

of evil, not because he places so much confidence in God, but because he has enjoyed so much prosperity. Success in his pursuits has only whetted his ardor to add house to house and field to field, until his heart is thoroughly secularized; he has fallen into a state of worldliness, and has lost the relish he once felt for religious duties, which now appear wearisome and profitless, though all the while he may never think of ascribing this result to his own course. But if now the storm begins to beat upon him, and the idols of his heart are taken away, so that his tears become his meat day and night, he begins to see how far he had strayed from the path of duty; he begins to feel his dependence, to which he had been before insensible; and with a penitent and humble spirit he calls upon God for forgiveness. He sees that he has forsaken God to pursue an empty shadow, and learns now to fix his hopes upon things above, which are substantial and secure. God comes near to him, both because His providence is so impressive and affecting, and because now that other hopes have failed, and other reliances have been disappointed, there is no refuge or hope *but* in God. Here, too, he learns submission. While he had no trials or sorrows, he met with nothing fitted to call forth submission, and to bow his spirit to the dust. But now he submits unreservedly while he sees all his fair dreams dispelled, and his most cherished possessions wrested from him. He parts readily with what he loved most, because God calls him to the sacrifice, and praises God for the dispensation.

Now, in this brief outline of the tendencies of chastisement,—an outline which might be almost endlessly varied, according to the peculiar character of the individual, and the form of the affliction,—we see what a happy and sanctifying influence it exerts, what a variety of blessings follows in its train. Here the Christian is brought to see himself, to mourn over his pride and worldliness, and to exercise humility. He becomes prayerful, and holds close communion with God. He becomes submissive, and his