

**SCRIPTURE PORTIONS FOR
THE AFFLICTED, ESPECIALLY
THE SICK; WITH REFLECTIONS
FROM VARIOUS AUTHORS**

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by Various

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VARIOUS

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SCRIPTURE PORTIONS

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PREFACE.

THE afflicted are frequently unable to read much, or bear much to be read to them. The Bible, at such a time, is most "profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." Passages selected from the sacred pages, with hints on them to show their bearings, and set the thoughts in motion, cannot therefore be inappropriate; and the reflections of those devout men, who have seriously and laboriously weighed them, are likely to prove peculiarly acceptable. The additional remarks of experimental Christians, several of which are from the lips of the dying, are calculated to afford great encouragement and direction, as they will show, in the most convincing manner, that what the text and the comment enforce, many

have, by the aid of God's grace and Spirit, both experienced and practised. Nor can the poetical reflections be unseasonable; many of them have already solaced the hours of affliction, and are peculiarly adapted for "songs in the night." May the Divine blessing make this little work a blessing to the wounded in spirit, to guide them to Him, who, when He was upon earth, "healed all manner of sicknesses and all manner of diseases among the people." "Blessed is the man whom thou chastenest, O Lord, and teachest him out of thy law," Psalm xciv. 12.

SCRIPTURE PORTIONS

FOR

THE AFFLICTED.

GENESIS, xlii. 36.

And Jacob their father said unto them, Me have ye bereaved of my children: Joseph is not, and Simeon is not, and ye will take Benjamin away: all these things are against me.

AND yet God was not only carrying on great designs by the means Jacob so much disliked, for the advancement of his family, but was laying the foundation of a glorious scene of providence, the memorial of which will last as long as the Bible. We often pass a wrong sentence concerning this or that providence, and, in our haste, say things that are very unjust, and afterwards see reason to make a recantation.—BENJAMIN BENNET.

Oh what rare mercies often lie hid under some dark and afflicting providence, even while they are at our hand, and are not seen, from the frowardness of an embittered spirit,

that will not let its own eyes see the advantage of such a case; but, as if they did well to be angry against God, men will quarrel more for his crossing their humour, than observe his tenderness for promoting their real good, and cry against Him because He will not undo them!—FLEMING.

As in a clock, one motion doth convey
 And carry divers wheels a several way;
 Yet altogether, by the great wheel's force,
 Direct the hand unto his proper course:
 Even so that sacred will, although it use
 Means seeming contrary, yet all conduce
 To one effect, and, in a free consent,
 'They bring to pass Heaven's high decreed intent.

QUARLES.

GENESIS, xlvii. 9.

And Jacob said unto Pharaoh, The days of the years of my pilgrimage are an hundred and thirty years; few and evil have the days of the years of my life been, and have not attained unto the days of the years of the life of my fathers in the days of their pilgrimage.

This is not the language of discontent or unthankfulness, but the serious reflection of one who felt the vanity of the world, and saw

nothing here to make him desirous of a longer abode in it. Shall not we also make the same estimate of human life? Is it not "a pilgrimage?" And does not the whole of our situation here admonish us to "seek a better country, that is, a heavenly?" Seventy or eighty years may seem a considerable space while it is future, but it passeth away "as a tale that is told." It should also be remembered, that, short as our existence is, it is sadly embittered with calamities, and stained with sin. Take, then, "the picture of earth's happiest man," when he is quitting the present scene of things, and you will justly conclude, "FEW AND EVIL have his days been."—
THOMAS ROBINSON.

Woll, if ye must be sad and few,
 Run on, my days, in haste;
 Moments of sin, and months of wo,
 Ye cannot fly too fast.

Let heavenly love prepare my soul,
 And call her to the skies,
 Where years of long salvation roll,
 And glory never dies.

WATTS.