

father's heart, fainting under his vain labors to satisfy his children's hunger, wept tears of gratitude to that Saviour who has purchased for him so precious a boon !

Another worldly good, which may have been with the Christian an object of strong desire and effort, is a reputation for learning and wisdom. And he may have been in a measure successful. But God usually so orders events, that his honors shall sit uneasily upon him, and prove a crown of thorns rather than of flowers. When he commenced his career of learning, those who had already climbed up the steep and difficult way cheered him with encouraging words, and held up the dazzling crowns which they had won, sparkling with jewels, to stimulate his zeal. But no sooner had he reached the eminence on which they stood, than he found them equally ready to pluck off his laurels, and to crowd him back again into a humbler sphere. So long as he was beneath them, they were overflowing with benevolence and patronage. But to have the ignorant boy, whom they had helped out of the mire of poverty and ignorance, become their peer, — nay, rise above them, and seize a richer crown than theirs, — was more than human pride could brook. So that the Christian scholar found that reputation had only brought him into a battle field with powerful and implacable enemies. In his path, too, he often found coiled up the viper envy, charged with venom ; and the scorpion hatred often crept under his pillow, to sting him in an unconscious hour. In his own heart, also, he found the pride of science choking the growth of the Christian graces, and poisoning the springs of religious joy. In short, a few years of such experience taught him that to be elevated in society is to be a mark for the arrows of ignorance and sin ; and often, too, the intelligent and the virtuous will interpose no shield of defence, so that you are left alone, with little power to do good.