

THE PROVERBS OF SOLOMON-BEN-DAVID, KING OF ISRAEL.

1 **T**HE Proverbs of Solomon-Ben-
David, King of Israel, which
2 are to teach wisdom and correc-
tion, and to understand the ideas
3 of intelligence; how to acquire
instruction, skill, righteousness,
4 justice, and rectitude; and to teach
the young to gain prudence and
discretion.
The Philosopher can listen, and add 5
to his acquisitions, and the intelligent
gain assistance in understanding a 6
proverb, and the meaning of the words
of the Wise and their dark sayings!

BOOK OF PROVERBS.—BOOK THE FIRST.

Motto.

Respect for the Lord is the first-fruit of Wisdom; and only fools despise 7
correction.

David's Introductory Address to his Son, Solomon.

" My son, hear your father's correction; 8
And reject not the words of your mother,
For they are a wreath for your head, 9
And chains for adorning your neck.

Rules of Life.

" Go not, my son, if the wicked entice, 10
If they say, ' Come, let us look out for blood, 11
And lurk for the careless and fools;
Let us swallow their lives like the grave, 12
And in mass, as they got to the pit!
We shall seize upon wealth of all kinds; 13
And with plunder can fill all our hands.
Come throw in your venture with us, 14
One purse then shall serve for us all!' 14
" My son, go not out on their path! 15
And hold back your feet from their course,
For their footsteps rush on to distress, 16
And hasten to shedding of blood!
" The net surely is spread out in vain 17
In the sight of the lord of a wing!—
But those watch to shed their own blood, 18
They lay ambush against their own lives!
For that is the end of all plunder,— 19
Plunder captures the lives of its slaves.

An Invitation to the Crowd.

" Wisdom cries out aloud in the streets,— 20
She utters her voice in the squares;
At the top of the markets she cries, 21
At the wide open gates of the town,
She declaims in her speech!

The Speech of Wisdom.

- 22 " How long will you foolish love folly ?
 And scorners delight in your scorn ?
 And you ignorant hate to be taught?—
- 23 Come, turn and examine my proofs,
 For I pour out my spirit for you,
 To you I will teach my ideas !
- 24 " Tho' I cry, you will never attend ;
 Tho' I stretch out my hand none will grasp ;
 My councils you treat with neglect,
 And you will not accept my reproofs,
 So when you are in grief I will laugh
 Will smile when your terror arrives,
 27 When destruction comes on like a tempest,
 And your sorrow sweeps on like a storm,
 And your trouble and anguish have come !
- 28 " If you call me,—I will not reply !
 You will seek,—but then never shall find,
 29 In return for your hating instruction,
 And refusing to reverence the LORD !
 30 You did not desire¹ my advice,
 And you flung away all my reproofs ;—
 31 So eat of the fruit of your conduct,
 Be satisfied with your own plans ;
 32 For the tricks of the cunning will kill them,
 And deceptions of idiots destroy,
 33 But my hearers in safety will dwell,
 And rest without fear of distress !

Comment upon the Address of Wisdom.

- 2 " My son, if accepting my words,
 If you store my command with yourself,
 2 If your ears will lay hold of Wisdom,
 And your heart will incline to reflect,
 3 If, then, you will call to Perception,
 And to Thoughtfulness lift up your voice,—
 4 If you seek her, as men do for silver.
 And dig as for wealth from a mine,
 5 You will then find the fear of the LORD
 And discover the knowledge of GOD!—
 6 For the LORD is the giver of Wisdom,
 From HIS mouth come Knowledge and Thought;—
 7 Salvation He stores for the upright ;
 And shields those who walk in the truth ;
 8 Keeps guard on the path of the Just,
 And safe marks the way of His Saints !
- 9 " So examine the Right and the Just,
 And the Wise, and then all will go well,
 10 Then Wisdom will enter your heart,
 And Knowledge be sweet to your soul
 11 Discretion will watch over you,
 Reflection herself will attend,
 12 Will preserve from the way of Distress,
 From the persons who speak to pervert ;
 13 Who wander from Rectitude's paths,
 To walk in the ways that are dark,
 14 Who delight in the practice of wrong,
 And rejoice in perversion to vice ;
 15 Whose courses are all of them crooked,

¹ NOTE.—I change the 3 p. pl. of the Hebrew verb to the 2 p. pl. to meet our English idiom in addressing an audience.—F. F.

And deception in all that they do!
 And will guard you from women depraved,— 16
 From the stranger with flattering words,
 Who abandons the love of her youth, 17
 And forgets every law of her GOD;
 Who allures to the Death in her House!— 18
 The exhausted are strewn in her paths!—
 All who enter it,—never return! 19
 Nor revisit the pathways of life!
 " But you,—walk in the path of the good· 20
 And keep to the straightforward ways,
 For the virtuous continue on earth, 21
 And upon it the upright remain,
 While the bad are destroyed from the ground, 22
 And from it wrongdoers are pulled.

The Results of a Virtuous Life.

" My son! forget never My Laws, 3
 And let your heart store My Commands;—
 For long days and years to your life, 2
 And peace to yourself they will add.
 " Abandon not Kindness and Truth, 3
 But twine as a wreath on your neck,
 And write on the page of your heart;—
 Then you will find favour and fame, 4
 In the sight both of GOD and of men.
 " And trust on the LORD in your heart, 5
 And rely not upon your own skill;—
 Acknowledge Him in all your ways, 6
 And then He will make your paths smooth.
 And in your own eyes be not wise,— 7
 Fear JEHOVAH and turn off from wrong;
 For it will be health to your nerves, 8
 And come like a drink to your bones.
 " Pay respect to the LORD from your wealth. 9
 And the first fruits of all you produce,
 Then your barns will be full of your crops, 10
 And your stores will be bursting with fruit.
 " Son, despise not the LORD who corrects, 11
 Nor hate Him because He reproves,
 For the LORD reproves those whom He loves,— 12
 Like a father his own darling child!

The Wealth of Wisdom.

" How happy the man who finds Wisdom! 13
 And the man who Reflection attains!
 For her cargo is better than silver, 14
 And her produce surpasses fine gold!
 For she is more precious than pearls, 15
 And no pleasures are equal to hers! 16
 In her Right, is extension of days,
 In her Left, she has honour and wealth; 17
 Her tracks are of pleasantness ways,
 All her paths are the pathways of peace!
 Who owns her,—owns a Tree giving Life;
 Who retains her,—possesses success! 19

How God Founded the World.

" The LORD founded by Wisdom the Earth 20
 By Intelligence fixed up the Skies,
 And expanded the Space by His Knowledge, 21
 And makes the clouds drop down the showers.

22 " Son ! let them not slip from your eyes,
 Seek Enterprise joined with Good-sense,
 23 For they are the life of your soul,
 And they will add grace to your neck.
 24 You then can walk forward in safety,
 And your footsteps will never be caught ;
 25 If sleeping, you will not feel terror,
 Nor the rush of the storm when it comes.—
 26 For the LORD will be still your supporter,
 And guarding your feet from a fall.

On the Life of Practical Virtue.

27 " Withhold not your help from the needy,
 When GOD gives your hand power to do ;
 28 Say not to your friend, ' Go away,
 To-morrow I'll give,' when you have !
 29 Contrive not a wrong to your neighbour,
 When he trustfully rests at your side.
 30 " Assail not a man for a trifle,
 Except in return for a wrong.
 31 To be like the villain desire not,
 And never delight in his ways.
 32 For the LORD has disgust at the scoundrel,
 But the honest have Him for a friend.
 33 " The LORD curses the house of the bad,
 But blesses the home of the good.
 34 " With scorners, He is Himself scornful,
 But gives to the youthful His grace.
 35 " The Wise will inherit respect,
 But the Fools will reside in contempt ! "

David continues His Lessons to Solomon, related by Him to His own Son.

4 Listen, sons, to a father's instruction,
 And reflection attentively learn ;—
 2 For good doctrine I utter to you,
 So never abandon my rules.
 3 For I was my father's dear son,
 Who because of my mother he loved,
 So he taught me himself, and he said,—
 4 " Now let your heart cling to my words,
 Regard my instructions and live.
 5 Get Wisdom ; and get Understanding,
 Nor forget her, nor swerve from her speech,
 6 Nor abandon ; and then she will guard ;—
 And love her,—and she will preserve.
 7 " Let Wisdom be first ; purchase wisdom ;
 And Reflection with all you possess ;
 8 Exalt her,—and she will exalt you,—
 And honour you, when you salute ;—
 9 Place a beautiful wreath on your head,
 And give a magnificent crown.
 10 " Listen, son, and attend to my words,
 They will add to the years of your life.
 11 " I teach you the pathways of Wisdom ;
 I direct to the smoothest of roads,
 12 Where, walking, your foot will not stumble,
 And if running you will not fall down.—
 13 Seize Instruction, and let her not go,
 Keep her fast ; because she is your life.

“ Never enter the path of the wicked ;— Nor advance by the road of the bad. Avoid it, and pass it not over, Turn away from ascending, and shun ; For they sleep not unless they have wronged ; And sleep leaves them unless they betray, For their bread, is the eating of Crime, And outrage the wine that they drink ! “ But the path of the good, morning light, Advancing to shine to full day ! While the road of the wicked is dark, And they know not the time of their fall ! “ My son ! now attend to my words, And bend down your ears to my speech. And let it not slip from your eyes, And guard in the depth of your heart ! They are life to whoever may find ; And health to all parts of his frame. Guard ever your thoughts with all care, For from them come the issues of life. “ Expel from yourself a false mouth, And cast from yourself a loose life. Let your eyes to your object look straight, And your glance be direct before you. And ponder the path for your feet, And let all your courses be firm. Swerve not to the right or the left,— But turn off your foot from the wrong.	14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27
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A Warning against Vice.

“ My son ! to my wisdom attend, And bend down your ear to my thoughts ; Keep to reflection and knowledge, Which they will provide for your lips. “ Though a loose wanton's lips may drop honey, And her mouth may be smoother than oil, Her results are more bitter than wormwood, More sharp than a double-edged sword ! Her steps only lead down to Death, Her pathways conduct to the Grave. Lest you find out the pathway of life, Her paths are untraceably wound.— “ But listen, my children, to me, And turn not away from my words ; From her let your steps turn away, And approach not the door of her house. Lest you give to Seducers your wealth, And to those without mercy your years. Lest strangers be fed by your strength, And your wealth in a foreigner's home, And you groan at results to yourself, With your body and manhood destroyed, And exclaim, ' How I hated instruction, And rejected reproof from my heart ! Nor would learn from the voice of my teacher, Nor bend to instruction my ears ! I have almost been always in sin ! In the midst of the crowd and the court.'	5 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14
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An Exhortation to Chastity.

“ Drink water drawn from your own well, And streams from the depth of your spring ;	15
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16 From your fountains that flow in your court,
That run into pools with their streams.
17 And reserved for your own use alone,—
Not for you, and for strangers as well.—
18 And let your spring always be blessed,
And rejoice with the wives of your youth,
19 With the lovely gazelles, graceful ever ;—
At all times be entranced by their breasts,
And dream at all times of their love.
20 " Why, my son, be entranced with the love,
And embrace to a breast that is strange ?—
21 For man's ways are observed by the LORD,
Who carefully weighs all his paths.
22 His own vices capture the bad,
And hold him enchained in his sins ;
23 By his want of reflection he dies,
And his numberless follies betray."

Advice on Business Affairs.

6 " My son, are you bond for a friend ?
Or for strangers have signed with your hand ?
2 Or are snared by the words of your mouth ?
Or caught by the words of your lips ?
3 Try this way, my son, to get free,—
Since you are in the hand of your neighbour,
Go humble yourself to your friend,
4 And never give sleep to your eyes,
Nor give to your eyelids a rest,
5 Till you leap like a deer from his net,
And a bird from the hand that had caught.

The Parable of the Ant.

6 " Go, Sluggard, look at the Ant,
Consider her ways, and be wise !
7 Who has no Leader, Guardian, or King,
8 Yet lays up her bread in the summer,
And heaps up in harvest her food !
9 " How long will you lie down, you sluggard ?
When will you rise from your sleep ?
10 ' A little more sleep, and a little more slumber,
A little more folding the hand for a sleep,—
11 So your poverty comes like a robber,
And your want like a man with a shield.

On the Characteristics of Vice.

12 " A loose fellow—a man of no worth,—
Goes about with a profligate mouth ;
13 With winking of eyes, with a shuffling of feet,
With his finger he mischief provokes :—
14 Always planning, and letting loose sin !—
15 But his punishment comes unexpected,
With a sharp irreparable break.

What the Lord Hates.

16 " There are six things the LORD Himself hates,
And a seventh is abhorred by His soul ;
17 Haughty eyes, and a tongue that deceives ;
And hands shedding innocent blood ;
18 A heart that plans out vile deceptions ;
Feet ready to rush to do wrong ;
19 A breather of lies for defrauding ;
And the sender of strife among friends !

On Filial Duty and Warnings against Debauchery.

- " My son ! guard your father's commands, 20
 And your mother's rules do not reject ;
 Continually wrap round your heart, 21
 And make them the scarf of your neck.
 They will be in your course as a guide, 22
 And watch you when lying asleep,
 And converse with you when you awake.—
 His command is a lamp, and her rules are a light, 23
 And reproofs to instruct in the pathway of life,
 To guard you from women defiled ;— 24
 From the strangers with flattering tongues.
 " In your heart never long for their charms, 25
 And be not ensnared by their smiles.—
 A whore brings to a morsel of bread ; 26
 The adulteress hunts the dear life !
 " Can a man put a fire in his breast, 27
 And not be consuming his clothes ?
 Can a man upon burning coals walk, 28
 And by them his feet not be scorched ?
 Thus who goes to the wife of his friend, 29
 Escapes not from her without loss.—
 They despise not a thief if he steals, 30
 To fill the demand of his life ;
 But if found he repays sevenfold, 31
 All he has in his house they will take.
 But the coward corrupting a wife 32
 Produces a rot to his life ;
 He finds but disease and disgrace, 33
 And his infamy cannot be hid !—
 For jealousy makes a man mad ; 34
 Unsparing in time of revenge,—
 No recompense he will regard, 35
 No rest for the greatest of bribes !
 " My son, give regard to my words,— 7
 Lay up with yourself my commands ;
 Regard my commandments,—and live,— 2
 And my rules like the ball of your eye.
 Let them girdle your fingers around, 3
 Inscribe on the book of your heart ;—
 Say to Wisdom, ' My sister are you ' ; 4
 And Discernment address as your friend,
 Who will guard you from women depraved ; 5
 From the stranger with slippery tongue.
 " Once from my house, thro' the lattice, 6
 At the time of the evening I looked,
 And, watching, I saw in the Broadway, 7
 With the young men a youth without sense,
 Who passed thro' the street to her corner,— 8
 He stalked on the way to her house,
 In the twilight, the dusk of the day, 9
 In the gloom of the night, towards dark ;
 Then I saw a woman approach him, 10
 A dressed harlot,—and crafty of heart,—
 (Such are noisy, and cannot be quiet, 11
 And their feet never rest in the house,—
 But are now in the streets,—in the squares,—
 And lurking in every nook),— 12
 And she eagerly seized him and kissed,
 And pouted her mouth, and addressed ;— 13
 " I have offered my offering of thanks,— 14

15 To-day I have paid what I vowed ;
 And so I have come out to meet you,—
 16 To seek for your face, and have found !
 I have spread pretty rugs on my couch,—
 17 Of Egypt the bright-coloured chintz.
 I have charmingly scented my chamber,
 With cinnamon, sandal, and myrrh !—
 18 " ' Come in ! let us riot with loves !
 And delight with the darlings till dawn ;—
 19 For the master is not in my home,—
 He has gone on a journey afar !
 20 He took with him a bag full of cash ;—
 He comes home on the day of new moon.'
 21 She seduced him by prattling much ;—
 She deludes by her pattering lips !—
 22 He went, like an ox to be slain ;
 Went and leaped like a stag to a net,
 23 Till his liver is pierced by her dart ;—
 As a bird he makes haste to the trap,
 And knows not, it is for his life !
 24 " But you, my son, listen to me ;
 And attend to the words of my mouth,
 25 Incline not your heart to her path,
 Nor turn yourself to her arcade.
 26 For many fall wounded by her,
 And her murdered would make a great host ;—
 27 Her house is the path to the grave ;
 It leads down to the Chambers of Death ! "

The Invitation of Wisdom.

8 " And then does not Wisdom invite ?
 And Intellect utter her voice ?
 2 From the top of the mounds by the roads,—
 She stands at the junction of streets.
 3 At the gates ; at the front of the walls,
 When the entrances open, she shouts ;
 4 " ' Men ! it is to you that I call !
 And to Adam's sons utter my voice !—
 5 You foolish,—reflect and have sense ;
 You stupid,—reflect in your heart !
 6 Hear, for I speak with manifest sense,
 And with honesty open my lips ;
 7 And my palate articulates truth,
 And my lips are abhorring the false.
 8 All the words of my mouth are for right,
 None in them are bent, or perverse ;
 9 To intellect, they are all straight,
 And plain to the seeker of fact,—
 10 Seize my instructions,—not money !—
 And knowledge before refined gold !
 11 For Wisdom is fairer than pearls,
 And all pleasures equal not hers !
 12 " ' I, Wisdom, am dwelling with skill,
 And know the discoveries of thought.
 13 Fear the LORD, and dislike wicked pride,
 For pride, bad ways, and libel I hate ;
 14 But Counsel and Safety are mine ;
 And mine are Reflection and power ;
 15 Kings reign, and the Princes do right,
 16 And the Governors govern by me,
 With all Judges controlling the land ;

And I love whoever loves me,	17
And who earnestly seeks me shall find.	
" Both honour and riches are mine,	18
With enduring wealth and content,	
Better products than high-refined gold,	19
And more choice than what silver can buy.	
In Rectitude's high road I walk,	20
In the midst of the pathway of Right,	
To make those that love me have wealth,	21
And that I may fill up their stores.	
" The LORD formed me, the first of His plans,	22
Before He began to create ;	
And I was enthroned from of old,	23
Ere the first preparations of earth ;	
When Space was not made I revolved ;	24
Before the deep springs of the sea ;	
Before that the mountains were set,	25
I revolved ere existed the heights ;	
Ere the earth and its circuit was made,	26
And before the first dusts of the worlds !	
" When He formed the suns I was there,	27
When their circuits were settled in space !	
When arranging the clouds from above,	28
When controlling the fountains in space ;	
When He fixed His decree for the sea,	29
That the waters should not pass the shore ;	
When He fixed His decree for the land,	
I was there with delight, day by day.—	30
I rejoiced in His presence the while ;	
I rejoiced in the circling of earth,	31
And rejoiced in the children of men !	
" So now, children, listen to me !	32
They are happy who keep to my ways,	
Submitting yourselves to be taught,	33
Be wise, and turn never from me.	
The man who hears me will succeed,	34
Who stands at my gate day by day,	
Who waits till I open its doors ;—	
For who finds me, discovers true life,	35
For he is approved by the LORD.	
But who misses me hurts his own soul ;	36
All who hate me are lovers of death.' "	

What Wisdom has Done.

" Now Wisdom has built up her house,	9
Seven columns hewn out for herself ;	
Slain her cattle, and mingled her wine,	2
And also her table has spread.	
She has sent out her maids to invite	3
From the crowds on the top of the walls,—	
' Who is ignorant, let him turn back,'	4
She says, and to those of faint heart,	
' Come, enter and eat of my bread,	5
And drink of the wine I prepare.	
Abandon your follies and live,	6
And advance on the road of good sense.' "	

The Maxims of Wisdom.

" Who corrects a derider, gets insult ;	7
Who advises the wicked, abuse ;	
Correct a derider, he hates you ;	8

9 Correct a wise man, and he loves ;
 Teach the Wise and he then will be wiser ;
 Teach the Righteous, and he will improve.
 10 ' The fear of the LORD reveals wisdom,
 And to know the Supreme understanding ;
 11 And by me will your days be increased,
 And years be adjoined to your life.
 12 ' If wise, you are wise for yourself ;
 You will suffer yourself, if you scorn ! ' ' '

The Description of Folly.

13 " A loud talking woman is Folly !
 A fool,—who knows nothing at all !
 14 And she sits at the door of her house,
 On a seat at the height of the town ;
 15 Calling those who pass by on the road,
 Who travel along on their paths ;—
 16 ' Who is foolish ? Then let him turn here ! '
 And to the weak-hearted, she says ;
 17 ' Be sure stolen waters are sweet,
 And bread eaten in secret is nice ! '—
 18 But he knows not the Dead that are there ;—
 That she calls to the deeps of the Grave ! ' '

THE PROVERBS OF SOLOMON.

BOOK THE SECOND.

<i>The Maxims of Solomon.</i>	10
A wise son makes his father glad, A foolish son his mother grieves.	
The gifts of Fortune cannot help But Righteousness defends from death.	2
The LORD starves not the righteous soul, But checks the bad man's lust.	3
The careless hand produces want, The diligent makes wealth.	4
A prudent man will reap in summer; A son of shame will sleep in harvest !	5
Blessings crown the righteous head, Shame clothes the face of crime.	6
The memory of the Good is blest, The fame of Bad will rot !	7
The wise in heart obey commands, A jabbering fool revolts !	8
Who walks honestly, goes safely ; Who twists his ways, will be shunned !	9
Who winks his eye will give offence ; And the jabbering fool repels.	10
The mouth of the Good is a living spring, But the face of the Bad hides crime.	11
Hatred awakes contentions ; But Love conceals offence.	12
Wisdom finds the lips of Reflection, But the rod, the back of a fool !	13
The wise man stores up knowledge, But the fool's mouth opens his breast !	14
The rich man's wealth is his fort ;— Their poverty wrecks the poor.	15
The wages of Virtue are Life ; The product of sin is Suffering.	16
Correction guards the path of Life, Who rejects correction strays.	17
Who wraps up hate has lying lips, Who spreads slander is a fool !	18
Danger lurks in many words, So the prudent shuts his lips.	19

- 20 Choice silver is the tongue of the good,
But the heart of the wicked worthless.
- 21 The lips of the good feed many;
But they die by the cowardice of fools.
- 22 The blessing of the LORD brings wealth,
And toil adds nothing to that.
- 23 To practise sin is sport to fools,—
But prudent men seek wisdom!
- 24 The terrors of the wicked catch him,
But the wish of the good will be done.
- 25 Like a passing storm, sin goes;
But goodness endures for ever!
- 26 Like acid to teeth, and smoke to the eyes,
Is a sluggard to him who sends him.
- 27 The fear of the LORD adds days,
But sin will shorten our years.
- 28 The hope of the good is to benefit,
But the wish of the bad is destruction.
- 29 The way of the LORD is strength to the good,
But horror to the doers of wrong.
- 30 The Good will not always be shaken,
Nor the Bad always dwell on the Earth.
- 31 The mouth of the Good utters wisdom,
But the perverted tongue destruction.
- 11 A deceptive scale disgusts the LORD,
But He delights in an honest weight.
- 2 Insolence comes,—then follows disgrace,
But Wisdom is with the lowly.
- 3 The Just are guided by Right;
But the cunning of rogues destroys them.
- 4 Wealth helps not in the day of wrath,
But Rectitude saves from Death.
- 5 Goodness smoothes the path of the True
But the wicked falls by his sin.
- 6 Goodness releases the honest,
But rascals are caught by their crimes.
- 7 The hope of the Bad ends in Death,
When his objects of passion vanish.
- 8 The Good is prepared for danger,
But it comes on the Bad in his stead.
- 9 A traitor wrecks his friend by his mouth,
But the faithful saves by his skill.
- 10 When the good prosper, the town exults,
But it shouts when the wicked fail!
- 11 Honest endeavours raise a state;
But it falls by the thought of the bad.
- 12 The base of heart defames his neighbour,
But a man of reflection is silent.
- 13 A rascal goes and reveals a secret,
But a faithful spirit conceals a thing.

Without a guide, a People falls, But is saved by plenty of counsel.	14
Who guarantees a stranger smarts; And who hates guarantees is safe.	15
A fair woman retains her honour, As wealthy men retain their wealth.	16
A man kind-hearted enjoys his life, But a cruel man torments himself.	17
The wicked earn a deceptive wage But the righteous a true reward.	18
The Child of Virtue is Life; The Offspring of Wickedness Death! ¹	19
The LORD abhors the false of heart, But he delights in the upright course.	20
Tho' hand join hand the bad escape not, But the seed of the good are safe.	21
A golden gem in the snout of a hog, Is a fair woman lost to discretion.	22
The hope of the upright is always good, The hope of the wicked departs.	23
A man may scatter and still increase, Or grasp at much, and be poor!	24
A generous soul is enriched, And a waterer will be watered.	25
The people will curse the holder of corn, But will bless the hand that sells.	26
The benefactor seeks delight, And who seeks injury, meets it!	27
Who trusts in his wealth will fail, But the good will flourish like grass.	28
Who disturbs his house inherits wind, And the fool will serve the reflective.	29
The fruit of the good is a living tree, And the wise man gathers lives.	30
You see the good repaid on earth,— How much more the vile and the bad	31
Instruction love; and love to learn;— Who hates reproof is loutish!	12
The LORD shows favour to the good; But will punish the mischievous man.	2
A man cannot build upon wrong, But the foot of the good has a sure base.	3
A virtuous wife is her husband's crown, But the vicious, a rot in his bones.	4
The design of the good is Justice; The aim of the wicked Deceit.	5

¹ NOTE.—V. 19. In this verse I read with the Septuagint as above. "B'n" כִּנִּי instead of כִּנִּי "K'n," that is, "B'n, son," instead of "K'n, therefore," the sense showing "B'n" to be the correct reading. If it were

"K'n," the couplet would be translated as follows:

Therefore Righteousness produces Life;
The Result of Wickedness is Death.—F. F.

- 6 The plans of the wicked seek blood,
But the plan of the good is to save.
- 7 The wicked fall, and vanish;
But the house of the righteous stands.
- 8 A man is honoured for a prudent mouth,
But the malicious in heart is despised.
- 9 The commoner who has a servant,
Is better than a prince without bread!
- 10 The good man cares for the life of his beast,
But the mercies of the bad are cruel.
- 11 Who farms his land will have bread;
But who follows a demagogue is senseless.
- 12 The wicked wish for wrongful plunder;
But the plant of the righteous bears.
- 13 The bad are caught by rebellious lips,
But the good are brought out of trouble.
- 14 A man can gain by the fruit of his lips,
And the work of his hands comes to him.
- 15 The way of a fool is right in his eyes,
But the wise will hear advice.
- 16 A fool displays his anger at once,
But the skilful will hide an insult.
- 17 A truthful witness breathes out good,
But the false one pours deceit.
- 18 Loose talk is a stabbing sword,
But the tongue of the wise will heal.
- 19 The true lip will last for ever;—
For a moment, the lying tongue.
- 20 The heart contriving evil deceives,
But the councils of peace bring joy.
- 21 No sorrow will oppose the good,
But the bad will be full of trouble.
- 22 The LORD abhors the lying lip,
But the practice of truth delights Him.
- 23 The skilful man conceals his knowledge;
The fool's heart proclaims his folly.
- 24 The hand of the diligent rules,
But the idle lies under tribute.
- 25 Grief depresses the heart of a man,
But a gentle word can cheer it.
- 26 The righteous excels his neighbour,
But the wicked lose their way.
- 27 The idle, cooks not his game,
But action is wealth to the active.
- 28 Righteousness brings us a happy life,
And her pathway leads not to death.
- 18 A wise son will love correction,
But a scoffer hears not reproof.
- 2 A man's mouth eats good food,
But the soul of a rascal villainy.

He guards his life, who checks his mouth, The wicked lipped kills himself!	3
The idler longs, while his body starves,— But the active body will thrive.	4
The righteous hate false-speaking, But the wicked revile and libel.	5
Righteousness keeps a straight-on course, But wickedness turns to sin.	6
Some men seem rich, but have nought, Or pretend to be poor, with wealth.	7
A man's life can be ransomed by wealth But the poor man hears no threats.	8
The light of the righteous shines, But the lamp of the wicked flickers.	9
The vanity of pride makes strife, But wisdom possesses prudence.	10
Small losses diminish wealth, It increases by small additions.	11
Hope deferred makes a man's heart sick ; But a wish attained is a tree of life !	12
He is bound by a pledge who breaks it ; But who attends to the law has peace.	13
Wisdom's rules are a well of life ;— To the rejector, snares of death.	14
Good conduct procures us favour, But the path of traitors is hard.	15
All the clever act with caution, But the foolish displays his folly.	16
The agent of sin will find trouble, But honesty's agent is safe.	17
Instruction scorned, brings want and shame, But correction regarded,—honour.	18
To attain our wish is sweet to the mind, So fools hate to abandon sin.	19
Walk with the wise, and be wise, But the company of fools corrupts.	20
Suffering follows the wicked, But benefit salutes the good.	21
Grandchildren succeed the good, But the bad store wealth for the just.	22
Digging for springs increases food, Yet some fail for want of judgment.	23
Who spares the rod will spoil his child, But affection corrects him early.	24
The good eats to feed his life, But the belly of the bad for greed.	25
The wise wives build up their house, But the foolish pull down with their hands.	14
The honest walk in the fear of the LORD, But those of bad habits, despise.—	2

- 3 For foolish lips, is the lifted rod,
But the lips of the prudent guard them.
- 4 Without bullocks, the barn is empty,
But the strong steer produces plenty.
- 5 A truthful witness will never fail,
But a false one pours out deception.
- 6 The Scorners seek, but find not Wisdom,
But the Reflector easily learns.
- 7 Walk away from a foolish man,
For you learn naught from his lips.
- 8 The wise examines his course with care
But their folly will mislead fools.
- 9 The depraved jeer at confessing sin,
But the upright do it gladly.
- 10 The heart knows its own distress,
And no stranger prevents its joy.
- 11 The house of the bad is destroyed,
But the tent of the good extends.
- 12 A course may seem straight before a man,
Whilst the results of that course are Death
- 13 Even in laughter the heart is sad,
And the end of mirth is sorrow.
- 14 The coward is full of his plans,
But a brave man of his actions.
- 15 The silly will trust to every word,
But the prudent examines his progress.
- 16 The wise man fears, and flies from danger
But the fool goes on with presumption.
- 17 The quick-tempered acts like a fool,
And a mischievous fellow is hateful.
- 18 The stupid will inherit folly,
But the clever are crowned by knowledge
- 19 Make the wicked submit to the good,
And the bad at the gates of the righteous

THE PROVERBS OF SOLOMON.

BOOK THE THIRD.

Lessons of Daily Life.	14
His brother hates the poor, But the rich has many friends.	20
He sins who despises his neighbour, But who comforts the poor will prosper.	21
Do not the wicked work for wrong? But the kind and true for good?	22
There is profit from every labour, But the talk of the lips brings want.	23
Wealth is a crown to the Wise, But folly crowns the Perverse!	24
A truthful witness rescues lives, But the liar breathes out danger.	25
He safely hopes who fears the LORD, And his children will have a refuge.	26
The fear of the LORD is a well of life, And turns from the snares of Death.	27
An increasing race is a Monarch's honour, A decreasing nation, a Prince's fall!	28
Slow anger shows great prudence, But quick temper discloses folly.	29
A contented heart strengthens the frame, But envy is a rot in the bones!	30
Who wrongs the poor insults his Maker, But who honours Him pities the needy.	31
The Wicked is depressed in suffering, But the Good has hope in his death.	32
Wisdom rests in the heart of the prudent, But the secret of fools is published.	33
Righteousness exalts a Nation, But sin will disgrace all Peoples.	34
A skilful Minister delights a king, But his anger will come on the stupid.	35
A gentle answer turns back wrath, But hard speech rouses fury.	15
Knowledge adorns the tongue of the Wise, But the Fool's mouth pours out folly.	2
The eyes of the LORD are on every place, Observing the bad and the good.	3

- 4 A pleasant tongue is a tree of life,
But a spiteful mouth is a wrecking storm
- 5 A Fool refuses his father's advice,
But the sensible minds his reproof.
- 6 Wealth grows in the house of the good,
But the increase of the bad is sorrow.
- 7 The lips of the Wise sow Knowledge,
But the mind of the fool regards not.
- 8 The Wicked's offering disgusts the LORD,
But the prayer of the upright delights him.
- 9 The road of Sin disgusts the LORD,
But He loves the path of Right ;
- 10 Who leaves that way will suffer grief,
Who hates His reproof will die.
- 11 The Grave and the Lost are before the LORD,
With the hearts of the children of Adam.
- 12 The Scorners love not his reprover,
So he does not do like the Wise.
- 13 A merry heart will gladden the face,
But a sad heart breaks the spirit.
- 14 The intelligent mind seeks learning,
But the mouth of fools eats folly.
- 15 All the days of the coward are griefs,
But the bold heart always feasts.
- 16 Better a little with the fear of the LORD,
Than wealth and an evil conscience.
- 17 Better a dinner of herbs, with love,
Than a fattened ox with hatred.
- 18 A passionate man excites contention,
But a forbearing settles strife.
- 19 The road of the Idler is hedged with thorns,
But the path of the Active is smooth.
- 20 A wise son will delight his father,
But a fool despises his mother.
- 21 Folly delights the empty mind,
But a sensible man goes straight.
- 22 Plans with no basis are futile :—
They are only achieved by reflection.
- 23 A man can please by the word of his mouth,
For how sweet is an opportune word !
- 24 The path of the Wise leads up to life,
Who turn from it, slope to the grave.
- 25 The LORD throws down the house of the cruel,
But guards the bounds of the gentle.
- 26 The thoughts of the bad disgust the LORD,
But the words of the pure are sweet.
- 27 The corrupt official afflicts his house,
But the hater of bribes will live.
- 28 The Good will hesitate to speak,
But the wicked will pour out villainy.

The LORD is far from the wicked,
But he hears the prayers of the good. 29

A cheerful heart enlightens the eyes,
And good news fattens the frame. 30

The ear that hears the instruction of life,
Resides in the breast of the Wise. 31

Who refuses correction, hates his life,
Who hears a reproof, buys sense ! 32

Wisdom teaches the fear of the LORD,
And humility goes before honour ! 33

On the Divine Government.

Man can display his ideas,
But the LORD gives the tongue a reply. 16

All a man's ways are right in his eyes,
But the LORD can examine his thoughts. 2

Confide all your works to the LORD
And he will arrange for your plans. 3

The LORD made all for his purpose,
Yes, the bad for the day of distress ! 4

All the proud-hearted disgust the LORD,
Hand in hand they will not be guiltless. 5

Frailty is pardoned by kindness and truth,
But the fear of the LORD turns from evil. 6

When a man's ways please the LORD,
Even his foes are at peace with him. 7

An honest little is better
Than a great dishonest increase. 8

A man's heart plans his object,
But the LORD controls the result. 9

The Duties of Governors.

Let Justice guard the royal lips,
Lest his mouth should err in deciding. 10

A just balance and scales are the LORD'S ;
For He made all the weights in the bag. 11

It is hateful for kings to sin ;
For to do right supports the throne. 12

Honest lips should be pleasing to kings,
Who should love the straight-out speaker. 13

A king's wrath is a herald of death,
But a wise man can appease it. 14

In the light of a royal face is light ;
And his favour, a rain-cloud in harvest. 15

In Praise of Wisdom.

Buy wisdom rather than finest gold,
Get thought, before choicest silver ! 16

The right highway is to turn from sin,
He saves his soul who keeps that road ! 17

Pride will precede destruction,
And a haughty spirit a fall. 18

- 19 Prefer a humble state with the gentle,
To sharing wealth with the fierce.
- 20 The skilful in business find success ;
But who trusts in the LORD is happy.
- 21 Intelligence meets the wise heart,
And pleasant lips gain wealth.
- 22 Sense is a living spring to its owner,
But a Fool's instruction is folly !
- 23 The heart of the wise instructs his mouth,
And brings a reward to his lips.
- 24 Kind words are like to a honeycomb,
Sweet to the mind and health to the frame.
- 25 A course may seem right to a man,
But the end of it may be death !
- 26 A man who works, works for himself,
For his mouth compels him to do so.
- 27 A loose fellow pours out sin,
And his lips are a scorching fire !
- 28 A spiteful man spreads strife,
And a whisperer separates friends.
- 29 A rascal deludes his neighbour,
And leads him to a course of loss.
30 Fixing his eyes and planning fraud,
With tight lips he works the wrong.
- 31 Gray hair is a beautiful crown,
If found in a righteous cause !
- 32 Forbearance is better than force,
And to hold one's temper than taking a city !
- 33 Dice are flung out from the box,
But their arrangement comes from the LORD.
- 17 A dry crust is better, with peace,
Than a house of rich food with strife.
- 2 A wise servant rules a bad son,
And will take his share with the brothers,
- 3 The flaming furnace for silver and gold,
But the LORD is the tester of hearts.
- 4 The wicked seeks for evil lips ;
The liar attends to a traitor's tongue !
- 5 Who laughs at the poor insults his Maker ;—
Who delights in suffering, will suffer.
- 6 An old man's crown are the sons of his son ;
And their father's the honour of children.
- 7 An eloquent lip becomes not a brute ;
Nor do lying lips a noble.
- 8 Talent is a gem in the eyes of its owner,
To whatever it turns he prospers.
- 9 Who hides a fault will gain affection,
But to report, repels your friends.
- 10 A reproof impresses good sense,
More than a hundred stripes a fool !

The seditious seek sure mischief, And sends an agent to punish himself!	11
Let a man meet a bear bereaved, Before a fool in his folly!	12
Who repays a good turn with wrong, Distress departs not from his house.	13
Starting strife is water poured out, So refrain before strife is begun.	14
Acquitting the bad, and convicting the good, Both alike are disgusting the LORD.	15
What use is cash in the hand of a fool, To buy wisdom, when he has no sense?	16
At all times a friend will love you;— But a brother for distress, must be born.	17
A senseless man strikes hands, As a bond on behalf of his friend.	18
He who loves to do wrong loves strife, Who exalts his gate seeks destruction.	19
A spiteful heart finds nothing good; And a vile tongue falls into trouble.	20
He grieves himself who begets a fool; And a brute's father will not rejoice.	21
The best medicine is a cheerful heart; But a loaded mind exhausts the frame.	22
The wicked takes a bribe from the purse, To deprave the paths of justice.	23
The reflective have wisdom before them; It is far from the eyes of a fool!	24
A foolish son provokes his father, And embitters her who bore him.	25
It is never right to fine the good, Or to strike the noble for justice.	26
The man who knows will spare his words, And the temper of the wise is cool.	27
A silent fool is considered wise, And the close-lipped are held to be knowing.	28
A man seeks his own desires, When raging against control.	13
A fool disregards reflection, For it only discovers his heart!	2
With the entrance of sin comes disgrace, And with shameful acts, reproach.	3
Deep streams are the words of man's mouth, A deep brook, and well of wisdom.	4
Allow not the high stationed bad To cheat the good out of their right.	5
The lips of the fool rush to strife, And his mouth calls out for blows.	6
The mouth of a fool destroys him, And his lips are a snare to his life.	7

- 8 A tale-bearer's words like dainties,
Go down to the stomach's depths.
- 9 Who idles over his work,
Is akin to the reckless waster.
- 10 The name of the LORD is a tower of strength;
The good run to it, and are safe.
- 11 The wealth of the rich is his castle,
And a lofty wall is his fancy!
- 12 Before a smash, man's heart is high;
But humility goes before honour.
- 13 To give an answer before you hear,
Is absurd,—and reproach to yourself.
- 14 A man's spirit sustains his wound;
But a broken spirit, who can bear?
- 15 A prudent man acquires knowledge,
And the ears of the wise seek learning.
- 16 The gift of a man gains way,
And brings him before the great.
- 17 The Plaintiff is right in his cause,
Till the Defendant comes on to examine,
- 18 Wagers are laid on the die,
But cause quarrels among the strong.
- 19 A brother wronged is more than a castle,
His contentions like bars of a fort.
- 20 A man's belly is filled by the fruit of his mouth,
He is fed by the fruit of his lips.
- 21 Death and life are in the tongue's power,
And its lovers will eat its fruit.
- 22 Who finds a wife, finds what is a good,
But a risky gift from the LORD!
- 23 The poor man's words are petitions,
But the rich man speaks with power.
- 24 A man of companions is ruined;
A friend sticks more fast than a brother.
- 19 Prefer a poor man going straight,
To a tricky rogue, tho' rich.¹
- 2 An ignorant soul is not happy,
For that urges the feet to sin.
- 3 A man's vices pervert his course,—
Then his heart kicks against the LORD.
- 4 Wealth secures us many friends,
But companions depart from the poor.
- 5 A false witness will not be guiltless,
Nor a spouter of lies escape.

¹ NOTE.—Ch. 19, v. 1. This is the reading of various Hebrew MSS. and of the same maxim when repeated in Ch. 26, v. 6, and is evidently, by its clear point, what Solomon wrote. But the common reading of the A.V. and R.V. is,
1 "Better is the poor that walketh in his integrity, than he that is perverse in his lips and is a fool."

Which, by the large addition of words to bring out even its vague meaning, is shown to be a scribe's error in the ordinary Hebrew printed copies. I have consequently adhered to the MSS. readings, which give a vigorous sense without need for me to add a word to the epigram.—F. F.

Many wait on the face of a prince, And all are friends to a man who gives,	6
All a poor man's brothers hate him, His friends even go far away;— They are gone when he follows with words	7
Who buys reflection, loves himself, Who keeps understanding find the profit,	8
A false witness will not be unpunished, And a spouter of lies will fail.	9
Finery becomes not a clown, Nor that a slave should rule over princes.	10
Good sense makes a man forbearing,— And to pass by offences crowns him.	11
A king's wrath is a roaring lion, But his favour like dew upon grass.	12
A reckless son distresses his father;— A contentious wife is a drifting rain.	13
A house and wealth descend from parents, But a sensible wife from the LORD.	14
Idleness drops to stupid sleep, And the indolent person to hunger.	15
Who keeps to his orders, saves his life, Who delays on his road may be killed.	16
He lends to the LORD who helps the poor, Who will repay him as much again.	17
Correct your son while there is hope, And bear not his death on your soul.	18
The furious-tempered will suffer hurt, For if forgiven he never amends.	19
Hear advice, and take a warning, And be wiser by the results.	20
Man has many plans in his mind, But the LORD'S intention endures.	21
To do kindness makes a man liked; And a poor man better than a liar.	22
The fear of the LORD brings life, And whom it fills, will not feel grief.	23
The sluggard dips his hand in the dish, But does not bring back to his mouth!	24
Punish a scorner, and fools learn sense; But reproof to the wise breeds thought.	25
Who robs his father and drives his mother, Is a son of shame and reproach.	26
Refrain, my son, to attend to advice That leads from the words of Knowledge	27
A false witness scoffs at Justice, And a wicked mouth swallows villainy. But Justice is ready for scoffers, And stripes for the rascal's back.	28 29
Wine is a mocker, strong drink maddens, And all it deludes are not wise.	20

- 2 A king's wrath is a raging lion,
Who enrages him, risks his life.
- 3 It honours a man to keep from strife,
But every fool will begin it.
- 4 A sluggard who ploughs not because of cold
Will beg in harvest for want.
- 5 Thought in man's heart is like deep water,
But a skilful man draws it out.
- 6 Men often meet a man who is kind,—
But a trustworthy man who can find ?
- 7 Whoever goes straight in goodness,
His children are blest after him.
- 8 A king who sets justice beside his throne,
Expels all the bad from his sight.
- 9 Who can say, " I have cleansed my heart
I have washed myself from my sins ? "
- 10 Different weights, and varying measures,
Both alike will disgust the LORD.
- 11 Even in childhood, a child is known,
If he loves to do wrong, or right.
- 12 The hearing ear, and the seeing eye,
Were both the work of the LORD.
- 13 Love not sleep, lest you become poor,
Open eyes and gain plenty of bread.
- 14 " It is worthless, worthless ! " the buyer cries ;
But when by himself, he praises.
- 15 There is gold, and plenty of pearls
But the lips of knowledge are precious things.
- 16 Take his cloak, who warrants a stranger ;
And his pledge, who brings a loose girl.
- 17 Lying bread may be sweet to a man,
But fills his mouth with grit in the end.
- 18 Arrange your plans with counsel ;
And make your war with precaution.
- 19 A tattler goes telling secrets,
So approach not his open lips.
- 20 Who reviles his father and mother,
In darkness puts out his lamp.
- 21 Wealth may be gotten quickly at first,
But the results of it do not last.
- 22 Say not, " I will revenge that wrong ! "
But trust in the LORD who will help you.
- 23 Varying weights disgust the LORD ;
And dishonest scales are wrong.
- 24 A man's career comes from the LORD,
For who of mankind knows his road ?
- 25 It disgraces a man to deny his promise,
And after his vow to back out.
- 26 A wise king drives off the wicked,
And brings his blower against them.

The lamp of the LORD in the spirit of man, Explores the caves of the breast.	27
Mercy and truth defend a king, For his throne is founded on mercy.	28
Their strength is the glory of youthful men, But grey heads the honour of the old.	29
To bind a wound protects from harm ; And sufferings the depths of the mind.	30
The hand of the LORD holds the mind of a king, He turns it towards whatever He wills.	21
All a man's ways are right in his eyes, But the LORD will weigh his intents.	2
To practice right and justice, Will please the LORD more than offerings.	3
A haughty eye, and a greedy heart, Are the seeds of sin in the bad.	4
The plans of the active procure gain, But those of the idle, want.	5
Who earn wealth by a lying tongue, Hunt risk, and sudden death.	6
The plunder of the bad afflicts them, And yet they refuse to do right !	7
The criminal's path is rough, His, who practises right, is smooth.	8
Better live lone on the top of a house, Than with brawling wives in its parlour !	9
The wicked heart desires evil ;— His friend never pleases his eyes !	10
To punish a rogue instructs the weak,— And the wise who reflect gain knowledge.	11
The Wicked house instructs the Good, For the bad are o'erthrown by their sin.	12
Who stops his ear to the cry of the poor, He will cry, and none will answer.	13
A timely gift appeases rage, And a bribe in the pocket great wrath !	14
The righteous delight to do right, And to blot out the doers of wrong.	15
The man who quits the pathway of sense, Leaves his home for the sake of shadows.	16
The poor man who loves enjoyment,— And wine and oil, will never be rich.	17
The wicked should ransom the righteous, And the swindler be changed for the honest.	18
Better to live in a desert land, Than with a nagging passionate wife.	19
Stored goods and oil remain with the wise, But the stupid fellow will swallow.	20
The follower of Goodness and Mercy, Finds Life and Profit and Honour.	21

- 22 Skill can assail a town of heroes,
And reduce its strongest fort.
- 23 Who can keep his mouth and his tongue,
Keeps the fortress containing his soul.
- 24 He is called an insolent bully,
Who acts in his ruffian fury.

On the Folly of Idleness.

- 25 The desire of the idle kills him,
For his hands refuse to work,
- 26 He longs all day for his wish,
While the honest work and want not.

The Folly of Rascals.

- 27 The offering of sinners disgusts,
For they bring it with evil intent.
- 28 A witness for falsehood will stammer,
But a man who has heard, speaks firm.
- 29 A bully is bold in his face,
But the honest is calm before him.
- 30 No skill, and no understanding,
Or counsel can fight with the LORD.
- 31 Train the horse for the time of war ;
Yet the victory comes from the LORD.

On Prudence and Conduct of Life.

- 22 A good name is choicer than wealth ;
Good repute than much silver and gold.
- 2 The rich and the poor mix together,
For the LORD is the Maker of them all.
- 3 The prudent sees danger and hides,
The foolish go on and suffer.
- 4 The Lord has provided reward for the meek,
With riches, honour, and life.
- 5 The sullen has a thousand traps on his road,
But who keeps his temper is free.
- 6 Train a child in the way he should go ;—
He will not desert it when old.
- 7 The rich rule over the poor ;
And the borrower serves the lender.
- 8 Who sows for sin, will misery reap,
And the staff of his passions will break.
- 9 The beneficent eyed will be blessed,
For he gives his bread to the needy.
- 10 Expel a scoffer, and quarrelling goes ;
And strife and abuse will depart.
- 11 The lover of a pure kind heart,
Has a royal friend at his lips.
- 12 The eyes of the LORD guard knowledge ;
And defeat the plans of the villain.
- 13 The sluggard says, " A lion's outside !
I am sure to be killed in the streets ! "

- A deep pit is a loose woman's mouth,
Those who anger the LORD fall in it. 14
- Folly enwraps the heart of the young ;
The rod of correction removes it. 15
- Who plunders the poor to enrich himself,
Must give to the rich and be ruined. 16

On the Value of Wisdom.

- Attend, and hear the words of the wise,
And apply your heart to My teachings ; 17
- For they comfort, if kept with you ;
So place them and fix on your lips, 18
- That your trust may be in the LORD,
I have taught you now,—yes, yourself. 19
- Have I not written to you till now,
Concerning Instruction and Knowledge ? 20
- To teach you to weigh the words of truth,
And to answer enquiries aright ? 21

The Three Rules.

I.

- Rob not the weak for his weakness,
And repulse not the poor from your gate ; 22
- For the LORD will defend their claim,
And strip those, who strip them of life. 23

II.

- Consort not with a quarrelsome man ;
With a furious fellow go not ; 24
- For fear you should copy his paths,
And acquire a risk for your mind. 25

III.

- Be not with those who strike hands,
Who make themselves bondsmen for debts. 26
- If you have not the wherewith to pay,
Your bed will be taken from you. 27
- So do not remove the old fence,
Which your fathers had built around. 28

On Industry.

- Watch a man constant at work,
He will stand before kings,—not the low. 29

On Temperance.

- If you sit down to dine with a ruler,
Consider well what is before you ;— 23
- And put a knife to your throat,
If you are a man of keen taste, 2
- And do not desire his dainties,
For they are a food that deceives. 3

On too eager a Pursuit of Wealth.

- Exhaust not yourself to be rich,
Take a rest, that you may reflect, 4
- That wealth flies from your sight, and is not.
For it grows ;—then spreads wings for itself, 5
- Like an eagle, and flies to the skies.

On Unwilling Hosts.

6 Eat not the bread of the grudger
 And desire none of his sweets ;—
 7 He is like the thoughts of his soul ;
 Though he asks you " to eat and to drink ! "
 Yet his heart is never with yours.
 8 You will vomit the mouthful you eat,
 And be sick of your pleasant discourse.

On the Folly of Trying to Teach Fools.

9 Speak not to the ears of a fool,
 Who despises instructive discourse.

On Honesty.

10 The ancient landmark remove not,
 Nor encroach on the orphan's land,
 11 For their Defender has power,—
 And conducts their defence against you.

Advice to Parents.

12 Present your heart to instruction,
 And your ears to the teachings of fact,
 13 Refrain not correcting your child,
 Whom the strokes of a rod will not kill.
 14 You can flog him yourself with a rod,
 And rescue his life from the grave.

An Appeal to His Son.

15 My son ! if your heart will be wise,
 My heart will be glad,—yes, my own !—
 16 And the depths of my breast will exult,
 When I hear of your lips speaking right.
 17 And let not your heart envy sinners ;
 But be always in fear of the LORD,—
 18 For a future condition is certain,
 Therefore cut not yourself from your hopes.
 19 So listen, my son, and be wise,
 And proceed with your heart in my way.
 20 Go not with deep drinkers of wine,
 Nor join in their riotous feasts,
 21 For the drunkard and glutton make poor,
 And sleeping will clothe you in rags.
 22 So attend to the father who got you,
 And despise not your mother when old.
 23 Buy Truth, and sell it not again,
 With Wisdom, Instruction, and Sense.
 24 For the father of the good will be glad,
 Who has a wise son can rejoice.—
 25 Make your father and mother content,
 That they may be glad you were born.

A Warning against Vice.

26 My son ! give your heart up to me,
 And let your eyes look on my ways,
 27 For a loose woman is a deep ditch,
 And a whore is a pit of distress ;
 28 For she lies in wait for her plunder,
 And increases the vices of men.

Against Drunkenness.

Who have woe? who have misery and brawls?	29
Who have wounds? who have objectless strife?	
With whom are the red gleaming eyes?	
Are they not with the seekers of wine,	30
Who go out to search for the best?	
Look not on the wine that is red,	31
When its eye dances right in the cup;	
For it afterwards stings like a snake,	32
And its bite like an adder inflames!	
Loose women your eyes will regard,	33
And your heart vomit out what disgusts,	
As though laid in the heart of the sea,	34
And stretched on the deck of a ship.	
"Let them strike me! I suffer no pain!	35
Let them beat me;—I never shall care!—	
When I wake, I will seek it again!"	

The Folly of Envying the Bad.

Feel no envy about wicked men,	24
Nor wish for yourself to be them,	
When their heart is contriving a fraud,	2
Or their lips are discussing to cheat.	
By Wisdom a house is built up,	3
And is founded by means of Good Sense;	
And by knowledge its chambers are filled,	4
With comforts and all that is nice.	
For the Wise can prevail over Strength;	5
And the skilled man can conquer the strong.	
For with caution you must make your fight,	6
And your victory by plenty of thought.	

The Uselessness of Envying Fools.

Wise thoughts are too high for a fool,	7
Let him ope not his mouth in the Court.	
His ideas can but injure himself,	8
They will call him a bungler of thought.	
The ideas of a fool are no worth,	9
And a scoffer disgusts human kind.	

On Need of Courage in Distress.

If you fail in a time of distress,	10
By an effort recover your strength.	
Rescue those who are led out to death,	11
And who go to be slain if you can.	
If you say, "What know we about him?"	12
Will not the Heart Searcher perceive,	
And he know who has guard of your life,	
Who returns to a man what he does?	

On Wise Enjoyment.

Eat honey, my son, because sweet,	13
And nice in the roof of your mouth;	
So is knowledge of Thought to your soul,	14
For you know that a future exists,	
And therefore your hopes will not die.	

Good will Defeat Evil.

Villain! watch not the home of the good;	15
Assail not the place of his rest;	
The good falls and will rise seven times,	16
But the wicked crash down to a smash.	

Against Malicious Joy,

- 17 Be not glad when your enemy falls,
Rejoice not your heart at his loss;
18 Lest the LORD see, and it grieve His eyes,
And He turn back His anger from him.

Against Envy of the Bad.

- 19 Enrage not yourself for the bad,
Do not envy the luck of the vile;
20 For there is no future for vice;
The lamp of the wicked goes out.

Honour God and the King.

- 21 My son! fear the LORD, and the King;—
With the changeful associate not.
22 For swift will their punishment rise,—
And who knows the injury of both?

Maxims for the Wise.

- 23 To regard station in judgment is wrong.
24 Who says to the wrong, "You are right,"
Peoples curse, and the Nations will hate.
25 But they will love all who oppose,
And come to present them with thanks,
26 And will put a sweet kiss on their lips,
In return for their comforting words.

On Forethought.

- 27 Do the work for yourself in the field,
And after that build up a house.

Against Slander.

- 28 Speak not what is false of your neighbour,
And be not seduced by your lips,
29 Say not, "As he did it to me;
I will do to the man what he did."

The Home of the Sluggard.

- 30 I passed by the farm of the sluggard,
By the garden of him without sense,
31 And saw thistles were all that it grew.
And nettles had covered its face,
And the wall built to fence it had fallen.
32 So I looked and I laid it to heart;
I observed, and a lesson received;
33 "A little more sleep, and a little more slumber,
With a little more folding the hands to lie down;"
34 So your poverty comes,—an invader,
And your want like a man with a shield!

END OF SOLOMON'S ADVICE TO HIS SON, BEING BOOK III. OF PROVERBS.

THE SELECTED PROVERBS OF SOLOMON.

BOOK THE FOURTH.

PREFACE.

These also are the Proverbs of Solomon which the editors of Hezekiah, King of Judah, selected. 25

Proverbs of Solomon.

'Tis the honour of God to conceal an event,
But the honour of Kings to search out. 2

The height of the skies, and the depth of the earth,
And the hearts of kings are unsearchable. 3

On removing the dross from the silver,
The metal comes out for use ; 4

So remove all the bad from a king,
And his throne will then rest on the good. 5

Against Ostentation.

Show not display in the sight of a king,
Nor assume the position of honour, 6

For better be asked, "Come up here,"
Than put down in the sight of the prince,
Whose eyes have been looking on you ! 7

Against Quarrels.

Go not in haste into strife,
Reflect what may be the result, 8

Should your neighbour prevail against you ;
So discuss the affair with your neighbour ; 9

But to another reveal not the thing,
Lest he should report your mistake,
And you cannot withdraw what you said, 10

On Wise Social Intercourse.

Like golden apples on silver plates,
Is a word for a word in its turn. 11

Like a ring of gold with a precious gem,
To a listening ear is a wise instructor. 12

Like an ice-cooler in time of harvest,
Is a trusty messenger to his sender,
For his master's mind is refreshed. 13

A man is clouds, and wind without rain,
Who falsely boasts he is liberal. 14

A prince is persuaded by patience ;
And a soft tongue will break down the strong ! 15

- 16 If you find honey, eat but a little,
Lest you surfeit of it, and be sick.
- 17 Restrain your foot from the house of your friend,
Lest he be disgusted and hate you!
- 18 Like a club, and sword, and sharp arrow,
Is a man false accusing his neighbour.
- 19 An aching tooth and a foot out of joint,
Is trust on a traitor in danger!
- 20 Like the stripping of clothes on a wintry day;
And vinegar poured on a trembling nerve;
Is singing songs to an aching heart.
- 21 If your enemy hungers, feed him;
If he thirsts, give water to drink,
22 And a fire besides for his needs;—
And then the LORD will repay you.
- 23 The north wind produces a shower,
And a slandering tongue, an angry face.
- 24 Better to dwell on the top of a roof,
Than with a quarrelling wife in a parlour.
- 25 As cold water to weary men,
Is good news from a distant land.
- 26 As a muddled brook and a ruined well
Is the good afraid of the bad.
- 27 To eat much honey is not well,
Or for the honoured to seek for honour.
- 28 As a scattered town, without a wall,
Is a man of ungoverned temper.
- 28 Like snow in summer, and rain in harvest,
So honour becomes not a fool!
- 2 Like a wandering bird, and a swallow's flight,
So the causeless curse will not come.
- 3 A whip for a horse, a rein for an ass,
But a rod for the back of a fool.
- 4 Answer no fool, like his folly,
Lest you make yourself like to himself.
- 5 Reply to a fool as his folly requires,
Lest he seem to be wise in his own eyes.
- 6 Like a legless man, greedy for plunder,
Is entrusting affairs to a fool!
- 7 As a lame man's shanks swing loose,
Wit does in the mouth of fools.
- 8 Like a sparkling gem among rubbish,
Is honour conferred on a fool.
- 9 Like a thorn in the hand of a drunkard,
A proverb is in the mouth of a fool.

A Troop of Fools.

- 10 Many reel and shout when drunk,
Yet a fool and a drunkard are proud.
- 11 Like a dog returns to his vomit,
A fool returns to his folly.
- 12 See a man in his own eyes wise,
More hope for a fool than for him.

Upon Cowardly Idleness.

"There's a wolf on the road," says the sluggard,	13
"A lion opposes my path!"	
As a door turns on its hinges,	14
A sluggard turns on his bed.	
Though the sluggard dips hand in the dish,	15
It exhausts him to lift to his mouth.	
Yet an idler thinks himself wiser,	16
Than those who can speak good sense.	

Against Making Mischief.

He goes to take a dog by the ears,	17
Who joins in a quarrel not his.	
Like a fool hurling darts, fire, and death,	18
Is the man who deceives his neighbour,	19
Then exclaims, "I am only in sport!"	
A fire goes out without fuel,	20
And without a tattler quarrels cease.	
Like charcoal, and wood to fire,	21
Is a quarrelsome man starting strife.	
The words of a Whisperer, like sweets,	22
Go down to the depths of the breast.	
Like silver dross in a Smeltry,	23
Are double lips, and a wicked heart.	
Hatred lodges under his lips,	24
And deception rests in his breast.	
Though his voice is pleasant, trust not;	25
For his heart is fully corrupt.	
Though he deceitfully hides his hate,	26
In public his malice appears.	
Many dig the pit for his fall,	27
And his flung stone turns on himself!	
His lying tongue hates those it wounds,	28
And his flattering mouth, those it ruins:	

On the Uncertainties of Life.

Boast not of yourself for to-morrow,	27
You know not what that day may bring!	
Let a stranger praise you, not your mouth,	2
Another, and not your own lips.	
A stone is heavy, and sand a load,	3
But a fool's fury more heavy than both.	
Fury is fierce, and a raging flood;	4
But who can stand before jealousy?	
Better open reproof, than hidden love:—	5
The reproofs of a friend preserve;	6
But an enemy's kisses betray.	
The sated loathes a honeycomb,	7
To the hungry, bitter is sweet!	
Like a bird strayed from its nest,	8
Is a man exiled from his home:	
Oil and perfumes delight the heart,	9
And a good friend advising a man.	
Forsake not your friend, or your father's friend;	10
Nor enter your brother's house	

In the day of your distress ;
For a friend is better near
Than a brother who keeps afar.

11 Be wise my son, and delight my heart,
As an answer to him who insults.

12 The prudent sees danger, and hides ;—
The reckless go on, and suffer.

13 Take his cloak who is bail for a stranger ;
A pledge from a loose woman's friend.

14 He who rises at early dawn
With shouts to give thanks to his friend,
Will be thought to be cursing him.

15 A drizzling shower on a rainy day,
And a quarrelsome wife are a pair.
16 Restrain her ? Restrain the north wind !
And the scent on your hand !—If you can !

17 As iron sharpens iron,
So a man does the face of his friend.

18 Who tends the fig-tree, eats its fruit ;
And who guards his master is thanked.

19 As water shows a face to a face,
So the heart of man, shows to man.

20 The Grave and Destruction are never filled,
And the eyes of man are unsated.

21 Silver by smelting, gold by a furnace,
But man is proved by what he praises.

22 If you pound a fool in a mortar with wheat
His follies will not depart from him !

The Result of Carefulness.

23 Carefully learn the state of your flocks ;
Set your heart on the care of your herds ;
24 For wealth will not last for ever,
Nor a crown for ages of ages.

On Autumn.

25 When the hay is mown, the pasture grows,
And the mountain crops are gathered ;
26 The lambs then find you clothing,
And you sell fat goats from the field,
27 And rich milk from the goats to feed you,—
To feed your house, and nourish your girls.

The Results of Crime.

28 The wicked fly when none pursue,
But the good are bold as a lion.

2 By crimes of a land, its Rulers change,—
But by human prudence endure.

3 A poor man who oppresses the poor,
Like a sweeping storm brings want.

On Good and Bad Conduct.

4 Forsakers of law, praise the bad :
But who keep the law, reprove them.

Bad men understand not justice ; But who seek the LORD understand.	5
More happy the poor honest man, Than one of bad habits, though rich.	6
A prudent son will regard the law, But the friend of the vicious degrades his father.	7
Who gets rich by extortion and fraud, Collects for the kind to the poor.	8
Who turns his ear from hearing the law, His prayer itself is an offence.	9
Who leads the honest to evil paths, Will fall to that pit himself; But the upright inherit success.	10
In his own eyes the rich is wise, But the sensible poor expose him.	11
When the good are crowned, there is cheering When the bad succeed, men will hide !	12
Who conceals his sin, does not prosper ; Who confesses and leaves it, has mercy.	13
The man who fears is safe, But the rash falls into danger.	14
A roaring lion, and hungry bear, A bad ruler is to the poor. An oppressive prince is senseless ; But who hates to tax, prolongs his days.	15
A man who is guilty of murder, Flies to a pit that cannot hide.	17
Who acts honestly is safe ; But crooked ways soon fail.	18
He has plenty of bread who tills his land, But is poor indeed who follows delusions.	19
A faithful man has many blessings ; But who hastes to be rich, will suffer.	20
False pretences are not good, Nor to sin for a mouthful of bread.	21
A greedy man runs after wealth, Nor reflects that want may come.	22
Who corrects men, like me, finds favour, Far more than a flattering tongue.	23
Who thinks to rob father and mother not wrong, Has joined with the men of Destruction.	24
A greedy mind incites to contend, But who trusts on the LORD will prosper.	25
Who relies on his heart is a fool, But who walks by experience is safe.	26
He who gives to the poor will not want, Who averts his eyes will be cursed.	27
When the bad succeed, men hide ; But the good increase, when they perish.	28
A man when reproved, who stiffens his neck, When broken will find no help.	29

- 2 When the good succeed the people rejoice ;
But when the bad govern, men groan.
- 3 A man who loves Wisdom, brings joy to his father :
But the friend of harlots surrenders his wealth.
- 4 A king strengthens his land by justice,
But a man of taxation exhausts it.
- 5 A man who flatters his neighbour,
Is spreading a net for his feet.
- 6 There is a trap, in a bad man's sin ;
But the good can sing and rejoice.
- 7 The good will examine the pleas of the weak,
The bad troubles not to enquire.
- 8 The seditious set states in a flame,
But the wise will remove discontent.
- 9 If a wise man discuss with a fool,
By frowns or by smiles, he persuades not.
- 10 The murderous have hate of the honest,
But the upright will find his esteem.
- 11 A blockhead shows all his intention,
But the wise keeps it quietly back.
- 12 If a ruler attends to deceptions,
All his officials turn villains.
- 13 The poor and oppressors encounter,
They are both in the eyes of the LORD.
- 4 The king who faithfully governs the poor,
Will establish his throne for ever.
- 15 The rod, and reproof, give wisdom,
But an untrained child disgraces his mother.
- 16 When the wicked succeed, vice grows,
But the righteous will witness their fall.
- 17 Chastise your son, and he will comfort,
And give a relief to your mind.
- 18 Without Revelation a Nation fades,
But it prospers by knowing the law.
- 19 A slave will not be corrected by words,
Though he knows, he will not comply.
- 20 Do you see a man quick in his words ?
There is more hope for a fool than for him.
- 21 Who humours his slave from a youth,
Will be despised by him at last !
- 22 A passionate man incites to strife,
And the master of fury to sin.
- 23 The pride of a man will depress him,
But a mind that submits will gain honour.
- 24 Who shares with a thief, hates his life ;
Hears the oath, but will never inform.
- 25 Human terror precipitates loss ;
But who trust in the LORD will be safe.
- 26 Many seek for the favour of rulers,
But man's justice should come from the LORD.
- 27 A vile man disgusts to the good,
And the bad loathe the ways of the just !

THE SPEECHES OF AGUR-BEN-JAKEH; 30
 THE RIGHTEOUS;
 THE MESSAGE HE DELIVERED TO THE ATHEIST
 AND WASTER.

Though I am but an ignorant man, 2
 And have not the genius of Adam;
 Although I have never learnt Wisdom, 3
 Nor know of the science Divine,
 Of who mounts the skies and descends, 4
 Who gathers the wind in his grasp,
 Who spreads out the seas like a sheet,
 Who fixes the bounds of the earth,—
 What is His Name? and the name of His Son?—
 Do you know?
 Rely on the promise of GOD,— 5
 He shields all who trust upon Him,—
 Add nothing to what He commands. 6
 Lest for falsification you suffer.

The Desire of the Wise.

I will ask two things from you,— 7
 Take them not from me till death,—
 Move delusion and falsehood afar, 8
 Nor poverty give me, nor wealth,
 But feed with the bread that I need,—
 Not full, for fear I forget, 9
 And cry, "Tell me, Who is the LORD?"
 Or I become poor, and should steal,
 And rebel at the name of my GOD.

Advice as to Conduct.

To his Master, accuse not a servant, 10
 Lest he curse you, and you are in wrong.

On Depravity and Conceit.

There is an age that curses its fathers, 11
 And that cares not its mothers to bless;
 An age in its own eyes perfect, 12
 But never cleansed from its filth!—
 An age,—how haughty its glances! 13
 And its eyelids,—how lifted up!
 An age,—with swords for its teeth, 14
 And for its jaw-teeth,—sharp knives,
 To devour the weak of the earth,
 And the wretched among mankind.

On Greed.

Lust possesses two daughters, 15
 Who cry "Give! Give!"
 There are three that are never glutted,

- 16 A fourth that says not "Enough."
The grave, and the closed-up womb;
The earth unsated with water;
And fire, that says not "Enough!"

On Filial Disobedience.

- 17 The eye that laughs at its father,
That disdains to obey its mother,
The crow of the vale shall pick out,
And the eagle's young shall eat it.

Four Problems.

- 18 To me these three are a wonder;
And a fourth I understand not;
19 The path of an eagle in air;
The road of a snake on a rock;
The course of a ship through the sea;
And the power of the man over woman;
20 And the way of a faithless wife,
When she wipes her mouth and exclaims,
"I have not committed a sin!"

Unendurable Things.

- 21 A land trembles under these three,—
And under a fourth rests not;—
22 Under a slave when he rules;
And a brute who is gorged with his food;
23 And a hateful woman when married;
And a servant heir to her mistress.

Four Wise Creatures.

- 24 These four are small on the earth,
But they are the wisest of wise;—
25 The Ants are a People not strong,
Yet in summer they store up their bread;
26 Rabbits, are not a powerful race,
But they settle their homes in the rocks;
27 The Locusts have not any king,
Yet they all go out by their troops;
28 A Spider you catch with your hands;
Yet she dwells in the mansions of kings!

The Four Stately Creatures.

- 29 These three are stately in step;—
And a fourth is grand in its walk;
30 The Lion, the strongest of beasts,
That turns not his face from the whole;
31 A greyhound, as well as a goat,
And a king at the head of his troops!

A Final Caution.

- 32 If you have displayed your folly,
And if you have blundered,—keep still.
33 For churned milk produces butter,
And wringing the nose brings blood,
So churning anger produces strife.

The Address to the Godless King¹; The Plea by which
his Mother entreated him. 31

Alas! My Son!— 2
Oh, son of my body! Son of my vows!
Give not your strength to women, 3
Nor your ways to destroyers of kings;
It is not for kings, you godless!
Not for kings to be drunk with wine, 4
Or for princes to love strong drink!
Lest you drink and forget the law, 5
And forget to do right to the poor!
Give drink to the ready to perish; 6
And wine to the bitter in mind;—
Let him drink and forget his distress, 7
And remember his misery no more.—
But open your mouth for the speechless, 8
Plead for all silent sons of distress,
Open your mouth for true justice, 9
And plead for the wretched and poor!

The Good Wife.

(NOTE.—Every couplet of the following exquisitely beautiful poem begins in the original with a letter of the Hebrew alphabet: the first with א A, the next with ב B, and so forward to ת Th the final one. I am not able to reproduce this, but in all other respects my translation is word for word and line for line, as in the whole of Solomon's writings, so as to preserve his literary form.—F. F.)

Who ever finds a clever wife, 10
Her worth is more than pearls.
Her husband's heart can trust on her, 11
And he wants no supply.
She gives him comfort in his grief, 12
While she remains alive.
She works up the wool and the flax, 13
And spins them with her own hands.
She, like the merchants with their ships, 14
Will bring home food from far.
Will rise at dawn to fix housework, 15
And give food to her girls.
She will survey and purchase a field; 16
Her profits plant the farm.
She girds her loins up with strength, 17
Invigorates her arms.
She tastes her trading brings her good, 18
So lights her lamp at night.
Her hands are to the shuttle stretched, 19
The spindle she can drive.
Her hands give out gifts to the poor, 20
Her fingers help their needs.
Her family fears not the snow;— 21
Her household double clothed.
She makes herself rugs for her beds; 22
Her robes are purple lawn;
Her husband's honoured in the Gates, 23
Sits down amongst the peers.
She makes and sells fine satin cloth, 24

¹ NOTE.—Leaving the compound Hebrew word "Lemuel," לֵמוּאֵל, untranslated as in the old versions, loses the force of this fine

poem; לֵמוּאֵל, Lemuel, meaning "No-God for-me," i.e., "The King who rejected God"—"The Godless King."—F. F.

- 25 And girdles to the trade.
In strength and honour she is clothed,
And at the future smiles.
- 26 Her mouth with wisdom is unclosed,
Kind law controls her tongue.
- 27 Her household's conduct she controls,
And eats not idle bread.
- 28 Her children rise and call her blessed,
Her husband gives her praise;—
- 29 " Many wives have acted well,
But you surpass the whole."

Conclusion.

- 30 A form deceives, and beauty fades;—
A wife who fears the LORD is grand;
- 31 Give her the product of her hands;
Praise her works in the Gates.

END OF SOLOMON'S PROVERBS.