

Full many things are best forgot ; and all
 The dross of life, men's vices and their fallings,
 Should from our memories be let slip away,
 As drops the damaged fruit from off the bough
 Ere comes the autumn. It were wise, nay, just,
 To strike with men a balance ; to forgive,
 If not forget, their evil for their good's sake.
 The good thus cherished, banished thus the bad,
 As the refiner from the charged alembic
 Removes the scum that clouds the precious ore,
 We shall grow rich in life's pure gold, and lose
 Only its base alloy, its dross and refuse.

The following is one of many passages which, by creating an intelligence of the greatness and subtlety of Saul's temptations, render his example more affecting and fearful. Abner, in reply to Saul's lamentations over his liability to the apparently irresistible possessions of the evil spirit, says : —

Jehovah's ways are dark.

Saul.

If they be just, I care not :

I can endure till death relieve me ; ay,
 And not complain ; but doubt enfeebles me,
 And my strong heart, that gladdeth to endure,
 Falters 'neath its misgivings, and, vexed, beats
 Into the speed of fever, when it thinks
 That the Almighty greater is than good.