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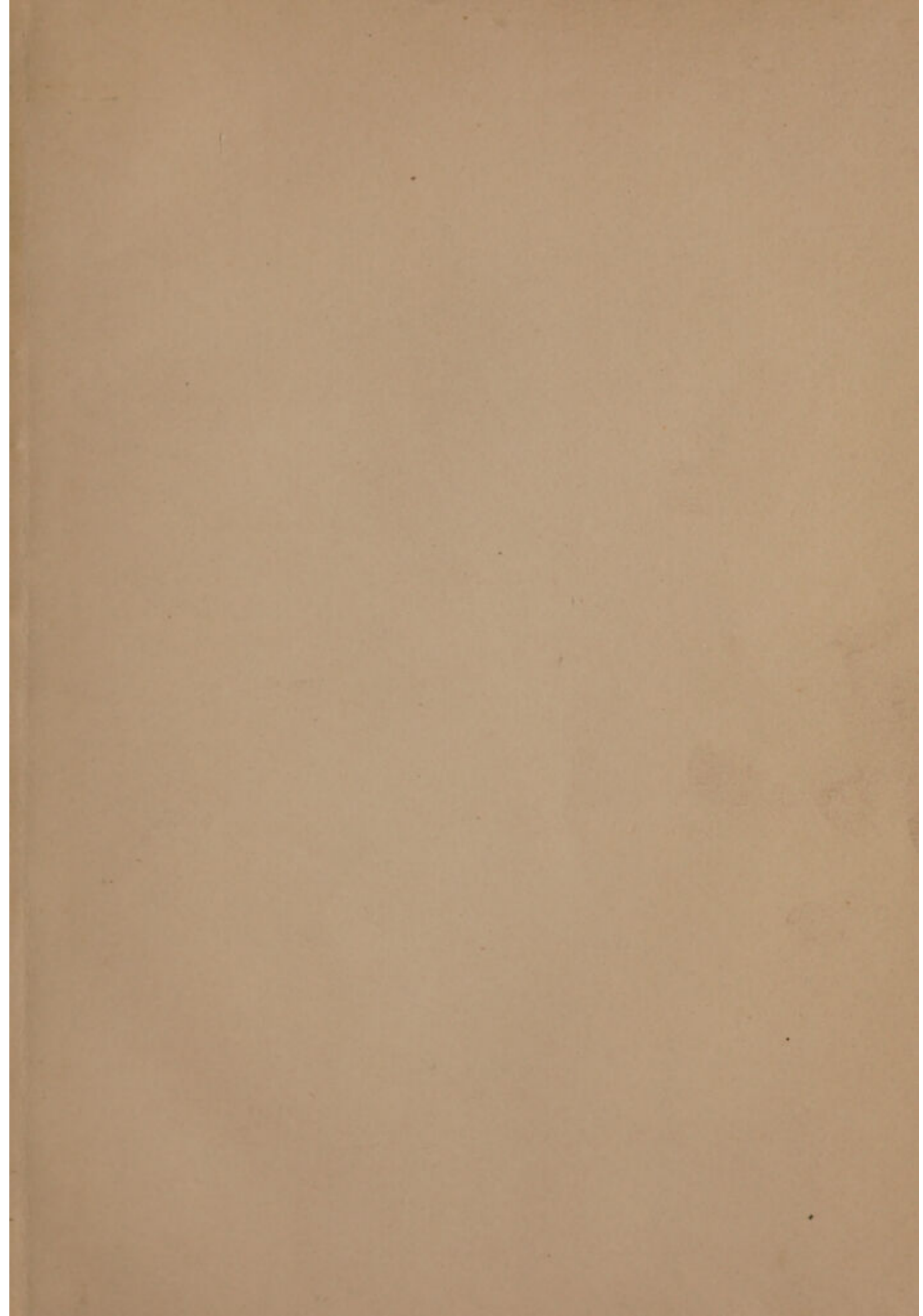
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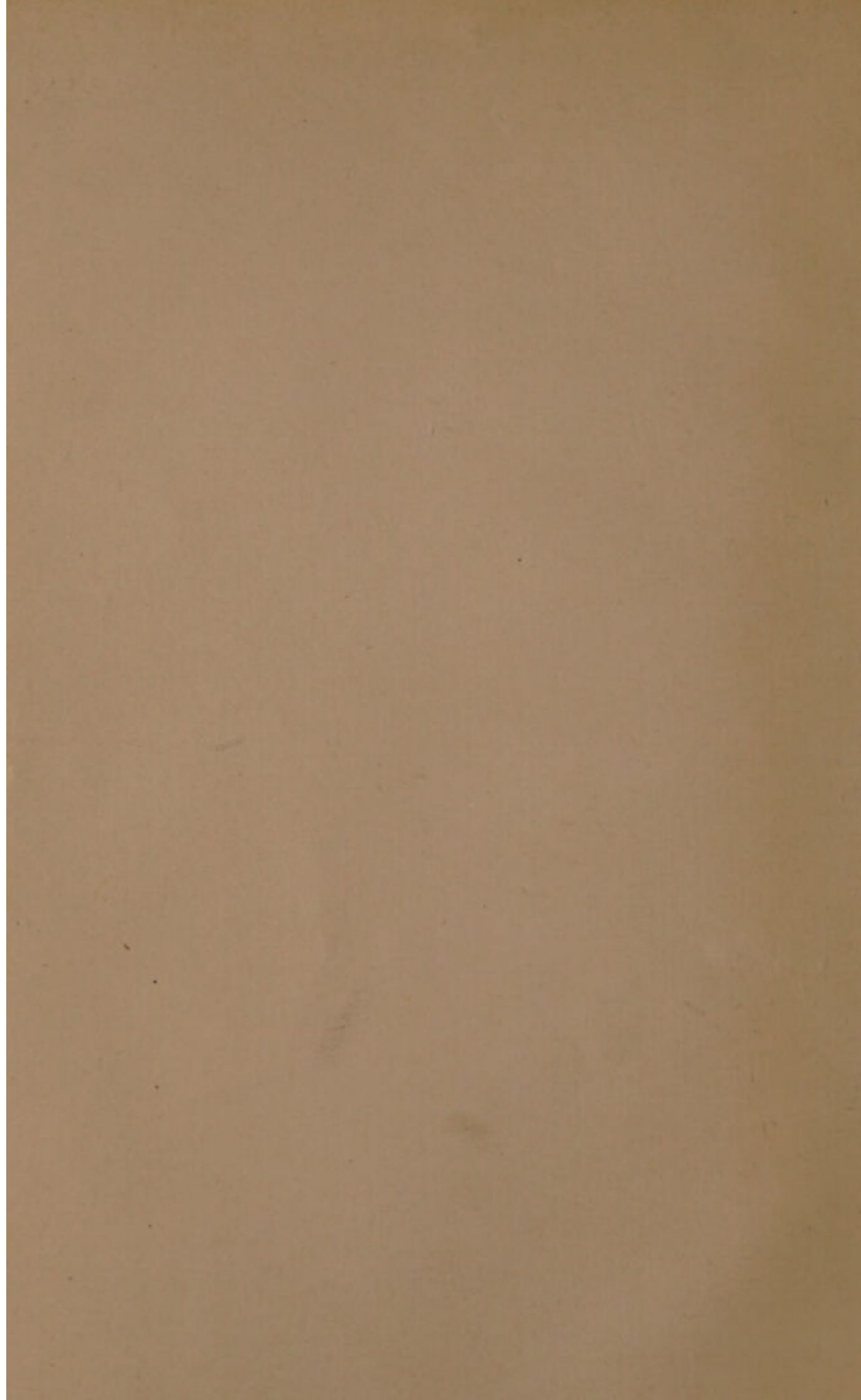


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D. I. n

By P.D. Stanhope, 4th Earl
of Chesterfield





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Manchester, 1797

Dodsley's
ECONOMY OF HUMAN LIFE.

DOCTOR'S
TREATISE OF HUMANS
1785

THE
ECONOMY
of
HUMAN LIFE.

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*BY ROBERT DODSLEY.*  
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T. Bewick, sculp.

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INTRODUCTION.

Bow down your heads unto the dust, o ye inhabitants of earth ! be silent, and receive with reverence, instruction from on high.

Wheresoever the sun doth shine, wheresoever the wind doth blow, wheresoever there is an ear to hear, and a mind to conceive; there let the precepts of life be made known, let the maxims of truth be honoured and obeyed.

All things proceed from God. His power is unbounded; his wisdom is from eternity; and his goodness endureth for ever.

He sitteth on his throne in the centre; and the breath of his mouth giveth life to the world.

He toucheth the stars with his finger, and they run their course rejoicing.

On the wings of the wind he walketh abroad, and performeth his will through all the regions of unlimited space.

Order, and grace, and beauty, spring from his hand.

The voice of wisdom speaketh in all his works; but the human understanding comprehendeth it not.

The shadow of knowledge passeth over the mind of man as a dream : he seeth as in the dark; he reasoneth, and is deceived.

But the wisdom of God is as the light of heaven : he reasoneth not; his mind is the fountain of truth.

Justice and mercy wait before his

throne; benevolence and love enlighten his countenance for ever. Who is like unto the Lord, in glory? Who in power shall contend with the Almighty? Hath he any equal in wisdom? Can any in goodness be compared unto him? He it is, o man, who hath created thee; thy station on earth is fixed by his appointment: the powers of thy mind are the gifts of his goodness: the wonders of thy frame are the work of his hand. Hear then his voice, for it is gracious; and he that obeyeth, shall establish his soul in peace.



Economy of Human Life,

BOOK I.

Duties that relate to Man, considered as an Individual.

I. CONSIDERATION.

Commune with thyself, o man, and consider wherefore thou wert made. Contemplate thy powers, contemplate thy wants and thy connections; so shalt thou discover the duties of life, and be directed in all thy ways. Proceed not to speak or to act, before thou hast weighed thy words, and examined the tendency of every step thou shalt take: so shall disgrace fly far from thee, and in thy house shall shame be a stranger; repentance shall not visit thee, nor sorrow dwell upon thy cheek. The thoughtless man bridleth not his tongue; he speaketh at random, and is entangled in the foolishness of his own words.

As one that runneth in haste, and leapeth over a fence, may fall into a pit on the other side which he doth not see; so is the man that plungeth suddenly

into any action, before he hath considered the consequences thereof. Hearken therefore unto the voice of Consideration; her words are the words of Wisdom; and her paths shall lead thee to safety and truth.

II. MODESTY,

Who art thou, o man, that presumest on thine own wisdom; or why dost thou vaunt thyself on thine own acquirements? The first step towards being wise, is to know that thou art ignorant; and if thou wouldst be esteemed in the judgment of others, cast off the folly of seeming wise in thine own conceit.

As a plain garment best adorneth a beautiful woman, so a decent behaviour is the greatest ornament of wisdom. The speech of a modest man giveth lustre to truth; and the diffidence of his words excuseth his error. He relieth not on his own wisdom; he weigheth the counsels of a friend, and receiveth the benefit thereof. He turneth away his ear from his own praise, and believeth it not: he is the last in discovering his own perfections. Yet, as a veil addeth to beauty, so are his virtues set off by the shade which his modesty casteth upon them.

But behold the vain man, and observe the arrogant; he clotheth himself in rich attire, he walketh in the public street, he casteth round his eyes, and courteth observation. He tosseth up his head, and overlooketh the poor; he treateth his inferiors with insolence, and his superiors in return look down on his

pride and folly with laughter. He despiseth the judgment of others; he relieth on his own opinion; and is confounded. He is puffed up with the vanity of his imagination; his delight is to hear and to speak of himself all the day long. He swalloweth with greediness his own praise; and the flatterer in return eateth him up.

III. APPLICATION.

Since the days that are past are gone for ever, and those that are to come may not come to thee; it becometh thee, o man, to employ the present time, without regretting the loss of that which is past, or too much depending on that which is to come.

This instant is thine; the next is in the womb of futurity; and thou knowest not what it may bring forth.

Whatsoever thou resolvest to do, do it quickly: defer not till the evening what the morning may accomplish.

Idleness is the parent of want and of pain; but the labour of virtue bringeth forth pleasure.

The hand of diligence defeateth want; prosperity and success are the industrious man's attendants.

Who is he that hath acquired wealth, that hath risen to power, that hath clothed himself with honour, that is spoken of in the city with praise, and that standeth before the king in his council? Even he that hath shut out Idleness from his house; and hath said unto Sloth, Thou art mine enemy.

He riseth up early, and lieth down late,

he exerciseth his mind with contemplation, and his body with action; and preserveth the health of both.

The slothful man is a burden to himself; his hours hang heavy on his hand; he loitereth about and knoweth not what he would do.

His days pass away like the shadow of a cloud; and he leaveth behind him no mark for remembrance.

His body is diseased for want of exercise; he wisheth for action, but hath not power to move. His mind is in darkness; his thoughts are confused: he longeth for knowledge, but hath no application. He would eat of the almond; but hateth the trouble of breaking the shell.

His house is in disorder; his servants are wasteful and riotous; and he runneth on towards ruin: he seeth it with his eyes; he heareth it with his ears; he shaketh his head and wisheth; but hath no resolution: till ruin cometh upon him like a whirlwind; and shame and repentance descend with him to the grave.

IV. EMULATION.

If thy soul thirsteth for honour, if thy ear hath any pleasure in the voice of praise, raise thyself from the dust whereof thou art made, and exalt thy aim to something that is praise-worthy.

The oak that now spreadeth its branches towards the heavens, was once but an acorn in the bowels of the earth.

Endeavour to be first in thy calling, whatever it be; neither let any one go before thee in well-doing; nevertheless, do not envy the merits of another, but im-

prove thine own talents. Scorn also to depress thy competitor by dishonest or unworthy methods; strive to raise thyself above him only by excelling him: so shall thy contest for superiority be crowned with honour, if not with success. By a virtuous emulation the spirit of man is exalted within him; he panteth after fame, and rejoiceth as a racer to run his course. He riseth like the palm-tree, in spite of oppression; and, as an eagle in the firmament of heaven, he soareth aloft, and fixeth his eye upon the glories of the sun. The examples of eminent men are in his visions by night; and his delight is to follow them all the day long. He formeth great designs; he rejoiceth in the execution thereof; and his name goeth forth to the ends of the world. But the heart of the envious man is gall and bitterness; his tongue spitteth venom; the success of his neighbour breaketh his rest. He sitteth in his cell repining; and the good that happeneth to another, is to him an evil. Hatred and malice feed upon his heart; and there is no rest in him. He feeleth in his own breast no love of goodness; and therefore believeth his neighbour is like unto himself. He endeavours to depreciate those who excel him; and putteth an evil interpretation on all their doings. He lieth on the watch, and meditates mischief: but the detes-

tation of man pursueth him; he is crushed as a spider in his own web.

V. PRUDENCE.

Hear the words of Prudence; give heed unto her counsels, and store them in thine heart. Her maxims are universal, and all the Virtues lean upon her; she is the guide, and the mistress of human life.

Put a bridle on thy tongue; set a guard before thy lips; lest the words of thine own mouth destroy thy peace.

Let him that scoffeth at the lame, take care that he halt not himself: whosoever speaketh of another's failings with pleasure, shall hear of his own with shame.

Of much speaking cometh repentance; but in silence is safety.

A talkative man is a nuisance to society; the ear is sick of his babbling; the torrent of his words overwhelmeth conversation.

Boast not of thyself, for it shall bring contempt upon thee; neither deride another, for it is dangerous.

A bitter jest is the poison of friendship; and he who restrains not his tongue shall live in trouble.

Furnish thyself with the accommodations proper to thy condition; yet spend not to the utmost of what thou canst afford, that the providence of thy youth may be a comfort to thy old age.

Avarice is the parent of evil deeds; but frugality is the sure guardian of our virtues.

Let thine own business engage thy attention; leave the care of the state to the governors

thereof. Let not thy recreations be expensive; lest the pain of purchasing them exceed the pleasure thou hast in their enjoyment. Neither

let prosperity put out the eyes of circumspection, nor abundance cut off the hands of frugality: he that too much indulgeth in the superfluities of life, shall live to lament the want of its necessities.

Trust no man, before thou hast tried him: yet mistrust not without reason; it is uncharitable.

But when thou hast proved a man to be honest, lock him up in thine heart as a treasure; regard him as a jewel of inestimable price. Receive not

the favours of a mercenary man; nor join in friendship with the wicked; they shall be snares unto thy virtue, and bring grief to thy soul. Use not

to-day, what to-morrow may want; neither leave that to hazard, which foresight may provide for, or care prevent.

From the experience of others do thou learn wisdom; and from their failings correct thine own faults. Yet expect not even

from prudence infallible success; for the day knoweth not what the night may bring forth. The

fool is not always unfortunate, nor the wise man always successful: yet never had a fool thorough enjoyment, never was a wise man wholly unhappy.

VI. FORTITUDE.

Perils, and misfortunes, and want, and pain, and injury, are the lot of every man who cometh into the

world.

It behoveth thee, therefore, early to fortify thy mind with courage and patience; that thou mayest support with resolution thy allotted portion of calamity.

As the camel beareth labour, and heat, and hunger, and thirst, through deserts of sand, and fainteth not; so a man of fortitude shall sustain his virtue through perils and distress.

A noble spirit disdaineth the malice of fortune: his greatness of soul is not to be cast down.

His happiness dependeth not on her smiles, and therefore with her frowns he shall not be dismayed.

As a rock in the sea he standeth firm, and the dashing of the waves disturbeth him not.

He raiseth his head like a tower on an hill; and the arrows of fortune drop at his feet.

In the instant of danger the courage of his heart sustaineth him; and the steadiness of his mind beareth him out.

He meeteth the evils of life as a man that goeth forth unto battle and returneth with victory in his hand.

Under the pressure of misfortunes, his calmness alleviates their weight; and by his constancy he shall surmount them.

But the dastardly spirit of a timorous man betrayeth him to shame.

By shrinking under poverty, he stoopeth down to meanness; and by tamely bearing insults, he inviteth injuries.

As a reed is shaken with the breath of the air, so the shadow of evil maketh him tremble.

In the hour of danger, he is embarrassed and con-

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founded; in the day of misfortune he sinketh, and despair overwhelmeth his soul.

## VII. CONTENTMENT.

Forget not, o man, that thy station on earth is appointed by the wisdom of the Eternal; who knoweth thy heart; who seeth the vanity of all thy wishes; and who often in mercy denieth thy requests.

Yet for all reasonable desires, for all honest endeavours, his benevolence hath established, in the nature of things, a probability of success.

The uneasiness thou feelest, the misfortunes thou bewailest; behold the root from whence they spring, even thine own folly, thine own pride, thine own distempered fancy.

Murmur not therefore at the dispensations of God; but correct thine own heart: neither say within thyself, if I had wealth, or power, or leisure, I should be happy; for know, they all bring to their several possessors their peculiar inconveniences.

The poor man seeth not the vexations and anxieties of the rich; he feeleth not the difficulties and perplexities of power; neither knoweth he the wearisomeness of leisure; and therefore it is that he repineth at his own lot.

But envy not the appearance of happiness in any man; for thou knowest not his secret griefs.

To be satisfied with a little, is the greatest wisdom; and he who encreaseth his riches, encreaseth his cares; but a contented mind is a hidden treasure, and a guard from trouble.

Yet, if thou sufferest not the blandishments of thy fortune to rob thee of justice, or temperance, or charity, or modesty, even riches themselves shall not make thee unhappy.

But hence shalt thou learn, that the cup of felicity, pure and unmixed, is by no means a draught for mortal man.

Virtue is the race which God hath set him to run, and happiness the goal; which none can arrive at, till he hath finished his course, and received his crown in the mansions of eternity.

#### VIII. TEMPERANCE.

The nearest approach thou canst make to happiness on this side the grave, is to enjoy from heaven health, wisdom, and peace of mind.

These blessings, if thou possessest, and wouldest preserve to old age, avoid the allurements of Voluptuousness, and fly from her temptations.

When she spreadeth her delicacies on the board, when her wine sparkleth in the cup, when she smileth on thee, and persuadeth thee to be joyful and happy; then is the hour of danger, then let reason stand firmly on her guard.

For, if thou hearkenest unto the words of her adversary, thou art deceived and betrayed.

The joy which she promiseth, changeth to madness; and her enjoyments lead on to diseases and death.

Look round her board, cast thine eyes upon her guests, and observe those who have been allured by her smiles, who have listened to her temptations.

Are they not meagre? are they not sickly? are they not spiritless?

Their short hours of jollity and riot are followed by tedious days of pain and dejection; she hath debauched and palled their appetites; that they have now no relish for her nicest dainties; her votaries are become her victims; the just and natural consequence which God had ordained, in the constitution of things, for the punishment of those who abuse his gifts.

But, who is she, that with graceful steps, and with a lively air, trips over yonder plain?

The rose blusheth on her cheeks; the sweetness of the morning breatheth from her lips; joy, tempered with innocence and modesty, sparkleth in her eyes; and from the cheerfulness of her heart, she singeth as she walks.

Her name is Health; she is the daughter of Exercise, who begot her on Temperance; her sons inhabit the mountains that stretch over the northern regions of San Tòn Hoë.

They are brave, active, and lively; and partake of all the beauties and virtues of their sister.

Vigour stringeth their nerves; strength dwelleth in their bones; and labour is their delight all the day long.

The employments of their father excite their appetites, and the repasts of their mother refresh them.

To combat the passions is their delight; to conquer evil habits their glory.

Their pleasures are moderate, and therefore they endure: their repose is short, but

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sound and undisturbed. Their blood is pure,
their minds are serene; and the physician knoweth
not the way to their habitations. But safety
dwelleth not with the sons of men; neither is secur-
ity found within their gates. Behold them
exposed to new dangers from without, while a traitor
within lurketh to betray them. Their health,
their strength, their beauty and activity, have raised
desire in the bosom of lascivious Love. She
standeth in her bower, she courteth their regard, she
spreadeth her temptations. Her limbs are
soft, her hair is delicate, her attire is loose: Wanton-
ness speaketh in her eyes, and on her bosom sits
Temptation; she beckoneth them with her finger:
she wooeth them with her looks; and by the smooth-
ness of her tongue she endeavoureth to deceive.
Ah! fly from her allurements; stop thine ears to her
enchanting words. If thou meetest the languishing
of her eyes, if thou hearest the softness of her voice,
if she casteth her arms about thee, she bindeth thee
in chains for ever. Shame followeth, and
disease, and want, and care, and repentance.
Enfeebled by dalliance, with Luxury pampered, and
softened by Sloth, strength shall forsake thy limbs,
and health thy constitution: thy days shall be few,
and those inglorious; thy griefs shall be many, yet
meet with no compassion.

BOOK II.

The Passions.

I. HOPE AND FEAR.

The promises of hope, are sweeter than roses in the bud, and far more flattering to expectation; but the threatenings of Fear are a terror to the heart.

Nevertheless, let not Hope allure, nor Fear deter thee from doing that which is right; so shalt thou be prepared to meet all events with an equal mind.

The terrors of death are no terrors to the good: restrain thy hand from evil, and thy soul shall have nothing to fear.

In all thy undertakings let a reasonable assurance animate thy endeavours; if thou despairst of success, thou shalt not succeed.

Terrify not thy soul with vain fears; neither let thy heart sink within thee from the phantoms of imagination.

From Fear proceedeth misfortune; but he that hopeth, helpeth himself.

As the ostrich, when pursued, hideth his head, but forgetteth his body; so the fears of a coward expose him to danger.

If thou believest a thing impossible, thy despondency shall make it so; but he that persevereth shall overcome all difficulties.

A vain hope flattereth the heart of a fool; but he that

is wise, pursueth it not.

In all thy desires let reason go before thee ; and fix not thy hopes beyond the bounds of probability ; so shall success attend thy undertakings, and thy heart shall not be vexed with disappointments.

II. JOY AND GRIEF.

Let not thy mirth be so extravagant as to intoxicate thy mind ; nor thy sorrow so heavy, as to depress thy heart : this world affordeth no good so transporting, nor inflicteth any evil so severe, as should raise thee far above, or sink thee much beneath, the balance of moderation.

Lo ! yonder standeth the house of Joy ; it is painted on the outside and looketh gay ; thou mayest know it by the noise of mirth and exultation that issueth from it.

The mistress standeth at the door, and calleth aloud to all that pass by : she singeth, and shouteth, and laugheth without ceasing.

She inviteth them to taste the pleasures of life ; which, she telleth them, are no where to be found but beneath her roof.

But enter not thou into her gate ; neither associate thyself with those who frequent her house.

They call themselves the sons of Joy, they laugh and seem delighted ; but madness and folly are in all their doings.

They are linked with mischief hand in hand, and their steps lead down to evil ; dangers beset them round about, and the pit of destruction yawneth beneath their feet.

Look down on

the other side; and behold in that vale overshadowed with trees, and hid from the sight of men, the habitation of sorrow.

Her bosom heaveth with sighs; her mouth is filled with lamentation; she delighteth to dwell on the subject of human misery.

She looketh on the common accidents of life, and weepeth: the weakness and wickedness of man is the theme of her lips.

All nature to her teemeth with evil; every object she seeth, is tinged with the gloom of her own mind; and the voice of complaint saddeneth her dwelling day and night.

Come not near her cell; her breath is contagious; she will blast the fruits, and wither the flowers, that adorn and sweeten the garden of life.

In avoiding the house of Joy, let not thy feet betray thee to the borders of this dismal mansion; but pursue with care the middle path which shall lead thee by a gentle ascent to the bower of Contentment.

With her dwelleth peace; with her dwell safety and tranquillity. She is cheerful, but not gay; she is serious, but not grave; she vieweth the joys and the sorrows of life with steadiness and serenity.

From hence, as from an eminence, shalt thou behold the folly and the misery of those who either, led by the gaiety of their hearts, take up their abode with the companions of jollity and riotous mirth; or, infected by gloominess and melancholy, spend all their days in complaining of the woes and calamities of

human life. Thou shalt view them both with pity; and the error of their ways shall keep thy feet from straying.

III. ANGER.

As the whirlwind in its fury teareth up trees, and deformeth the face of nature, or as an earthquake in its convulsions overturneth cities; so the rage of an angry man throweth mischief around him: danger and destruction wait on his hand.

But consider, and forget not thine own weakness; so shalt thou pardon the failings of others.

Indulge not thyself in the passion of Anger; it is whetting a sword to wound thy own breast, or murder thy friend.

If thou bearest slight provocations with patience, it shall be imputed unto thee for wisdom; and if thou wipest them from thy remembrance, thy heart shall feel rest, thy mind shall not reproach thee.

Seest thou not, that the angry man loseth his understanding? Whilst thou art yet in thy senses, let the madness of another be a lesson to thyself.

Do nothing in thy passion; why wilt thou put to sea in the violence of a storm?

If it be difficult to rule thine anger, it is wise to prevent it: avoid therefore all occasions of falling into wrath; or guard thyself against them whenever they occur.

A fool is provoked with insolent speeches; but a wise man laugheth them to scorn.

Harbour not revenge in thy breast; it will torment

thy heart, and discolour its best inclinations.

Be always more ready to forgive, than to return an injury; he that watches for an opportunity of revenge, lies in wait against himself, and draweth down mischief on his own head.

A mild answer to an angry man, like water cast on the fire, abateth his heat; and from an enemy he shall become thy friend.

Consider how few things are worthy of Anger; and thou wilt wonder that any but fools should be wroth.

In folly or weakness it always beginneth; but remember, and be well assured, it seldom concludeth without repentance.

On the heels of Folly treadeth Shame: at the back of Anger standeth Remorse.

IV. PITY.

As blossoms and flowers are strewed upon the earth by the hand of Spring; as the kindness of Summer produceth in perfection the bounties of Harvest; so the smiles of Pity shed blessings on the children of Misfortune.

He who pitieth another, recommendeth himself; but he who is without compassion, deserveth it not.

The butcher relenteth not at the bleating of the lamb; neither is the heart of the cruel moved with distress.

But the tears of the compassionate are sweeter than dew-drops falling from roses on the bosom of the earth.

Shut not thine ear therefore against the cries of the poor; neither harden thine heart against the calamities of

the innocent When the fatherless call upon thee; when the widow's heart is sunk, and she imploreth thy assistance with tears of sorrow; o pity her affliction, and extend thy hand to those who have none to help them.

When thou seest the naked wanderer of the street shivering with cold, and destitute of habitation, let bounty open thine heart; let the wings of charity shelter him from death, that thine own soul may live.

Whilst the poor man groaneth on the bed of sickness, whilst the unfortunate languish in the horrors of a dungeon, or the hoary head of age lifts up a feeble eye to thee for pity; o how canst thou riot in superfluous enjoyments, regardless of their wants, unfeeling of their woes.

V. DESIRE AND LOVE.

Beware, young man, beware of the allurements of Wantonness; and let not the harlot tempt thee to her delights.

The madness of desire shall defeat its own pursuits; from the blindness of its rage thou shalt rush upon destruction.

Therefore, give not up thy heart to her sweet enticements; neither suffer thy soul to be enslaved by her enchanting delusions.

The fountain of health, which must supply the stream of pleasure, shall quickly be dried up; and every spring of joy shall be exhausted.

In the prime of thy life old age shall overtake thee; thy sun shall decline in the morning of thy days.

But when virtue and modesty enlighten her charms,

the lustre of a beautiful woman is brighter than the stars of heaven; and the influence of her power it is in vain to resist.

The whiteness of her bosom transcendeth the lily; her smile is more delicious than a garden of roses.

The innocence of her eye is like that of the turtle; simplicity and truth dwell in her heart.

The kisses of her mouth are sweeter than honey: the perfumes of Arabia breathe from her lips.

Shut not thy bosom to the tenderness of Love; the purity of its flame shall ennoble thine heart, and soften it to receive the fairest impressions.

BOOK III.

Woman.

Give ear, fair daughter of love, to the instructions of Prudence; and let the precepts of truth sink deep in thine heart; so shall the charms of thy mind add lustre to thy form; and thy beauty, like the rose it resembleth, shall retain its sweetness, when its bloom is withered.

In the spring of thy youth, in the morning of thy days, when the eyes of men gaze on thee with delight; ah! hear with caution their alluring words; guard well thy heart, nor listen to their soft seducements.

Remember, thou art made

man's reasonable companion, not the slave of his passion; the end of thy being is to assist him in the toils of life, to sooth him with thy tenderness, and recompense his care with soft endearments. Who

is she that winneth the heart of man, that subdueth him to love, and reigneth in his breast? Lo!

yonder she walketh in maiden sweetness, with innocence in her mind, and modesty on her cheek.

Her hand seeketh employment; her foot delighteth not in gadding abroad. She is clothed

with neatness; she is fed with temperance; humility and meekness are as a crown of glory circling her head.

On her tongue dwelleth music; the sweetness of honey floweth from her lips. De-

cency is in all her words; in her answers are mildness and truth.

Submission and obedience are the lessons of her life; and peace and happiness are her reward.

Before her steps walketh Prudence; and Virtue attendeth at her right hand.

Her eye speaketh softness and love; but discretion with a sceptre sitteth on her brow.

The tongue of the licentious is dumb in her presence; the awe of her virtue keepeth him silent.

When scandal is busy, and the fame of her neighbour is tossed from tongue to tongue, if charity and good-nature open not her mouth, the finger of silence resteth on her lip.

Her breast is the mansion of goodness; and therefore she suspecteth no evil in others. Happy

were the man that should make her his wife; happy the child that shall call her mother. She pre-

sideth in the house, and there is peace; she commandeth with judgment, and is obeyed. She aris-

eth in the morning; she considers her affairs; and appointeth to every one their proper business.

The care of her family is her whole delight, to that alone she applieth her study; and elegance with frugality is seen in her mansion. The prudence

of her management is an honour to her husband, and he heareth her praise with silent delight. She

informeth the minds of her children with wisdom; she fashioneth their manners from the example of her own goodness. The word of her mouth is the

law of their youth; the motion of her eye commandeth their obedience. She speaketh, and her

servants fly; she appointeth, and the thing is done; for the law of love is in their hearts; her kindness addeth wings to their feet. In prosperity she is

not puffed up; in adversity she healeth the wounds of fortune with patience. The troubles of her

husband are alleviated by her counsels, and sweetened by her endearments; he putteth his heart in her bosom, and receiveth comfort. Happy is the

man that hath made her his wife; happy the child that calleth her mother,

BOOK IV.

Consanguinity ; or, natural Relations.

I. HUSBAND.

Take unto thyself a wife, and obey the ordinance of God ; take unto thyself a wife, and become a faithful member of society.

But examine with care, and fix not suddenly : on thy present choice depends the future happiness of thee and thy posterity.

If much of her time is destroyed in dress and adornments ; if she is enamoured with her own beauty, and delighted with her own praise ; if she laugheth much, and talketh aloud ; if her foot abideth not in her father's house, and her eyes with boldness rove on the faces of men ; though her beauty were as the sun in the firmament of heaven, turn thine eyes from her charms, turn thy feet from her paths, and suffer not thy soul to be ensnared by the allurements of thy imagination.

But when thou findest sensibility of heart joined with softness of manners ; an accomplished mind, with a form agreeable to thy fancy ; take her home to thy house ; she is worthy to be thy friend, thy companion in life, the wife of thy bosom.

O cherish her as a blessing sent thee from heaven ; let the kindness of thy behaviour endear thee to her heart.

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She is the mistress of thy house ; treat her, therefore, with respect, that thy servants may obey her.

Oppose not her inclination without cause ; she is the partner of thy cares, make her also the companion of thy pleasures.

Reprove her faults with gentleness : exact not her obedience with rigour.

Trust thy secrets in her breast ; her counsels are sincere ; thou shalt not be deceived.

Be faithful to her bed ; for she is the mother of thy children.

When pain and sickness assault her, let thy tenderness sooth her affliction : a look from thee of pity and love, shall alleviate her grief, or mitigate her pain ; and be of more avail than ten physicians.

Consider the delicacy of her sex, the tenderness of her frame ; and be not severe to her weakness, but remember thine own imperfections.

## II. FATHER.

Consider, thou who art a parent, the importance of thy trust ; the being thou hast produced, it is thy duty to support.

Upon thee also it dependeth whether the child of thy bosom shall be a blessing or a curse to thyself ; a useful or a worthless member of the community.

Prepare him with early instruction, and season his mind with the maxims of truth.

Watch the bent of his inclination ; set him right in his youth ; and let no evil habit gain strength with his years.

So shall he rise like a cedar on the mountains ; his head shall be seen above the

trees of the forest.

A wicked son is a reproach to his father; but he that doeth right is a honour to his grey hairs.

The soil is thine own, let it not want cultivation; the seed which thou sowest, that also shalt thou reap.

Teach him obedience, and he shall bless thee; teach him modesty, and he shall not be ashamed.

Teach him gratitude, and he shall receive benefits; teach him charity, and he shall gain love.

Teach him temperance, and he shall have health; teach him prudence, and fortune shall attend him.

Teach him justice, and he shall be honoured by the world; teach him sincerity, and his own heart shall not reproach him.

Teach him diligence, and his wealth shall increase; teach him benevolence, and his mind shall be exalted.

Teach him science, and his life shall be useful; teach him religion, and his death shall be happy.

### III. SON.

From the creatures of God, let man learn wisdom, and apply to himself the instruction they give.

Go to the desart, my son; observe the young stork of the wilderness; let him speak to thy heart. He beareth on his wings his aged sire, he lodgeth him in safety, and supplieth him with food.

The piety of a child is sweeter than the incense of Persia offered to the sun; yea more delicious than odours wafted from a field of Arabian spices by the western

gales.

Be grateful then to thy father, for he gave thee life : and to thy mother, for she sustained thee.

Hear the words of his mouth, for they are spoken for thy good : give ear to his admonition, for it proceedeth from love.

He hath watched for thy welfare, he hath toiled for thy ease ; do honour therefore to his age, and let not his grey hairs be treated with irreverence.

Think on thy helpless infancy, and the frowardness of thy youth, and indulge the infirmities of thy aged parents ; assist and support them in the decline of life.

So shall their hoary heads go down to the grave in peace ; and thine own children, in reverence of thy example, shall repay thy piety with filial love.

#### IV. BROTHERS.

Ye are the children of one father, provided for by his care ; and the breast of one mother hath given you suck.

Let the bonds of affection, therefore, unite thee with thy brothers ; that peace and happiness may dwell in thy father's house.

And, when ye separate in the world, remember the relation that bindeth you to love and unity : prefer not a stranger before thine own blood.

If thy brother is in adversity, assist him ; if thy sister is in trouble, forsake her not.

So shall the fortunes of thy father contribute to the support of his whole race, and his care be continued to you all in your love to each other.

## BOOK V.

*Providence; or, the accidental Differences of Men.*

## I. WISE AND IGNORANT.

The gifts of the understanding are the treasures of God; and he appointeth to every one his portion, in what measure seemeth good unto himself.

Hath he endowed thee with wisdom? hath he enlightened thy mind with the knowledge of truth? communicate it to the ignorant for their instruction; communicate it to the wise for thine own improvement.

True wisdom is less presuming than folly; the wise man doubteth often, and changeth his mind; the fool is obstinate, and doubteth not; he knoweth all things but his own ignorance.

The pride of emptiness is an abomination, and to talk much is the foolishness of folly; nevertheless it is the part of wisdom to bear the impertinence of fools, to hear their absurdities with patience, and pity their weakness.

Yet be not puffed up in thine own conceit, neither boast of superior understanding; the clearest human knowledge is but blindness and folly.

The wise man feeleth his imperfections, and is humbled; he laboureth in vain for his

own approbation. But the fool peepeth into the shallow stream of his own mind, and is pleased with the pebbles which he seeth at the bottom: he bringeth them up and sheweth them as pearls; and with the applause of his brethren delighteth himself. He

boasteth of attainments in things of no worth; but where it is a shame to be ignorant, there he hath no understanding.

Even in the paths of wisdom he toileth after folly; and shame and disappointment are the reward of his labour.

But the wise man cultivateth his mind with knowledge; the improvement of arts is his delight; and their utility to the public crowneth him with honour.

Nevertheless, the attainment of virtue he accounteth as the highest learning: and the science of happiness is the study of his life.

## II. RICH AND POOR.

The man to whom God hath given riches, and a mind to employ them aright, is peculiarly favoured and highly distinguished.

He looketh on his wealth with pleasure; because it affordeth him the means to do good.

He protecteth the poor, that are injured; he suffereth not the mighty to oppress the weak.

He seeketh out objects of compassion; he enquireth into their wants; he relieveth them with judgment and without ostentation.

He assisteth and rewardeth merit; he encourageth ingenuity, and liberally promoteth every useful de-

sign.

He carrieth on great works; his country is enriched; and the labourer is employ'd; he formeth new schemes, and the arts receive improvement.

He considereth the superfluities of his table as belonging to the poor, and he defraudeth them not.

The benevolence of his mind is not check'd by his fortune. He rejoiceth therefore in riches, and his joy is blameless.

But woe unto him that heapeth up wealth in abundance and rejoiceth alone in possession thereof.

That grindeth the face of the poor, and considereth not the sweat of their brows.

He thriveth on oppression without feeling; the ruin of his brother disturbeth him not.

The tears of the orphan he drinketh as milk; the cries of the widow are music to his ear. His heart is harden'd with the love of wealth; no grief or distress can make impression upon it.

But the curse of iniquity pursueth him; he liveth in continual fear. The anxiety of his mind, and the rapacious desires of his own soul, take vengeance upon him, for the calamities he hath brought upon others.

O! what are the miseries of poverty, in comparison with the gnawings of this man's heart!

Let the poor man comfort himself, yea, rejoice; for he hath many reasons.

He sitteth down to his morsel in peace; his table is not crowded with flatterers and devourers.

He is not embarrassed with dependents, nor teased with the clamours of solicitation,

Debar'd from the dainties of the rich, he escapeth also their diseases. The bread that he eateth is it not sweet to his taste? the water he drinketh, is it not pleasant to his thirst? yea far more delicious than the richest draughts of the luxurious. His labour preserveth his health, and procureth him a repose, to which the downy bed of sloth is a stranger.

He limiteth his desires with humility; and the calm of contentment is sweeter to his soul than the acquirements of wealth and grandeur. Let not the rich therefore presume on his riches, nor the poor despond in his poverty: for the providence of God dispenseth happiness to them both; and the distribution thereof is more equally made, than the fool can believe.

### III. MASTERS AND SERVANTS.

Repine not, o man, that thou servest another: it is the appointment of God, and hath many advantages; it removeth thee from the cares and solitudes of life. The honour of a servant is his fidelity; his highest virtues are submission and obedience.

Be patient therefore under the reproofs of thy master; and when he rebuketh thee, answer not again; the silence of thy resignation shall not be forgotten.

Be studious of his interests; be diligent in his affairs; and faithful to the trust which he reposeth in thee. Thy time and thy labour belong unto him; defraud him not thereof, for he payeth thee for

them. And thou, who art a master, be just to thy servant, if thou expecteth fidelity; be reasonable in thy commands, if thou expectest obedience.

The spirit of a man is in him; severity and rigour, which create fear, cannot command his love.

Mix kindness with reproof, and reason with authority; so shall thy admonitions take place in his heart, and his duty shall become his pleasure. He

shall serve thee faithfully from gratitude; he shall obey thee cheerfully from love; and fail thou not in return to give his diligence and fidelity their just reward.

#### IV. MAGISTRATES AND SUBJECTS.

O thou, the favourite of heaven, whom the sons of men, thy equals, have raised to sovereign power, and set as a ruler over themselves; consider the ends and importance of their trust, far more than the dignity and heighth of thy station. Thou art clothed in

purple; thou art seated on a throne; the crown of majesty investeth thy temples; the sceptre of power is placed in thy hand: but not for thyself were these ensigns given; nor meant for thy own, but the good of thy kingdom. The glory of a king is the

welfare of his people; his power and dominion resteth on the hearts of his subjects. The mind of

a great prince is exalted with the grandeur of his situation; he revolveth high things, and searcheth for business worthy of his power. He calleth to-

gether the wise men of his kingdom; he consulteth amongst them with freedom, and heareth the opinion of them all.

He looketh among his people with discernment; he discovereth the abilities of men, and employeth them according to their merits.

His magistrates are just; his ministers are wise; and the favourite of his bosom deceiveth him not.

He smileth on the arts, and they flourish; the sciences improve beneath the culture of his hand.

With the learned and ingenious he delighteth himself; he kindleth in their breasts emulation: and the glory of his kingdom is exalted by their labours.

The spirit of the merchant who extendeth his commerce, the skill of the farmer who enricheth his lands, the ingenuity of the artist, the improvements of the scholar; all these he honoureth with his favour, or rewardeth with his bounty.

He planteth new colonies; he buildeth strong ships; he openeth rivers for convenience; he formeth harbours for safety; his people abound in riches; and the strength of his kingdom increaseth.

He frameth his statutes with equity and wisdom; his subjects enjoy the fruits of their labour in security, and their happiness consists in their observance of the law.

He foundeth his judgments on the principles of mercy; but in the punishment of offenders he is strict and impartial.

His ears are open to the complaints of his subjects; he restraineth the hand of oppressors; and delivereth

them from their tyranny. His people therefore look up to him as a father, with reverence and love; they consider him as the guardian of all they enjoy. Their affection unto him begetteth in his

breast a love of the public; the security of their happiness is the object of his care. No murmurs

against him arise in their hearts; the machinations of his enemies endanger not his state. His sub-

jects are faithful and firm in his cause; they stand in his defence as a wall of brass. The army of his enemy flieth before them as chaff before the wind.

Security and peace bless the dwellings of his people; and glory and strength encircle his throne for ever,

## BOOK VI.

### *The Social Duties.*

#### I. BENEVOLENCE.

When thou considereth thy wants, when thou beholdest thy imperfections, acknowledge his goodness, o man! who honour'd thee with reason, endow'd thee with speech, and placed thee in society to receive and confer reciprocal helps and mutual obligations. Thy food, thy clothing, thy convenience

of habitation, thy protection from the injuries, thy enjoyment of the comforts and the pleasures of life,

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thou owest to the assistance of others; and couldst not enjoy but in the bands of society. It is thy duty therefore to be friendly to mankind, as it is thy interest that men should be friendly to thee.

As the rose breatheth sweetness from its own nature, so the heart of a benevolent man produceth good works.

He enjoyeth the ease and tranquility of his own breast; and rejoiceth in the happiness and prosperity of his neighbour.

He openeth not his ear unto slander; the faults and the failings of men give pain to his heart.

His desire is to do good, and he searcheth out the occasions thereof: in removing the oppression of another he relieveth himself.

From the largeness of his mind, he comprehendeth in his wishes the happiness of all men; and from the generosity of his heart he endeavoureth to promote it.

II. JUSTICE.

The peace of society dependeth on justice; the happiness of individuals on the certain enjoyment of all their possessions.

Keep the desires of thy heart, therefore, within the bounds of moderation; let the hand of justice lead them aright.

Cast not an evil eye on the goods of thy neighbour; let whatever is his property be sacred from thy touch.

Let not temptation allure, nor any provocation excite thee to lift up thy hand to the hazard of his life.

Defame him not in his character; bear no false

witness against him. Corrupt not his servant to cheat or forsake him; and the wife of his bosom, o tempt not to sin. 'T will be a grief to his

heart, which thou canst not relieve; an injury to his life, which no reparation can atone. In thy

dealings with men be impartial and just; and do unto them as thou wouldst they should do unto thee.

Be faithful to thy trust; and deceive not the man who relieth upon thee: be assured 'tis less in the sight of God to steal than to betray. Oppress

not the poor, and defraud not of his hire the labouring man. When thou sellest for gain, hear the

whisperings of conscience; and be satisfy'd with moderation; nor from the ignorance of the buyer make advantage to thyself. Pay the debts which

thou owest; for he who gave thee credit relied upon thy honour; and to withhold from him his due, is both mean and unjust. Finally, o son of So-

ciety! examine thy heart; call remembrance to thy aid; and, if in any of these things thou findest thou hast transgressed, take sorrow and shame to thyself; and make speedy reparation to the utmost of thy power.

III. CHARITY.

Happy is the man who hath sown in his breast the seeds of benevolence; the produce thereof shall be charity and love. From the fountain of his

heart shall rise rivers of goodness; and the streams

shall overflow for the benefit of mankind. He assisteth the poor in their trouble; he rejoiceth in furthering the prosperity of all men. He censureth not his neighbour; he believeth not the tales of envy and malevolence; neither repeateth he their slanders. He forgiveth the injuries of men; he wipeth them from his remembrance: revenge and malice have no place in his heart. For evil he returneth not evil: he hateth not even his enemies; but requiteth their injustice with friendly admonition. The griefs and anxieties of men excite his compassion; he endeavoureth to alleviate the weight of their misfortunes; and the pleasure of success rewardeth his labour. He calmeth the fury, he healeth the quarrels of angry men; and preventeth the mischiefs of strife and animosity. He promoteth in his neighbourhood peace and good will; and his name is repeated with praise and benedictions.

IV. GRATITUDE.

As the branches of a tree return their sap to the root, from whence it arose; as a river poureth his streams to the sea, whence his spring was supply'd; so the heart of a grateful man delighteth in returning a benefit received. He acknowledgeth his obligation with cheerfulness; he looketh on his benefactor with love and esteem. And, if to return it be not in his power, he nourisheth the mem-

ory of it in his breast with kindness; he forgetteth it not all the days of his life. The hand of

the generous man is like the clouds of heaven, which drop upon the earth fruits, herbage, and flowers: the heart of the ungrateful is like a desert of sand, which swalloweth with greediness the showers that fall, but burieth them in its bosom, and produceth nothing.

Envy not thy benefactor; neither strive to conceal the benefit he hath conferred; for though to oblige is better than to be obliged, though the act of generosity commandeth admiration; yet the humility of gratitude toucheth the heart and is amiable in the sight both of God and man. But receive not

a favour from the hand of the proud; to the selfish and avaricious have no obligation: the vanity of Pride shall expose thee to shame; the greediness of avarice shall never be satisfied.

V. SINCERITY.

O thou that art enamoured with the beauties of Truth, and has fixed thy heart on the simplicity of her charms, hold fast thy fidelity unto her, and forsake her not: the constancy of thy virtue shall crown thee with honour.

The tongue of the sincere is rooted in his heart; hypocrisy and deceit have no place in his words.

He blusheth at falsehood, and is confounded; but in speaking the truth he hath a steady eye.

He supporteth as a man the dignity of his character; to the arts of hypocrisy he

scorneth to stoop.

He is consistent with himself; he is never embarrassed; he hath courage in truth, but to lie he is afraid.

He is far above the meanness of dissimulation; the words of his mouth are the thoughts of his heart.

Yet with prudence and caution he openeth his lips; he studieth what is right, and speaketh with discretion.

He adviseth in friendship; he reproveth with freedom; and whatsoever he promiseth shall surely be performed.

But the heart of the hypocrite is hid in his breast. He masketh his words in the semblance of truth, while the business of his life is only to deceive.

He laugheth in sorrow; he weepeth in joy; and the words of his mouth have no interpretation.

He worketh in the dark as a mole, and fancieth he is safe; but he blundereth into light and is exposed to full view, with his dirt on his head.

He passeth his days in perpetual constraint; his tongue and his heart are for ever at variance.

He laboureth for the character of a righteous man; and huggeth himself in the thoughts of his cunning.

O fool, fool! the pains which thou takest to hide what thou art, are more than would make thee what thou wouldest seem; the children of wisdom shall mock at thy cunning; and when thy disguise is stripped off, the finger of derision shall point thee to scorn.

BOOK VII.

RELIGION.

There is but one God, the author, the creator, the governor of the world, almighty, eternal, and incomprehensible.

The sun is not God, tho' his noblest image. He enlighteneth the world with his brightness; his warmth giveth life to the products of the earth: admire him as the creature, the instrument of God; but worship him not.

To the One who is supreme, most wise and beneficent, and to him alone, belong worship, adoration, thanksgiving, and praise.

Who hath stretched forth the heavens with his hand; who hath described with his finger the courses of the stars.

Who setteth bounds to the ocean, which it cannot pass; and saith unto the stormy winds, be still.

Who shaketh the earth, and the nations tremble; who darteth his lightnings, and the wicked are dismayed.

Who called forth worlds by the word of his mouth; who smiteth with his arm, and they sink into nothing.

“O reverence the majesty of the Omnipotent! and
“tempt not his anger, lest thou be destroyed.”

The providence of God is over all his works; he ruleth and directeth with infinite wisdom. He

hath instituted laws for the government of the world ; he hath wonderfully varied them in all beings ; and each by his nature, conformeth to his will.

In the depth of his mind he revolveth all knowledge ; the secrets of futurity lie open before him.

The thoughts of thy heart are naked to his view ; he knoweth thy determinations before they are made.

With respect to his prescience, there is nothing contingent ; with respect to his providence, there is nothing accidental.

Wonderful he is in all his ways ; his counsels are inscrutable ; the manner of his knowledge transcendeth thy conception.

“ Pay, therefore, to his wisdom all honour and veneration ; and bow down thyself in humble and submissive obedience to his supreme direction.”

The Lord is gracious and beneficent ; he hath created the world in mercy and love.

His goodness is conspicuous in all his works ; he is the fountain of excellence, the centre of perfection.

The creatures of his hand declare his goodness, and all their enjoyments speak his praise : he cloatheth them with beauty ; he supporteth them with food : he preserveth them with pleasure from generation to generation.

If we lift up our eyes to the heavens, his glory shineth forth ; if we cast them down upon the earth, it is full of his goodness ; the hills and the vallies rejoice and sing ; fields, rivers, and woods resound his praise. But thee, o man, he hath distinguished with peculiar

favour, and exalted thy station above all creatures.

He hath endowed thee with reason to maintain thy dominion; he hath fitted thee with language, to improve by society; and exalted thy mind with the powers of meditation to contemplate and adore his inimitable perfections.

And in the laws he hath ordained as the rule of thy life, so kindly hath he suited thy duty to thy nature that obedience to his precepts is happiness to thyself.

“O
“praise his goodness with songs of thanksgiving, and
“meditate in silence on the wonders of his love; let
“thy heart overflow with gratitude and acknowledg-
“ment; let the language of thy lips speak praise and
“adoration; let the actions of thy life shew thy love
“to his law.”

The Lord is just and righteous; and will judge the earth with equity and truth.

Hath he established his laws in goodness and mercy, and shall he not punish the transgressors thereof?

O think not, bold man! because the punishment is delay'd, that the arm of the Lord is weakened; neither flatter thyself with hopes that he winketh at thy doings.

His eye pierceth the secrets of every heart and he remembereth them for ever; he respecteth not the persons, nor the stations of men.

The high and the low, the rich and the poor, the wise and the ignorant; when the soul hath shaken off the cumbrous shackles of this mortal life, shall equally receive from the sentence of God a just and

everlasting retribution according to their works.

Then shall the wicked tremble and be afraid; but the heart of the righteous shall rejoice in his judgments.

“ O fear the Lord, therefore, all the
“ days of thy life; and walk in the paths which he
“ hath opened before thee. Let Prudence admonish
“ thee; let Temperance restrain; let Justice guide
“ thy hand, Benevolence warm thy heart, and Grat-
“ itude to heaven inspire thee with devotion. These
“ shall give thee happiness in thy present state, and
“ bring thee to the mansions of eternal felicity in the
“ paradise of God.

THIS IS THE TRUE ECONOMY OF HUMAN LIFE.

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