

## GOD'S DEALINGS WITH JOB.

HOW wonderful that our God should consider the *exercises* of a soul; that He should in pains-taking love meet all the questionings, all the hard problems, and at last satisfy that soul, and reveal Himself to it.

We find the book of Job occupied with this, forty-two chapters being taken up with the history of one man, in order that every one may know that God has a like interest in their history. We see that blessing is received through the conscience being exercised. Man acquired a conscience at the fall—the knowledge of good and evil—he partook of “the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.” Job had to learn, as each one of us has to learn, that there is no good, and only evil in our heart. The question was raised, “How should man be *just* before God” (chap. ix: 2). There was no rest until this question was answered. We find that Job justified himself, and found fault with God. In chapter x, Job says, “I will say unto God, Do not condemn me . . . . Is it good unto thee that thou shouldest oppress? that thou shouldest despise the work of thine hands, and shine upon the counsel of the wicked? . . . . Thou knowest that I am not wicked.” What patience is manifested towards Job!

Again the question comes into his soul: “Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? not one” (chap. xiv: 4.)