

rienced Christian. A hasty spirit under these circumstances, is seriously to be deprecated ; it will probably lead to great indiscretions, perhaps to the renunciation of our principles ; whereas patience will open the ear to the important counsel which says, "Cast not away your confidence which hath great recompense of reward, for ye have need of patience, that after ye have done the will of God ye might receive the promise."* Another case, is where the Christian is subjected to *protracted bodily sufferings*. Here natural fortitude may do something for the sufferer, but not enough. It may silence the language of repining, but it cannot teach the heart, meekly and cheerfully to acquiesce in the will of heaven ; to lie passive in the hands of God, saying as pangs succeed to pangs, "Father not my will, but thine be done."† There must be divine teaching to produce this. The heart must be endued with patience from above. *Heavy and overwhelming calamities*, present also an especial occasion for the exercise of this grace. Even the true Christian is sometimes astounded by these. They come so unexpectedly, or they go to such an extent, or they seem connected with such a gloomy train of consequences, that his mind for a season, is appalled and sinks under the burden. But here again the voice of wisdom meets him with the friendly admonition, — "Take my Brethren, the Prophets who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience. Behold we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord ; that the Lord is very pitiful and of tender mercy."‡ If this counsel be only listened to in simplicity, it is soon found by happy experience, that "unto the godly there ariseth up light in the darkness ;"§ that visitations however trying or painful, are all accom-

* Heb. 10. 35, 36.

† Luke 22. 42.

‡ James 5. 10, 11.

§ Psal. 112. 4.