And if mercy be expected from one of these kings, then much more may it be from the Supreme, the King of those kings, the Almighty, who hath promised large graces to humble souls. So Esther, at the advice of Mordecai, chap. iv. 5, made good proof of this humble way of addressing for mercy, in a case otherwise desperate; the success whereof was the royal sceptre holden forth with grace, to grant even beyond a petition, though she knew not, when she went about it, but that she should perish: yet, wisely perceiving that she must perish if she had not so applied, she proceeded.

Thus was it with the lepers, 2 Kings vii. 4. If they went into the city they should suffer famine, if they stayed where they were they must die; they therefore would venture for relief among their enemies, being sure they could not be worse than they were, they could but die one way or another: so when the soul is thus brought to see its own misery, and humbleth itself thoroughly, and withal is willing to embrace what means soever presents so much as a possibility of saving it; then God shows his mercy to refresh it, according to Isa. lvii. 15, 16, &c., " To revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the hearts of the contrite ones." So Ps. li. 15; Ezek. xxxiii. 11, and forward. And Christ comfortably invites such a poor sinner, that is weary and heavy laden with the sense of his sin, he invites him to come and receive rest: and thus the Gospel doth in general give encouragement to humble and penitent sinners to expect salvation from the eternal God, the sting before spoken of being taken away. Then being truly humbled under a sense of that miserable condition which sin