

When we are inclined to look on the dark side of life, and expect evil to be lying in wait for us, we should do well to read the 104th Psalm, which is a glorious reminder of God's careful and wise provision for each of His creatures. It describes how He sends the water through the valleys for the wild asses; how He provides grass for the cattle and herbs for man, trees for the birds to nest in, and high hills as a refuge for the wild goats. The young lions seek their meat from God, and the leviathan has the sea provided as a great playground "to play therein." All, both small and great beasts, wait upon God in sure trust that He will "give them their meat in due season." And, because they stand with their eyes upon the Great Father, they accept His gifts with the simplicity of little children. "That Thou givest them they gather. Thou openest Thine hand, they are filled with good." And we hardly need to be told that we are of more value than many sparrows, any more than a child in his father's house needs to be assured that he is more tenderly cared for than the cattle in the stable. If the animals find special provision made for them, according to their various needs, man finds more than the bare necessities of life. There is not only "bread which strengthened man's heart," but also "wine that maketh glad the heart of man, and oil to make his face to shine." Why should we not be glad and joyous as happy children growing up in our Father's house under His wise and tender care? He is rich, His treasury is inexhaustible and He knows what things we have need of. Of course, He will give us—He is giving us—just those things and no other. No good thing that He has provided for us can go astray. If we miss it, then it must be because we have taken a road of our own choosing. As Mrs. Whitney says,