deceitful and desperately wicked, and if we have escaped the commission of any gross offence against religion or morality, we should be thankful that we have not been placed in situations to be tempted to such an extent, and as there is no use in dwelling on the sins and offences of others, except with a view to look more closely into our own, we will not even indulge in our detestation of such crimes as those of Herod and the King of Babylon, without asking ourselves whether, in proportion to the instructions we have had, and the temptations we have been shielded from, we have any right to boast that we are better than others?