

He is puffed up with the vanity of his imagination ; his delight is to hear and to speak of himself all the day long.

He swalloweth with greediness his own praise, and the flatterer in return eateth him up.

CHAP. III.—APPLICATION.

Since the days that are past are gone forever, and those that are to come may not come to thee. It behoveth thee, O man ! to employ the present time, without regretting the loss of that which is past, or too much depending on that which is to come.

This instant is thine, the next is in the womb of futurity, and thou knowest not what it may bring forth.

Whatsoever thou resolvest to do, do it quickly. Defer not till the evening what the morning may accomplish.

Idleness is the parent of want and of pain ; but the labour of virtue bringeth forth pleasure.

The hand of diligence defeateth want ; prosperity and success are the industrious man's attendants.

Who is he that hath acquired wealth, that hath risen to power, that hath clothed himself with honor, that is spoken of in the city with praise, and that standeth before the king in his counsel ? even he that hath shut out idleness from his house, and hath said unto sloth, thou art mine enemy.

He riseth up early and lieth down late ; he exerciseth his mind with contemplation and his body with action ; and preserveth the health of both.