

PROVERBS

1 THE proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel, / [2] To know wisdom and instruction; / To comprehend the words of understanding; / [3] To receive the discipline of wisdom, / Justice, and right, and equity; / [4] To give prudence to the simple, / To the young man knowledge and discretion; / [5] That the wise man may hear, and increase in learning, / And the man of understanding may attain unto wise counsels; / [6] To understand a proverb, and a figure; / The words of the wise, and their dark sayings. / [7] The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; / But the foolish despise wisdom and discipline.

[8] Hear, my son, the instruction of / thy father, / And forsake not the teaching of thy mother; / [9] For they shall be a chaplet of grace unto thy head, / And chains about thy neck. / [10] My son, if sinners entice thee, Consent thou not. / [11] If they say: ‘Come with us, / Let us lie in wait for blood, / Let us lurk for the innocent without cause; / [12] Let us swallow them up alive as the grave, / And whole, as those that go down into the pit; / [13] We shall find all precious substance, / We shall fill our houses with spoil; / [14] Cast in thy lot among us; / Let us all have one purse’— / [15] My son, walk not thou in the way with them, / Restraine thy foot from their path; / [16] For their feet run to evil, / And they make haste to shed blood. / [17] For in vain the net is spread / In the eyes of any bird; / [18] And these lie in wait for their own blood, / They lurk for their own lives. / [19] So are the ways of every one that is greedy of gain; / It taketh away the life of the owners thereof.

[20] Wisdom crieth aloud in the street, / She uttereth her voice in the broad places; / [21] She calleth at the head of the noisy streets, / At the entrances of the gates, in the city, she uttereth her words: / [22] ‘How long, ye thoughtless, will ye love thoughtlessness? / And how long will scorers delight them in scorning, / And fools

hate knowledge? / [23] Turn you at my reproof; / Behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, / I will make known my words unto you. / [24] Because I have called, and ye refused, / I have stretched out my hand, and no man attended, / [25] But ye have set at nought all my counsel, / And would none of my reproof; / [26] I also, in your calamity, will laugh, / I will mock when your dread cometh; / [27] When your dread cometh as a storm, / And your calamity cometh on as a whirlwind; / When trouble and distress come upon you. / [28] Then will they call me, but I will not answer, / They will seek me earnestly, but they shall not find me. / [29] For that they hated knowledge, / And did not choose the fear of the LORD; / [30] They would none of my counsel, / They despised all my reproof. / [31] Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, / And be filled with their own devices. / [32] For the waywardness of the thoughtless shall slay them, / And the confidence of fools shall destroy them. / [33] But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell securely, / And shall be quiet without fear of evil.'

2 My son, if thou wilt receive my words, / And lay up my commandments with thee; / [2] So that thou make thine ear attend unto wisdom, / And thy heart incline to discernment; / [3] Yea, if thou call for understanding, / And lift up thy voice for discernment; / [4] If thou seek her as silver, / And search for her as for hid treasures; / [5] Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, / And find the knowledge of God. / [6] For the LORD giveth wisdom, / Out of His mouth cometh knowledge and discernment; / [7] He layeth up sound wisdom for the upright, / He is a shield to them that walk in integrity; / [8] That He may guard the paths of justice, / And preserve the way of His godly ones. / [9] Then shalt thou understand righteousness and justice, / And equity, yea, every good path. / [10] For wisdom shall enter into thy heart, / And knowledge shall be pleasant unto thy soul; / [11] Discretion shall watch over thee, / Discernment shall guard thee; / [12] To deliver thee from the way of evil, / From the men that speak foward things; / [13] Who leave the paths of uprightness, / To walk in the ways of darkness; / [14] Who rejoice to do evil, / And delight in the frowardness of evil; / [15] Who are crooked in their ways, / And perverse in their paths; / [16] To deliver thee from the strange woman, / Even from the alien woman that maketh smooth her words; /

[17] That forsaketh the lord of her youth, / And forgetteth the covenant of her God; / [18] For her house sinketh down unto death, / And her paths unto the shades; / [19] None that go unto her return, / Neither do they attain unto the paths of life; / [20] That thou mayest walk in the way of good men, / And keep the paths of the righteous. / [21] For the upright shall dwell in the land, / And the whole-hearted shall remain in it. / [22] But the wicked shall be cut off from the land, / And the faithless shall be plucked up out of it.

3 My son, forget not my teaching; / But let thy heart keep my commandments; / [2] For length of days, and years of life, / And peace, will they add to thee. / [3] Let not kindness and truth forsake thee; / Bind them about thy neck, / Write them upon the table of thy heart; / [4] So shalt thou find grace and good favour / In the sight of God and man.

[5] Trust in the LORD with all thy heart, / And lean not upon thine own understanding. / [6] In all thy ways acknowledge Him, / And He will direct thy paths. / [7] Be not wise in thine own eyes; / Fear the LORD, and depart from evil; / [8] It shall be health to thy navel, / And marrow to thy bones. / [9] Honour the LORD with thy substance, / And with the first-fruits of all thine increase; / [10] So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, / And thy vats shall overflow with new wine.

[11] My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD, / Neither spurn thou His correction; / [12] For whom the LORD loveth He correcteth, / Even as a father the son in whom he delighteth. / [13] Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, / And the man that obtaineth understanding. / [14] For the merchandise of it is better / than the merchandise of silver, / And the gain thereof than fine gold. / [15] She is more precious than rubies; / And all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her. / [16] Length of days is in her right hand; / In her left hand are riches and honour. / [17] Her ways are ways of pleasantness, / And all her paths are peace. /

[18] She is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her, / And happy is every one that holdeth her fast.

[19] The LORD by wisdom founded the earth; / By understanding He established the heavens. / [20] By His knowledge the depths were broken up, / And the skies drop down the dew. / [21] My son, let not them depart from thine eyes; / Keep sound wisdom and discretion; / [22] So shall they be life unto thy soul, / And grace to thy neck. / [23] Then shalt thou walk in thy way securely, / And thou shalt not dash thy foot. / [24] When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid; / Yea, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet. / [25] Be not afraid of sudden terror, / Neither of the destruction of the wicked, when it cometh; / [26] For the LORD will be thy confidence, / And will keep thy foot from being caught. / [27] Withhold not good from him to whom it is due, / When it is in the power of thy hand to do it. / [28] Say not unto thy neighbour: 'Go, and come again, / And to-morrow I will give', when thou hast it by thee. / [29] Devise not evil against thy neighbour, / Seeing he dwelleth securely by thee. / [30] Strive not with a man without cause, / If he have done thee no harm. / [31] Envy thou not the man of violence, / And choose none of his ways. / [32] For the perverse is an abomination to the LORD; / But His counsel is with the upright. / [33] The curse of the LORD is in the house of the wicked; / But He blesseth the habitation of the righteous. / [34] If it concerneth the scorners, He scorneth them, / But unto the humble He giveth grace. / [35] The wise shall inherit honour; / But as for the fools, they carry away shame.

4 Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, /
4 And attend to know understanding. /
[2] For I give you good doctrine; / Forsake ye not my teaching. / [3] For I was a son unto my father, / Tender and an only one in the sight of my mother. / [4] And he taught me, and said unto me / 'Let thy heart hold fast my words, / Keep my commandments, and live; / [5] Get wisdom, get understanding; / Forget not, neither decline from the words of my mouth; / [6] Forsake her not, and she will preserve thee; / Love her, and she will keep thee. / [7] The beginning of wisdom is Get wisdom; / Yea, with all thy getting get understanding / [8] Extol her, and she will exalt thee; / She will bring thee to

honour, when thou dost embrace her / [9] She will give to thy head a chaplet of grace; / A crown of glory will she bestow on thee.' / [10] Hear, O my son, and receive my sayings, / And the years of thy life shall be many / [11] I have taught thee in the way of wisdom; / I have led thee in paths of uprightness. / [12] When thou goest, thy step shall not be straitened; / And if thou runnest, thou shalt not stumble. / [13] Take fast hold of instruction, let her not go; / Keep her, for she is thy life. / [14] Enter not into the path of the wicked, / And walk not in the way of evil men. / [15] Avoid it, pass not by it; / Turn from it, and pass on. / [16] For they sleep not, except they have done evil; / And their sleep is taken away, unless they cause some to fall. / [17] For they eat the bread of wickedness, / And drink the wine of violence. / [18] But the path of the righteous is as the light of dawn, / That shineth more and more unto the perfect day. / [19] The way of the wicked is as darkness; / They know not at what they stumble.

[20] My son, attend to my words; / Incline thine ear unto my sayings. / [21] Let them not depart from thine eyes; / Keep them in the midst of thy heart. / [22] For they are life unto those that find them, / And health to all their flesh. / [23] Above all that thou guardest keep thy heart; / For out of it are the issues of life / [24] Put away from thee a forward mouth, / And perverse lips put far from thee. / [25] Let thine eyes look right on, / And let thine eyelids look straight before thee. / [26] Make plain the path of thy feet, / And let all thy ways be established. / [27] Turn not to the right hand nor to the left; / Remove thy foot from evil.

5 My son, attend unto my wisdom; / Incline thine ear to my understanding; / [2] That thou mayest preserve discretion, / And that thy lips may keep knowledge. / [3] For the lips of a strange woman drop honey, / And her mouth is smoother than oil; / [4] But her end is bitter as wormwood, / Sharp as a two-edged sword. / [5] Her feet go down to death; / Her steps take hold on the netherworld; / [6] Lest she should walk the even path of life, / Her ways wander, but she knoweth it not.

[7] Now therefore, O ye children, hearken unto me, / And depart not from the words of my mouth. / [8] Remove thy way far from her, / And come not nigh the door of her house; / [9] Lest thou give thy vigour unto others, / And thy years unto the cruel; / [10] Lest strangers be filled with thy strength, / And thy labours be in the house of an alien; / [11] And thou moan, when thine end cometh, / When thy flesh and thy body are consumed, / [12] And say ‘How have I hated instruction, / And my heart despised reproof; / [13] Neither have I hearkened to the voice of my teachers, / Nor inclined mine ear to them that instructed me! / [14] I was well nigh in all evil / In the midst of the congregation and assembly.’ / [15] Drink waters out of thine own cistern; / And running waters out of thine own well. / [16] Let thy springs be dispersed abroad, / And courses of water in the streets. / [17] Let them be only thine own, / And not strangers’ with thee. / [18] Let thy fountain be blessed; / And have joy of the wife of thy youth. / [19] A lovely hind and a graceful doe, / Let her breasts satisfy thee at all times; / With her love be thou ravished always. / [20] Why then wilt thou, my son, be ravished with a strange woman, / And embrace the bosom of an alien? / [21] For the ways of man are before the eyes of the LORD, / And He maketh even all his paths. / [22] His own iniquities shall ensnare the wicked, / And he shall be holden with the cords of his sin / [23] He shall die for lack of instruction; / And in the greatness of his folly he shall reel.

6 My son, if thou art become surety for thy neighbour, / If thou hast struck thy hands for a stranger— / [2] Thou art snared by the words of thy mouth, / Thou art caught by the words of thy mouth— / [3] Do this now, my son, and deliver thyself, / Seeing thou art come into the hand of thy neighbour; / Go, humble thyself, and urge thy neighbour. / [4] Give not sleep to thine eyes, / Nor slumber to thine eyelids. / [5] Deliver thyself as a gazelle from the hand [of the hunter], / And as a bird from the hand of the fowler.

[6] Go to the ant, thou sluggard; / Consider her ways, and be wise; / [7] Which having no chief, / Overseer, or ruler, / [8] Provideth her bread in the summer, / And gathereth her food in the harvest / [9] How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? / When wilt thou arise out of thy

sleep? / [10] ‘Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, / A little folding of the hands to sleep’— / [11] So shall thy poverty come as a runner, / And thy want as an armed man.

[12] A base person, a man of iniquity, / Is he that walketh with a forward mouth; / [13] That winketh with his eyes, that scrapeth with his feet, / That pointeth with his fingers; / [14] Frowardness is in his heart, he deviseth evil continually; / He soweth discord. / [15] Therefore shall his calamity come suddenly; / On a sudden shall he be broken, and that without remedy.

[16] There are six things which the LORD hateth, / Yea, seven which are an abomination unto Him: / [17] Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, / And hands that shed innocent blood; / [18] A heart that deviseth wicked thoughts, / Feet that are swift in running to evil; / [19] A false witness that breatheth out lies, / And he that soweth discord among brethren.

[20] My son, keep the commandment of thy father, / And forsake not the teaching of thy mother; / [21] Bind them continually upon thy heart, / Tie them about thy neck. / [22] When thou walkest, it shall lead thee, / When thou liest down, it shall watch over thee; / And when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee. / [23] For the commandment is a lamp, and the teaching is light, / And reproofs of instruction are the way of life; / [24] To keep thee from the evil woman, / From the smoothness of the alien tongue. / [25] Lust not after her beauty in thy heart; / Neither let her captivate thee with her eyelids. / [26] For on account of a harlot a man is brought to a loaf of bread, / But the adulteress hunteth for the precious life

[27] Can a man take fire in his bosom, / And his clothes not be burned? / [28] Or can one walk upon hot coals, / And his feet not be scorched? / [29] So he that goeth in to his neighbour’s wife; / Whosoever toucheth her shall not go unpunished. / [30] Men do not despise a thief, if he steal / To satisfy his soul when he is hungry, / [31] But if he be found, he must restore sevenfold, / He must give all the substance of his house. / [32] He that committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding; / He doeth it that would destroy his own soul. / [33] Wounds and dishonour shall he get, / And his reproach

shall not be wiped away. / [34] For jealousy is the rage of a man, / And he will not spare in the day of vengeance / [35] He will not regard any ransom; / Neither will he rest content, though thou givest many gifts.

7 My son, keep my words, / And lay up my commandments with thee. / [2] Keep my commandments and live, / And my teaching as the apple of thine eye. / [3] Bind them upon thy fingers, / Write them upon the table of thy heart. / [4] Say unto wisdom: ‘Thou art my sister’, / And call understanding thy kinswoman; / [5] That they may keep thee from the strange woman, / From the alien woman that maketh smooth her words. / [6] For at the window of my house / I looked forth through my lattice; / [7] And I beheld among the thoughtless ones, / I discerned among the youths, / A young man void of understanding, / [8] Passing through the street near her corner, / And he went the way to her house; / [9] In the twilight, in the evening of the day, / In the blackness of night and the darkness. / [10] And, behold, there met him a woman / With the attire of a harlot, and wily of heart. / [11] She is riotous and rebellious, / Her feet abide not in her house; / [12] Now she is in the streets, now in the broad places, / And lieth in wait at every corner. / [13] So she caught him, and kissed him, / And with an impudent face she said unto him: / [14] ‘Sacrifices of peace-offerings were due from me; / This day have I paid my vows. / [15] Therefore came I forth to meet thee, / To seek thy face, and I have found thee. / [16] I have decked my couch with coverlets, / With striped cloths of the yarn of Egypt. / [17] I have perfumed my bed / With myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon. / [18] Come, let us take our fill of love until the morning; / Let us solace ourselves with loves. / [19] For my husband is not at home, / He is gone a long journey, / [20] He hath taken the bag of money with him; / He will come home at the full moon.’ / [21] With her much fair speech she causeth him to yield, / With the blandishment of her lips she enticeth him away. / [22] He goeth after her straightway, / As an ox that goeth to the slaughter, / Or as one in fetters to the correction of the fool; / [23] Till an arrow strike through his liver; / As a bird hasteneth to the snare— / And knoweth not that it is at the cost of his life.

[24] Now therefore, O ye children, hearken unto me, / And attend to the words of my mouth. / [25] Let not thy heart decline to her ways, / Go not astray in her paths. / [26] For she hath cast down many wounded; / Yea, a mighty host are all her slain. / [27] Her house is the way to the netherworld, / Going down to the chambers of death.

8 Doth not wisdom call, / And understanding put forth her voice? / [2] In the top of high places by the way, / Where the paths meet, she standeth; / [3] Beside the gates, at the entry of the city, / At the coming in at the doors, she crieth aloud: / [4] 'Unto you, O men, I call, / And my voice is to the sons of men. / [5] O ye thoughtless, understand prudence, / And, ye fools, be ye of an understanding heart. / [6] Hear, for I will speak excellent things, / And the opening of my lips shall be right things. / [7] For my mouth shall utter truth, / And wickedness is an abomination to my lips. / [8] All the words of my mouth are in righteousness, / There is nothing perverse or crooked in them. / [9] They are all plain to him that understandeth, / And right to them that find knowledge / [10] Receive my instruction, and not silver, / And knowledge rather than choice gold. / [11] For wisdom is better than rubies, / And all things desirable are not to be compared unto her. / [12] I wisdom dwell with prudence, / And find out knowledge of devices. / [13] The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; / Pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, / And the foward mouth, do I hate. / [14] Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom; / I am understanding, power is mine. / [15] By me kings reign, / And princes decree justice. / [16] By me princes rule, / And nobles, even all the judges of the earth. / [17] I love them that love me, / And those that seek me earnestly shall find me. / [18] Riches and honour are with me; / Yea, enduring riches and righteousness. / [19] My fruit is better than gold, yea, than fine gold; / And my produce than choice silver. / [20] I walk in the way of righteousness, / In the midst of the paths of justice; / [21] That I may cause those that love me to inherit substance, / And that I may fill their treasures.

[22] The LORD made me as the beginning of His way, / The first of His works of old. / [23] I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, / Or ever the earth was. / [24] When there were no depths, I was brought forth; / When there were no fountains abounding with water. / [25] Before the mountains were settled, / Before the hills was I brought forth; / [26] While as yet He had not made the earth, nor the fields, / Nor the beginning of the dust of the world. / [27] When He established the heavens, I was there; / When He set a circle upon the face of the deep, / [28] When He made firm the skies above, / When the fountains of the deep showed their might, / [29] When He gave to the sea His decree, / That the waters should not transgress His commandment, / When He appointed the foundations of the earth; / [30] Then I was by Him, as a nursing; / And I was daily all delight, / Playing always before Him, / [31] Playing in His habitable earth, / And my delights are with the sons of men

[32] Now therefore, ye children, hearken unto me; / For happy are they that keep my ways. / [33] Hear instruction, and be wise, / And refuse it not. / [34] Happy is the man that hearkeneth to me, / Watching daily at my gates, / Waiting at the posts of my doors. / [35] For whoso findeth me findeth life, / And obtaineth favour of the LORD. / [36] But he that misseth me wrongeth his own soul; / All they that hate me love death.'

9 Wisdom hath builded her house, / She hath hewn out her seven pillars, / [2] She hath prepared her meat, she hath mingled her wine; / She hath also furnished her table. / [3] She hath sent forth her maidens, she calleth, / Upon the highest places of the city: / [4] 'Whoso is thoughtless, let him turn in hither'; / As for him that lacketh understanding, she saith to him: / [5] 'Come, eat of my bread, / And drink of the wine which I have mingled. / [6] Forsake all thoughtlessness, and live; / And walk in the way of understanding. / [7] He that correcteth a scorner getteth to himself shame, / And he that reproveth a wicked man, it cometh unto him a blot.' / [8] Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee; / Reprove a wise man, and he will love thee. / [9] Give to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser; / Teach a righteous man, and he will increase in learning.

[10] The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, / And the knowledge of the All-holy is understanding. / [11] For by me thy days shall be multiplied, / And the years of thy life shall be increased. / [12] If thou art wise, thou art wise for thyself; / And if thou scornest, thou alone shalt bear it.' / [13] The woman Folly is riotous; / She is thoughtlessness, and knoweth nothing. / [14] And she sitteth at the door of her house, / On a seat in the high places of the city, / [15] To call to them that pass by, / Who go right on their ways. / [16] 'Whoso is thoughtless, let him turn in hither'; / And as for him that lacketh understanding, she saith to him: / [17] 'Stolen waters are sweet, / And bread eaten in secret is pleasant.' / [18] But he knoweth not that the shades are there; / That her guests are in the depths of the nether-world.

10 The proverbs of Solomon. / A wise son maketh a glad father; / But a foolish son is the grief of his mother. / [2] Treasures of wickedness profit nothing; / But righteousness delivereth from death. / [3] The LORD will not suffer the soul of the righteous to famish; / But He thrusteth away the desire of the wicked. / [4] He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand; / But the hand of the diligent maketh rich. / [5] A wise son gathereth in summer; / But a son that doeth shamefully sleepeth in harvest. / [6] Blessings are upon the head of the righteous; / But the mouth of the wicked concealeth violence. / [7] The memory of the righteous shall be for a blessing; / But the name of the wicked shall rot. / [8] The wise in heart will receive commandments; / But a prating fool shall fall. / [9] He that walketh uprightly walketh securely; / But he that perverteth his ways shall be found out. / [10] He that winketh with the eye causeth sorrow; / And a prating fool shall fall. / [11] The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life; / But the mouth of the wicked concealeth violence / [12] Hatred stirreth up strifes; / But love covereth all transgressions. / [13] In the lips of him that hath discernment wisdom is found; / But a rod is for the back of him that is void of understanding. / [14] Wise men lay up knowledge; / But the mouth of the foolish is an imminent ruin. / [15] The rich man's wealth is his strong city; / The ruin of the poor is their poverty. / [16] The wages of the righteous is life; / The increase of the wicked is sin. / [17] He is in the way of life that heedeth instruction; / But he that forsaketh reproof erreth. / [18] He

that hideth hatred is of lying lips; / And he that uttereth a slander is a fool. / [19] In the multitude of words there wanteth not transgression; / But he that refraineth his lips is wise. / [20] The tongue of the righteous is as choice silver; / The heart of the wicked is little worth. / [21] The lips of the righteous feed many; / But the foolish die for want of understanding. / [22] The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, / And toil addeth nothing thereto. / [23] It is as sport to a fool to do wickedness, / And so is wisdom to a man of discernment. / [24] The fear of the wicked, it shall come upon him; / And the desire of the righteous shall be granted. / [25] When the whirlwind passeth, the wicked is no more; / But the righteous is an everlasting foundation. / [26] As vinegar to the teeth, and as smoke to the eyes, / So is the sluggard to them that send him. / [27] The fear of the LORD prolongeth days; / But the years of the wicked shall be shortened. / [28] The hope of the righteous is gladness; / But the expectation of the wicked shall perish. / [29] The way of the LORD is a stronghold to the upright, / But ruin to the workers of iniquity. / [30] The righteous shall never be moved; / But the wicked shall not inhabit the land. / [31] The mouth of the righteous buddeth with wisdom; / But the foward tongue shall be cut off. / [32] The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable; / But the mouth of the wicked is all fowardness.

11 A false balance is an abomination to the LORD, / But a perfect weight is His delight. / [2] When pride cometh, then cometh shame; / But with the lowly is wisdom. / [3] The integrity of the upright shall guide them; / But the perverseness of the faithless shall destroy them. / [4] Riches profit not in the day of wrath; / But righteousness delivereth from death. / [5] The righteousness of the sincere shall make straight his way; / But the wicked shall fall by his own wickedness. / [6] The righteousness of the upright shall deliver them; / But the faithless shall be trapped in their own crafty device. / [7] When a wicked man dieth, his expectation shall perish, / And the hope of strength perisheth. / [8] The righteous is delivered out of trouble, / And the wicked cometh in his stead. / [9] With his mouth the impious man destroyeth his neighbour; / But through knowledge shall the righteous be delivered. / [10] When it goeth well with the righteous, the city rejoiceth, / And when the wicked perish, there is joy. / [11] By the blessing of the upright a city is exalted; / But it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked. / [12] He that despiseth his neighbor lacketh understanding; / But a man of discernment

holdeth his peace. / [13] He that goeth about as a talebearer revealeth secrets; / But he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth a matter. / [14] Where no wise direction is, a people falleth; / But in the multitude of counselors there is safety. / [15] He that is surely for a stranger shall smart for it; / But he that hateth them that strike hands is secure. / [16] A gracious woman obtaineth honour; / And strong men obtain riches. / [17] The merciful man doeth good to his own soul; / But he that is cruel troubleth his own flesh. / [18] The wicked earneth deceitful wages; / But he that soweth righteousness hath a sure reward. / [19] Stedfast righteousness tendeth to life; / But he that pursueth evil pursueth it to his own death. / [20] They that are perverse in heart are an abomination to the LORD, / But such as are upright in their way are His delight / [21] My hand upon it! the evil man shall not be unpunished; / But the seed of the righteous shall escape. / [22] As a ring of gold in a swine's snout, / So is a fair woman that turneth aside from discretion. / [23] The desire of the righteous is only good; / But the expectation of the wicked is wrath. / [24] There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; / And there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth only to want. / [25] The beneficent soul shall be made rich, / And he that satisfieth abundantly shall be satisfied also himself. / [26] He that withholdeth corn, the people shall curse him, / But blessing shall be upon the head of him that selleth it. / [27] He that diligently seeketh good seeketh favour; / But he that searcheth for evil, it shall come unto him. / [28] He that trusteth in his riches shall fall; / But the righteous shall flourish as foliage. / [29] He that troubleth his own house shall inherit the wind; / And the foolish shall be servant to the wise of heart. / [30] The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; / And he that is wise winneth souls. / [31] Behold, the righteous shall be requited in the earth; / How much more the wicked and the sinner!

12 Whoso loveth knowledge loveth correction; / But he that is brutish hateth reproof. / [2] A good man shall obtain favour of the LORD; / But a man of wicked devices will He condemn. / [3] A man shall not be established by wickedness; / But the root of the righteous shall never be moved. / [4] A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband; / But she that doeth shamefully is as rottenness in his bones. / [5] The thoughts of the righteous are right; / But the counsels of the wicked are deceit. / [6] The words of the wicked are to lie in wait for blood; / But the mouth of the upright shall deliver them. / [7] The wicked are overthrown, and are not; / But the house of the righteous shall stand. / [8] A man shall be commended according to his intelligence; / But he that is of a distorted understanding shall be despised. / [9] Better is he that is lightly esteemed, and hath a servant, / Than he that playeth the man of rank, and lacketh

bread. / [10] A righteous man regardeth the life of his beast; / But the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel. / [11] He that tilleth his ground shall have plenty of bread, / But he that followeth after vain things is void of understanding. / [12] The wicked desireth the prey of evil men; / But the root of the righteous yieldeth fruit. / [13] In the transgression of the lips is a snare to the evil man; / But the righteous cometh out of trouble. / [14] A man shall be satisfied with good by the fruit of his mouth, / And the doings of a man's hands shall be rendered unto him. / [15] The way of a fool is straight in his own eyes; / But he that is wise hearkeneth unto counsel. / [16] A fool's vexation is presently known; / But a prudent man concealeth shame. / [17] He that breatheth forth truth uttereth righteousness, / But a false witness deceit. / [18] There is that speaketh like the piercings of a sword; / But the tongue of the wise is health. / [19] The lip of truth shall be established for ever; / But a lying tongue is but for a moment. / [20] Deceit is in the heart of them that devise evil; / But to the counsellors of peace is joy. / [21] There shall no mischief befall the righteous; / But the wicked are filled with evil. / [22] Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD; / But they that deal truly are His delight. / [23] A prudent man concealeth knowledge; / But the heart of fools proclaimeth foolishness. / [24] The hand of the diligent shall bear rule; / But the slothful shall be under tribute. / [25] Care in the heart of a man boweth it down; / But a good word maketh it glad. / [26] The righteous is guided by his friend; / But the way of the wicked leadeth them astray. / [27] The slothful man shall not hunt his prey; / But the precious substance of men is to be diligent. / [28] In the way of righteousness is life, / And in the pathway thereof there is no death.

13 A wise son is instructed of his father; / But a scorner heareth not rebuke. / [2] A man shall eat good from the fruit of his mouth; / But the desire of the faithless is violence. / [3] He that guardeth his mouth keepeth his life; / But for him that openeth wide his lips there shall be ruin. / [4] The soul of the sluggard desireth, and hath nothing; / But the soul of the diligent shall be abundantly gratified. / [5] A righteous man hateth lying; / But a wicked man behaveth vilely and shamefully. / [6] Righteousness guardeth him that is upright in the way; / But wickedness overthroweth the sinner. / [7] There is that pretendeth himself rich, yet hath nothing; / There is that pretendeth himself poor, yet hath great wealth. / [8] The ransom of a man's life are his riches; / But the poor heareth no threatening. /

[9] The light of the righteous rejoiceth; / But the lamp of the wicked shall be put out. / [10] By pride cometh only contention; / But with the well-advised is wisdom. / [11] Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished; / But he that gathereth little by little shall increase. / [12] Hope deferred maketh the heart sick; / But desire fulfilled is a tree of life. / [13] Whoso despiseth the word shall suffer thereby; / But he that feareth the commandment shall be rewarded. / [14] The teaching of the wise is a fountain of life, / To depart from the snares of death. / [15] Good understanding giveth grace; / But the way of the faithless is harsh. / [16] Every prudent man dealeth with forethought; / But a fool unfoldeth folly. / [17] A wicked messenger falleth into evil; / But a faithful ambassador is health. / [18] Poverty and shame shall be to him that refuseth instruction; / But he that regardeth reproof shall be honoured. / [19] The desire accomplished is sweet to the soul; / And it is an abomination to fools to depart from evil. / [20] He that walketh with wise men shall be wise; / But the companion of fools shall smart for it. / [21] Evil pursueth sinners; / But to the righteous good shall be repaid. / [22] A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children; / And the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the righteous / [23] Much food is in the tillage of the poor; / But there is that is swept away by want of righteousness. / [24] He that spareth his rod hateth his son; / But he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes. / [25] The righteous eateth to the satisfying of his desire; / But the belly of the wicked shall want.

14 Every wise woman buildeth her house; / But the foolish plucketh it down with her own hands. / [2] He that walketh in his uprightness feareth the LORD; / But he that is perverse in his ways despiseth Him. / [3] In the mouth of the foolish is a rod of pride; / But the lips of the wise shall preserve them. / [4] Where no oxen are, the crib is clean; / But much increase is by the strength of the ox. / [5] A faithful witness will not lie; / But a false witness breatheth forth lies. / [6] A scorner seeketh wisdom, and findeth it not; / But knowledge is easy unto him that hath discernment. / [7] Go from the presence of a foolish man, / For thou wilt not perceive the lips of knowledge. / [8] The wisdom of the prudent is to look well to his way; / But the folly of fools is deceit. / [9] Amends pleadeth for fools; / But among the upright there is good will. / [10] The heart knoweth its own bitterness; / And with its joy no stranger can

intermeddle. / [11] The house of the wicked shall be overthrown; / But the tent of the upright shall flourish. / [12] There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, / But the end thereof are the ways of death. / [13] Even in laughter the heart acheth; / And the end of mirth is heaviness. / [14] The dissembler in heart shall have his fill from his own ways; / And a good man shall be satisfied from himself. / [15] The thoughtless believeth every word; / But the prudent man looketh well to his going. / [16] A wise man feareth, and departeth from evil; / But the fool behaveth overbearingly, and is confident. / [17] He that is soon angry dealeth foolishly; / And a man of wicked devices is hated. / [18] The thoughtless come into possession of folly; / But the prudent are crowned with knowledge. / [19] The evil bow before the good, / And the wicked at the gates of the righteous. / [20] The poor is hated even of his own neighbour; / But the rich hath many friends. / [21] He that despiseth his neighbor sinneth; / But he that is gracious unto the humble, happy is he. / [22] Shall they not go astray that devise evil? / But mercy and truth shall be for them that devise good. / [23] In all labour there is profit; / But the talk of the lips tendeth only to penury. / [24] The crown of the wise is their riches; / But the folly of fools remaineth folly. / [25] A true witness delivereth souls; / But he that breatheth forth lies is all deceit. / [26] In the fear of the LORD a man hath strong confidence; / And his children shall have a place of refuge. / [27] The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, / To depart from the snares of death. / [28] In the multitude of people is the king's glory; / But in the want of people is the ruin of the prince. / [29] He that is slow to anger is of great understanding; / But he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly. / [30] A tranquil heart is the life of the flesh; / But envy is the rottenness of the bones. / [31] He that oppresseth the poor blasphemeth his Maker; / But he that is gracious unto the needy honoureth Him. / [32] The wicked is thrust down in his misfortune; / But the righteous, even when he is brought to death, hath hope. / [33] In the heart of him that hath discernment wisdom resteth; / But in the inward part of fools it maketh itself known. / [34] Righteousness exalteth a nation; / But sin is a reproach to any people. / [35] The king's favour is toward a servant that dealeth wisely; / But his wrath striketh him that dealeth shamefully.

15 A soft answer turneth away wrath; But a grievous word stirreth up anger. / [2] The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright; / But the mouth of fools poureth out

foolishness. / [3] The eyes of the LORD are in every place, / Keeping watch upon the evil and the good. / [4] A soothing tongue is a tree of life; / But perverseness therein is a wound to the spirit. / [5] A fool despiseth his father's correction; / But he that regardeth reproof is prudent. / [6] In the house of the righteous is much treasure; / But in the revenues of the wicked is trouble. / [7] The lips of the wise disperse knowledge; / But the heart of the foolish is not stedfast. / [8] The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD; / But the prayer of the upright is His delight. / [9] The way of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD; / But He loveth him that followeth after righteousness. / [10] There is grievous correction for him that forsaketh the way; / And he that hateth reproof shall die. / [11] The nether-world and Destruction are before the LORD; / How much more then the hearts of the children of men! / [12] A scorner loveth not to be reproved; / He will not go unto the wise. / [13] A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance; / But by sorrow of heart the spirit is broken. / [14] The heart of him that hath discernment seeketh knowledge; / But the mouth of fools feedeth on folly. / [15] All the days of the poor are evil; / But he that is of a merry heart hath a continual feast. / [16] Better is little with the fear of the LORD, / Than great treasure and turmoil therewith. / [17] Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, / Than a stalled ox and hatred therewith. / [18] A wrathful man stirreth up discord; / But he that is slow to anger appeaseth strife. / [19] The way of the sluggard is as though hedged by thorns; / But the path of the upright is even. / [20] A wise son maketh a glad father; / But a foolish man despiseth his mother. / [21] Folly is joy to him that lacketh understanding; / But a man of discernment walketh straightforwards. / [22] For want of counsel purposes are frustrated; / But in the multitude of counselors they are established. / [23] A man hath joy in the answer of his mouth; / And a word in due season, how good is it! / [24] The path of life goeth upward for the wise, / That he may depart from the netherworld beneath. / [25] The LORD will pluck up the house of the proud; / But He will establish the border of the widow. / [26] The thoughts of wickedness are an abomination to the LORD; / But words of pleasantness are pure. / [27] He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house; / But he that hateth gifts shall live. / [28] The heart of the righteous studieth to answer; / But the mouth

of the wicked poureth out evil things. / [29] The LORD is far from the wicked; / But He heareth the prayer of the righteous. / [30] The light of the eyes rejoiceth the heart; / And a good report maketh the bones fat. / [31] The ear that hearkeneth to the reproof of life / Abideth among the wise. / [32] He that refuseth correction despiseth his own soul; / But he that hearkeneth to reproof getteth understanding. / [33] The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom; / And before honour goeth humility.

16 The preparations of the heart are man's, / But the answer of the tongue is from the LORD. / [2] All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; / But the LORD weighth the spirits. / [3] Commit thy works unto the LORD, / And thy thoughts shall be established. / [4] The LORD hath made every thing for His own purpose, / Yea, even the wicked for the day of evil. / [5] Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD; / My hand upon it! he shall not be unpunished. / [6] By mercy and truth iniquity is expiated; / And by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil. / [7] When a man's ways please the LORD, / He maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him. / [8] Better is a little with righteousness / Than great revenues with injustice. / [9] A man's heart deviseth his way; / But the LORD directeth his steps. / [10] A divine sentence is in the lips of the king; / His mouth trespasseth not in judgment / [11] A just balance and scales are the LORD's; / All the weights of the bag are His work. / [12] It is an abomination to kings to commit wickedness; / For the throne is established by righteousness. / [13] Righteous lips are the delight of kings; / And they love him that speaketh right. / [14] The wrath of a king is as messengers of death; / But a wise man will pacify it. / [15] In the light of the king's countenance is life; / And his favour is as a cloud of the latter rain. / [16] How much better is it to get wisdom than gold! / Yea, to get understanding is rather to be chosen than silver. / [17] The highway of the upright is to depart from evil; / He that keepeth his way preserveth his soul. / [18] Pride goeth before destruction, / And a haughty spirit before a fall. / [19] Better it is to be of a lowly spirit with the humble, / Than to divide the spoil with the proud. / [20] He that giveth heed unto the word shall find good; / And whoso trusteth in the LORD, happy is he. / [21] The wise in heart is called a man of discernment; / And the sweetness of the lips increaseth learning. / [22] Understanding is a fountain of life unto him that hath it; / But

folly is the chastisement of fools. / [23] The heart of the wise teacheth his mouth, / And addeth learning to his lips. / [24] Pleasant words are as a honeycomb, / Sweet to the soul, and health to the bones. / [25] There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, / But the end thereof are the ways of death. / [26] The hunger of the labouring man laboureth for him; / For his mouth compelleth him. / [27] An ungodly man diggeth up evil, / And in his lips there is as a burning fire. / [28] A foward man soweth strife; / And a whisperer separateth familiar friends. / [29] A man of violence enticeth his neighbour, / And leadeth him into a way that is not good. / [30] He that shutteth his eyes, it is to devise foward things; / He that biteth his lips bringeth evil to pass. / [31] The hoary head is a crown of glory, / It is found in the way of righteousness. / [32] He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; / And he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city. / [33] The lot is cast into the lap; / But the whole disposing thereof is of the LORD.

17 Better is a dry morsel and quietness therewith, / Than a house full of feasting with strife. / [2] A servant that dealeth wisely shall have rule over a son that dealeth shamefully, / And shall have part of the inheritance among the brethren. / [3] The refining pot is for silver, and the furnace for gold; / But the LORD trieth the hearts. / [4] An evil-doer giveth heed to wicked lips; / And a liar giveth ear to a mischievous tongue. / [5] Whoso mocketh the poor blasphemeth his Maker; / And he that is glad at calamity shall not be unpunished. / [6] Children's children are the crown of old men; / And the glory of children are their fathers. / [7] Overbearing speech becometh not a churl; / Much less do lying lips a prince. / [8] A gift is as a precious stone in the eyes of him that hath it: / Whithersoever he turneth, he prospereth. / [9] He that covereth a transgression seeketh love; / But he that harpeth on a matter estrangeth a familiar friend. / [10] A rebuke entereth deeper into a man of understanding / Than a hundred stripes into a fool. / [11] A rebellious man seeketh only evil; / Therefore a cruel messenger shall be sent against him. / [12] Let a bear robbed of her whelps meet a man, / Rather than a fool in his folly. / [13] Whoso rewardeth evil for good, / Evil shall not depart from his house. / [14] The beginning of strife is as when one letteth out water; / Therefore leave off contention, before the quarrel break out. /

[15] He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the righteous, / Even they both are an abomination to the LORD. / [16] Wherefore is there a price in the hand of a fool / To buy wisdom, seeing he hath no understanding? / [17] A friend loveth at all times, / And a brother is born for adversity. / [18] A man void of understanding is he that striketh hands, / And becometh surety in the presence of his neighbour. / [19] He loveth transgression that loveth strife; / He that exalteth his gate seeketh destruction. / [20] He that hath a froward heart findeth no good; / And he that hath a perverse tongue falleth into evil / [21] He that begetteth a fool doeth it to his sorrow; / And the father of a churl hath no joy. / [22] A merry heart is a good medicine; / But a broken spirit drieth the bones. / [23] A wicked man taketh a gift out of the bosom, / To pervert the ways of justice. / [24] Wisdom is before him that hath understanding; / But the eyes of a fool are in the ends of the earth. / [25] A foolish son is vexation to his father, / And bitterness to her that bore him. / [26] To punish also the righteous is not good, / Nor to strike the noble for their uprightness. / [27] He that spareth his words hath knowledge; / And he that husbandeth his spirit is a man of discernment. / [28] Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise; / And he that shutteth his lips is esteemed as a man of understanding.

18 He that separateth himself seeketh his own desire, And snarleth against all sound wisdom. / [2] A fool hath no delight in understanding, / But only that his heart may lay itself bare. / [3] When the wicked cometh, there cometh also contempt, / And with ignominy reproach. / [4] The words of a man's mouth are as deep waters; / A flowing brook, a fountain of wisdom. / [5] It is not good to respect the person of the wicked, / So as to turn aside the righteous in judgment. / [6] A fool's lips enter into contention, / And his mouth calleth for strokes. / [7] A fool's mouth is his ruin, / And his lips are the snare of his soul. / [8] The words of a whisperer are as dainty morsels, / And they go down into the innermost parts of the belly. / [9] Even one that is slack in his work / Is brother to him that is a destroyer. / [10] The name of the LORD is a strong tower: / The righteous runneth into it, and is set up on high. / [11] The rich man's wealth is his strong city, / And as a high wall in his own conceit. / [12] Before destruction the heart of a man is haughty, / And before honour goeth humility. / [13] He that giveth answer before he

heareth, / It is folly and confusion unto him. / [14] The spirit of a man will sustain his infirmity; / But a broken spirit who can bear? / [15] The heart of the prudent getteth knowledge; / And the ear of the wise seeketh knowledge. / [16] A man's gift maketh room for him, / And bringeth him before great men. / [17] He that pleadeth his cause first seemeth just; / But his neighbour cometh and searcheth him out. / [18] The lot causeth strife to cease, / And parteth asunder the contentious. / [19] A brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city; / And their contentions are like the bars of a castle. / [20] A man's belly shall be filled with the fruit of his mouth; / With the increase of his lips shall he be satisfied. / [21] Death and life are in the power of the tongue; / And they that indulge it shall eat the fruit thereof. / [22] Whoso findeth a wife findeth a great good, / And obtaineth favour of the LORD. / [23] The poor useth entreaties; / But the rich answereth impudently. / [24] There are friends that one hath to his own hurt; / But there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.

19 Better is the poor that walketh in his integrity / Than he that is perverse in his lips and a fool at the same time. / [2] Also, that the soul be without knowledge is not good; / And he that hasteth with his feet sinneth. / [3] The foolishness of man perverteth his way; / And his heart fretteth against the LORD. / [4] Wealth addeth many friends; / But as for the poor, his friend separateth himself from him. / [5] A false witness shall not be unpunished; / And he that breatheth forth lies shall not escape. / [6] Many will entreat the favour of the liberal man; / And every man is a friend to him that giveth gifts. / [7] All the brethren of the poor do hate him; / How much more do his friends go far from him! / He that pursueth words, they turn against him. / [8] He that getteth wisdom loveth his own soul; / He that keepeth understanding shall find good. / [9] A false witness shall not be unpunished; / And he that breatheth forth lies shall perish.

[10] Luxury is not seemly for a fool; / Much less for a servant to have rule over princes. / [11] It is the discretion of a man to be slow to anger, / And it is his glory to pass over a transgression. / [12] The king's wrath is as the roaring of a lion; / But his favour is as dew upon the grass. / [13] A foolish son is the calamity of his father; / And the contentions of a wife are a continual dropping. / [14] House and riches are the inheritance of fathers; / But a prudent wife is from the LORD. / [15] Slothfulness casteth into a deep sleep; / And

the idle soul shall suffer hunger. / [16] He that keepeth the commandment keepeth his soul; / But he that despiseth His ways shall die. / [17] He that is gracious unto the poor lendeth unto the LORD, / And his good deed will He repay unto him. / [18] Chasten thy son, for there is hope; / But set not thy heart on his destruction. / [19] A man of great wrath shall suffer punishment; / For if thou interpose, thou wilt add thereto. / [20] Hear counsel, and receive instruction, / That thou mayest be wise in thy latter end. / [21] There are many devices in a man's heart; / But the counsel of the LORD, that shall stand. / [22] The lust of a man is his shame; / And a poor man is better than a liar. / [23] The fear of the LORD tendeth to life; / And he that hath it shall abide satisfied, / He shall not be visited with evil. / [24] The sluggard burieth his hand in the dish, / And will not so much as bring it back to his mouth. / [25] When thou smitest a scorner, the simple will become prudent; / And when one that hath understanding is reproved, he will understand knowledge. / [26] A son that dealeth shamefully and reproachfully / Will despoil his father, and chase away his mother. / [27] Cease, my son, to hear the instruction / That causeth to err from the words of knowledge. / [28] An ungodly witness mocketh at right; / And the mouth of the wicked devoureth iniquity. / [29] Judgments are prepared for scorners, / And stripes for the back of fools.

20 Wine is a mocker, strong drink is riotous; / And whosoever reeleth thereby is not wise. / [2] The terror of a king is as the roaring of a lion: / He that provoketh him to anger forfeiteth his life. / [3] It is an honour for a man to keep aloof from strife; / But every fool will be snarling. / [4] The sluggard will not plow, when winter setteth in; / Therefore he shall beg in harvest, and have nothing. / [5] Counsel in the heart of man is like deep water; / But a man of understanding will draw it out. / [6] Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness; / But a faithful man who can find? / [7] He that walketh in his integrity as a just man, / Happy are his children after him. / [8] A king that sitteth on the throne of judgment / Scattereth away all evil with his eyes. / [9] Who can say 'I have made my heart clean, / I am pure from my sin'? / [10] Diverse weights, and diverse measures, / Both of them alike are an abomination to the LORD. / [11] Even a child is known by his doings, / Whether his work be pure, and whether it be right. / [12] The hearing ear, and the seeing eye, / The LORD hath made even both of them. / [13] Love not sleep, lest thou come to poverty; / Open thine eyes,

and thou shalt have bread in plenty. / [14] 'It is bad, it is bad', saith the buyer; / But when he is gone his way, then he boasteth. / [15] There is gold, and a multitude of rubies; / But the lips of knowledge are a precious jewel. / [16] Take his garment that is surety for a stranger; / And hold him in pledge that is surety for an alien woman. / [17] Bread of falsehood is sweet to a man; / But afterwards his mouth shall be filled with gravel. / [18] Every purpose is established by counsel; / And with good advice carry on war. / [19] He that goeth about as a talebearer revealeth secrets; / Therefore meddle not with him that openeth wide his lips. / [20] Whoso curseth his father or his mother, / His lamp shall be put out in the blackest darkness. / [21] An estate may be gotten hastily at the beginning; / But the end thereof shall not be blessed. / [22] Say not thou: 'I will requite evil'; / Wait for the LORD, and He will save thee. / [23] Diverse weights are an abomination to the LORD; / And a false balance is not good. / [24] A man's goings are of the LORD; / How then can man look to his way? / [25] It is a snare to a man rashly to say: 'Holy', / And after vows to make inquiry. / [26] A wise king sifteth the wicked, / And turneth the wheel over them. / [27] The spirit of man is the lamp of the LORD, / Searching all the inward parts. / [28] Mercy and truth preserve the king; / And his throne is upheld by mercy. / [29] The glory of young men is their strength; / And the beauty of old men is the hoary head. / [30] Sharp wounds cleanse away evil; / So do stripes that reach the inward parts.

21 The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD as the watercourses: / He turneth it whithersoever He will. / [2] Every way of a man is right in his own eyes; / But the LORD weigheth the hearts. / [3] To do righteousness and justice / Is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice. / [4] A haughty look, and a proud heart— / The tillage of the wicked is sin. / [5] The thoughts of the diligent tend only to plenteousness; / But every one that is hasty hasteth only to want. / [6] The getting of treasures by a lying tongue / Is a vapour driven to and fro; they [that seek them] seek death. / [7] The violence of the wicked shall drag them away; / Because they refuse to do justly. / [8] The way of man is froward and strange; / But as for the pure, his work is right. / [9] It is better to dwell in a corner of the housetop, / Than in a house in common with a

contentious woman. / [10] The soul of the wicked desireth evil; / His neighbour findeth no favour in his eyes. / [11] When the scorner is punished, the thoughtless is made wise; / And when the wise is instructed, he receiveth knowledge. / [12] The Righteous One considereth the house of the wicked, / Overthrowing the wicked to their ruin. / [13] Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, / He also shall cry himself, but shall not be answered. / [14] A gift in secret pacifieth anger, / And a present in the bosom strong wrath. / [15] To do justly is joy to the righteous, / But ruin to the workers of iniquity. / [16] The man that strayeth out of the way of understanding / Shall rest in the congregation of the shades. / [17] He that loveth pleasure shall be a poor man; / He that loveth wine and oil shall not be rich. / [18] The wicked is a ransom for the righteous; / And the faithless cometh in the stead of the upright. / [19] It is better to dwell in a desert land, / Than with a contentious and fretful woman. / [20] There is desirable treasure and oil in the dwelling of the wise; / But a foolish man swalloweth it up. / [21] He that followeth after righteousness and mercy / Findeth life, prosperity, and honour. / [22] A wise man scaleth the city of the mighty, / And bringeth down the stronghold wherein it trusteth. / [23] Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue / Keepeth his soul from troubles. / [24] A proud and haughty man, scorner is his name, / Even he that dealeth in overbearing pride. / [25] The desire of the slothful killeth him; / For his hands refuse to labour. / [26] There is that coveteth greedily all the day long; / But the righteous giveth and spareth not. / [27] The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination; / How much more, when he bringeth it with the proceeds of wickedness! / [28] A false witness shall perish; / But the man that obeyeth shall speak unchallenged. / [29] A wicked man hardeneth his face; / But as for the upright, he looketh well to his way. / [30] There is no wisdom nor understanding / Nor counsel against the LORD.

[31] The horse is prepared against the day of battle; / But victory is of the LORD.

22 A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, / And loving favour rather than silver and gold. / [2] The rich and the poor meet together— / The LORD is the maker of them all. / [3] A prudent man seeth the evil, and hideth himself; / But the thoughtless pass on, and are punished. / [4] The reward of humility is the fear of the LORD, / Even riches, and honour,

and life. / [5] Thorns and snares are in the way of the froward; / He that keepeth his soul holdeth himself far from them. / [6] Train up a child in the way he should go, / And even when he is old, he will not depart from it. / [7] The rich ruleth over the poor, / And the borrower is servant to the lender. / [8] He that soweth iniquity shall reap vanity; / And the rod of his wrath shall fail. / [9] He that hath a bountiful eye shall be blessed; / For he giveth of his bread to the poor. / [10] Cast out the scorner, and contention will go out; / Yea, strife and shame will cease. / [11] He that loveth pureness of heart, / That hath grace in his lips, the king shall be his friend. / [12] The eyes of the LORD preserve him that hath knowledge, / But He overthroweth the words of the faithless man. / [13] The sluggard saith: ‘There is a lion without; / I shall be slain in the streets.’ / [14] The mouth of strange women is a deep pit: / He that is abhorred of the LORD shall fall therein. / [15] Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; / But the rod of correction shall drive it far from him. / [16] One may oppress the poor, yet will their gain increase; / One may give to the rich, yet will want come. / [17] Incline thine ear, and hear the words of the wise, / And apply thy heart unto my knowledge. / [18] For it is a pleasant thing if thou keep them within thee; / Let them be established altogether upon thy lips. / [19] That thy trust may be in the LORD, / I have made them known to thee this day, even to thee. / [20] Have not I written unto thee excellent things / Of counsels and knowledge; / [21] That I might make thee know the certainty of the words of truth, / That thou mightest bring back words of truth to them that send thee?

[22] Rob not the weak, because he is weak, / Neither crush the poor in the gate; / [23] For the LORD will plead their cause, / And despoil of life those that despoil them. / [24] Make no friendship with a man that is given to anger; / And with a wrathful man thou shalt not go; / [25] Lest thou learn his ways, / And get a snare to thy soul. / [26] Be thou not of them that strike hands, / Or of them that are sureties for debts; / [27] If thou hast not wherewith to pay, / Why should he take away thy bed from under thee? / [28] Remove not the ancient landmark, / Which thy fathers have set. / [29] Seest thou a man diligent in his

business? he shall stand before kings; / He shall not stand before mean men.

23 When thou sittest to eat with a ruler, / Consider well him that is before thee; / [2] And put a knife to thy throat, / If thou be a man given to appetite. / [3] Be not desirous of his dainties; / Seeing they are deceitful food. / [4] Weary not thyself to be rich; / Cease from thine own wisdom. / [5] Wilt thou set thine eyes upon it? it is gone; / For riches certainly make themselves wings, / Like an eagle that flieth toward heaven.

[6] Eat thou not the bread of him that hath an evil eye, / Neither desire thou his dainties; / [7] For as one that hath reckoned within himself, so is he: 'Eat and drink', saith he to thee; / But his heart is not with thee. / [8] The morsel which thou hast eaten shalt thou vomit up, / And lose thy sweet words. / [9] Speak not in the ears of a fool, / For he will despise the wisdom of thy words. / [10] Remove not the ancient landmark / And enter not into the fields of the fatherless; / [11] For their Redeemer is strong; / He will plead their cause with thee / [12] Apply thy heart unto instruction, / And thine ears to the words of knowledge. / [13] Withhold not correction from the child; / For though thou beat him with the rod, he will not die. / [14] Thou beatest him with the rod, / And wilt deliver his soul from the nether-world. / [15] My son, if thy heart be wise, / My heart will be glad, even mine; / [16] Yea, my reins will rejoice, / When thy lips speak right things. / [17] Let not thy heart envy sinners, / But be in the fear of the LORD all the day; / [18] For surely there is a future; / And thy hope shall not be cut off. / [19] Hear thou, my son, and be wise, / And guide thy heart in the way. / [20] Be not among winebibbers; / Among gluttonous eaters of flesh; / [21] For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty; / And drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags. / [22] Hearken unto thy father that begot thee, / And despise not thy mother when she is old. / [23] Buy the truth, and sell it not; / Also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding. / [24] The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice; / And he that begetteth a wise

child will have joy of him. / [25] Let thy father and thy mother be glad, / And let her that bore thee rejoice. / [26] My son, give me thy heart, / And let thine eyes observe my ways. / [27] For a harlot is a deep ditch, / And an alien woman is a narrow pit. / [28] She also lieth in wait as a robber, / And increaseth the faithless among men. / [29] Who crieth. ‘Woe?’ who ‘Alas?’ / Who hath contentions? who hath raving? / Who hath wounds without cause? / Who hath redness of eyes? / [30] They that tarry long at the wine; / They that go to try mixed wine. / [31] Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, / When it giveth its colour in the cup, / When it glideth down smoothly; / [32] At the last it biteth like a serpent, / And stingeth like a basilisk. / [33] Thine eyes shall behold strange things, / And thy heart shall utter confused things. / [34] Yea, thou shalt be as he that lieth down in the midst of the sea, / Or as he that lieth upon the top of a mast. / [35] ‘They have struck me, and I felt it not, / They have beaten me, and I knew it not; / When shall I awake? I will seek it yet again.’

24 Be not thou envious of evil men, / Neither desire to be with them; / [2] For their heart studieth destruction, / And their lips talk of mischief. / [3] Through wisdom is a house builded, / And by understanding it is established; / [4] And by knowledge are the chambers filled / With all precious and pleasant riches. / [5] A wise man is strong; / Yea, a man of knowledge increaseth strength. / [6] For with wise advice thou shalt make thy war; / And in the multitude of counsellors there is victory. / [7] Wisdom is as unattainable to a fool as corals; / He openeth not his mouth in the gate. / [8] He that deviseth to do evil, / Men shall call him a mischievous person. / [9] The thought of the foolish is sin; / And the scorner is an abomination to men. / [10] If thou faint in the day of adversity, / Thy strength is small indeed. / [11] Deliver them that are drawn unto death; / And those that are ready to be slain wilt thou forbear to rescue? / [12] If thou sayest: ‘Behold, we knew not this’, / Doth not He that weigheth the hearts consider it? / And He that keepeth thy soul, doth not He know it? / And shall not He render to every man according to his work? / [13] My son, eat thou honey, for it is good, / And the honeycomb is sweet to thy taste; / [14] So know thou wisdom to be unto thy

soul; / If thou hast found it, then shall there be a future, / And thy hope shall not be cut off.

[15] Lie not in wait, O wicked man, against the dwelling of the righteous, / Spoil not his resting-place; / [16] For a righteous man falleth seven times, and riseth up again, / But the wicked stumble under adversity. / [17] Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth, / And let not thy heart be glad when he stumbleth; / [18] Lest the LORD see it, and it displease Him, / And He turn away His wrath from him. / [19] Fret not thyself because of evil-doers, / Neither be thou envious at the wicked; / [20] For there will be no future to the evil man, / The lamp of the wicked shall be put out. / [21] My son, fear thou the LORD and the king, / And meddle not with them that are given to change; / [22] For their calamity shall rise suddenly; / And who knoweth the ruin from them both? / [23] These also are sayings of the wise. / To have respect of persons in judgment is not good. / [24] He that saith unto the wicked: ‘Thou art righteous’, / Peoples shall curse him, nations shall execrate him; / [25] But to them that decide justly shall be delight, / And a good blessing shall come upon them. / [26] He kisseth the lips / That giveth a right answer. / [27] Prepare thy work without, / And make it fit for thyself in the field; / And afterwards build thy house.

[28] Be not a witness against thy neighbour without cause; / And deceive not with thy lips. / [29] Say not: ‘I will do so to him as he hath done to me; / I will render to the man according to his work.’ / [30] I went by the field of the slothful, / And by the vineyard of the man void of understanding; / [31] And, lo, it was all grown over with thistles, / The face thereof was covered with nettles, / And the stone wall thereof was broken down. / [32] Then I beheld, and considered well, / I saw, and received instruction. / [33] ‘Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, / A little folding of the hands to sleep’— / [34] So shall thy poverty come as a runner, / And thy want as an armed man.

25 These also are proverbs of Solomon, which the men of Hezekiah / king of Judah copied out. / [2] It is the glory of God to conceal a thing, / But the glory of kings is to

search out a matter. / [3] The heaven for height, and the earth for depth, / And the heart of kings is unsearchable. / [4] Take away the dross from the silver, / And there cometh forth a vessel for the refiner; / [5] Take away the wicked from before the king, / And his throne shall be established in righteousness. / [6] Glorify not thyself in the presence of the king, / And stand not in the place of great men; / [7] For better is it that it be said unto thee: ‘Come up hither’, / Than that thou shouldst be put lower in the presence of the prince, / Whom thine eyes have seen. / [8] Go not forth hastily to strive, / Lest thou know not what to do in the end thereof, / When thy neighbour hath put the to shame.’ / [9] Debate thy cause with thy neighbour, / But reveal not the secret of another; / [10] Lest he that heareth it revile thee, / And thine infamy turn not away / [11] A word fitly spoken / Is like apples of gold in settings of silver. / [12] As an ear-ring of gold, and an ornament of fine gold, / So is a wise repressor upon an obedient ear. / [13] As the cold of snow in the time of harvest, / So is a faithful messenger to him that sendeth him; / For he refresheth the soul of his master.

[14] As vapours and wind without rain, / So is he that boasteth himself of a false gift. / [15] By long forbearing is a ruler persuaded, / And a soft tongue breaketh the bone. / [16] Hast thou found honey? eat so much as is sufficient for thee, / Lest thou be filled therewith, and vomit it. / [17] Let thy foot be seldom in thy neighbour’s house; / Lest he be sated with thee, and hate thee. / [18] As a maul, and a sword, and a sharp arrow, / So is a man that beareth false witness against his neighbour. / [19] Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble / Is like a broken tooth, and a foot out of joint. / [20] As one that taketh off a garment in cold weather, and as vinegar upon nitre, / So is he that singeth songs to a heavy heart.

[21] If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat, / And if he be thirsty, give him water to drink; / [22] For thou wilt heap coals of fire upon his head, / And the LORD will reward thee. / [23] The north wind bringeth forth rain, / And a backbiting tongue an angry countenance. / [24] It is better to dwell in a corner of the housetop, / Than in a house in common with a contentious woman. / [25] As cold waters to a faint soul, / So is good news from a far country. / [26] As a troubled fountain, and a corrupted spring, / So is a righteous man that giveth way before the

wicked. / [27] It is not good to eat much honey; / So for men to search out their own glory is not glory. / [28] Like a city broken down and without a wall, / So is he whose spirit is without restraint.

26 As snow in summer, and as rain in harvest, / So honour is not seemly for a fool. / [2] As the wandering sparrow, as the flying swallow, / So the curse that is causeless shall come home. / [3] A whip for the horse, a bridle for the ass, / And a rod for the back of fools. / [4] Answer not a fool according to his folly, / Lest thou also be like unto him. / [5] Answer a fool according to his folly, / Lest he be wise in his own eyes. / [6] He that sendeth a message by the hand of a fool / Cutteth off his own feet, and drinketh damage. / [7] The legs hang limp from the lame; / So is a parable in the mouth of fools. / [8] As a small stone in a heap of stones, / So is he that giveth honour to a fool. / [9] As a thorn that cometh into the hand of a drunkard, / So is a parable in the mouth of fools. / [10] A master performeth all things; / But he that stoppeth a fool is as one that stoppeth a flood. / [11] As a dog that returneth to his vomit, / So is a fool that repeateth his folly. / [12] Seest thou a man wise in his own eyes? / There is more hope of a fool than of him. / [13] The sluggard saith ‘There is a lion in the way; / Yea, a lion is in the streets.’ / [14] The door is turning upon its hinges, / And the sluggard is still upon his bed. / [15] The sluggard burieh his hand in the dish; / It wearieh him to bring it back to his mouth. / [16] The sluggard is wiser in his own eyes / Than seven men that give wise answer. / [17] He that passeth by, and meddleth with strife not his own, / Is like one that taketh a dog by the ears. / [18] As a madman who casteth fire-brands, / Arrows, and death; / [19] So is the man that deceiveth his neighbour, / And saith: ‘Am not I in sport?’ / [20] Where no wood is, the fire goeth out; / And where there is no whisperer, contention ceaseth. / [21] As coals are to burning coals, and wood to fire; / So is a contentious man to kindle strife.

[22] The words of a whisperer are as dainty morsels, / And they go down into the innermost parts of the body. / [23] Burning lips and a wicked heart / Are like an earthen vessel overlaid with silver dross. / [24] He that hateth dissembleth

with his lips, / But he layeth up deceit within him. / [25] When he speaketh fair, believe him not; / For there are seven abominations in his heart. / [26] Though his hatred be concealed with deceit, / His wickedness shall be revealed before the congregation. / [27] Whoso diggeth a pit shall fall therein; / And he that rolleth a stone, it shall return upon him. / [28] A lying tongue hateth those that are crushed by it; / And a flattering mouth worketh ruin.

27 Boast not thyself of to-morrow; / For thou knowest not what a day may bring forth. / [2] Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth; / A stranger, and not thine own lips. / [3] A stone is heavy, and the sand weighty; / But a fool's vexation is heavier than they both. / [4] Wrath is cruel, and anger is overwhelming; / But who is able to stand before jealousy? / [5] Better is open rebuke / Than love that is hidden. / [6] Faithful are the wounds of a friend, / But the kisses of an enemy are importunate. / [7] The full soul loatheth a honeycomb; / But to the hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet. / [8] As a bird that wandereth from her nest, / So is a man that wandereth from his place. / [9] Ointment and perfume rejoice the heart; / So doth the sweetness of a man's friend by hearty counsel. / [10] Thine own friend, and thy father's friend, forsake not; / Neither go into thy brother's house in the day of thy calamity; / Better is a neighbour that is near than a brother far off. / [11] My son, be wise, and make my heart glad, / That I may answer him that taunteth me. / [12] A prudent man seeth the evil, and hideth himself; / But the thoughtless pass on, and are punished. / [13] Take his garment that is surety for a stranger; / And hold him in pledge that is surety for an alien woman. / [14] He that blesseth his friend with a loud voice, rising early in the morning, / It shall be counted a curse to him. / [15] A continual dropping in a very rainy day / And a contentious woman are alike; / [16] He that would hide her hideth the wind, / And the ointment of his right hand betrayeth itself. / [17] Iron sharpeneth iron; / So a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend. / [18] Whoso keepeth the fig-tree shall eat the fruit thereof; / And he that waiteth on his master shall be honoured. / [19] As in water face answereth to face, / So the heart of man to man. / [20] The nether-world and Destruction are never satiated; / So the eyes of man are never satiated. / [21] The refining pot is for silver, and the furnace for gold, / And a man is tried by his

praise. / [22] Though thou shouldest bray a fool in a mortar with a pestle among groats, / Yet will not his foolishness depart from him.

[23] Be thou diligent to know the state of thy flocks, / And look well to thy herds; / [24] For riches are not for ever; / And doth the crown endure unto all generations? / [25] When the hay is mown, and the tender grass sheweth itself, / And the herbs of the mountains are gathered in; / [26] The lambs will be for thy clothing, / And the goats the price for a field; / [27] And there will be goats' milk enough for thy food, for the food of thy household; / And maintenance for thy maidens.

28 The wicked flee when no man pursueth; But the righteous are secure as a young lion. / [2] For the transgression of a land many are the princes thereof; / But by a man of understanding and knowledge established order shall long continue. / [3] A poor man that oppresseth the weak / Is like a sweeping rain which leaveth no food. / [4] They that forsake the law praise the wicked; / But such as keep the law contend with them.

[5] Evil men understand not justice; / But they that seek the LORD understand all things. / [6] Better is the poor that walketh in his integrity, / Than he that is perverse in his ways, though he be rich. / [7] A wise son observeth the teaching; / But he that is a companion of gluttonous men shameth his father. / [8] He that augmenteth his substance by interest and increase, / Gathereth it for him that is gracious to the poor. / [9] He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, / Even his prayer is an abomination. / [10] Whoso causeth the upright to go astray in an evil way, / He shall fall himself into his own pit; / But the whole-hearted shall inherit good. / [11] The rich man is wise in his own eyes; / But the poor that hath understanding searcheth him through. / [12] When the righteous exult, there is great glory; / But when the wicked rise, men must be sought for. / [13] He that covereth his transgressions shall not prosper; / But whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall obtain mercy. / [14] Happy is the man that feareth alway, / But he that hardeneth his heart shall fall into evil. / [15] As a roaring lion, and a ravenous bear; / So is a wicked ruler over a poor people. / [16] The prince that lacketh understanding is also a great oppressor; / But he that hateth covetousness shall prolong his days.

[17] A man that is laden with the blood of any person / Shall hasten his steps unto the pit; none will support him. / [18] Whoso walketh uprightly shall be saved: / But he that is perverse in his ways shall fall at once. / [19] He that tilleth his ground shall have plenty of bread; / But he that followeth after vain things shall have poverty enough. / [20] A faithful man shall abound with blessings; / But he that maketh haste to be rich shall not be unpunished. / [21] To have respect of persons is not good; / For a man will transgress for a piece of bread. / [22] He that hath an evil eye hasteneth after riches, / And knoweth not that want shall come upon him / [23] He that rebuketh a man shall in the end find more favour / Than he that flattereth with the tongue. / [24] Whoso robbeth his father or his mother, and saith: 'It is no transgression', / The same is the companion of a destroyer. / [25] He that is of a greedy spirit stirreth up strife; / But he that putteth his trust in the LORD shall be abundantly gratified. / [26] He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool; / But whoso walketh wisely, he shall escape. / [27] He that giveth unto the poor shall not lack; / But he that hideth his eyes shall have many a curse. / [28] When the wicked rise, men hide themselves; / But when they perish, the righteous increase.

29 He that being often reproved hardeneth his neck Shall suddenly be broken, and that without remedy. / [2] When the righteous are increased, the people rejoice; / But when the wicked beareth rule, the people sigh. / [3] Whoso loveth wisdom rejoiceth his father; / But he that keepeth company with harlots wasteth his substance. / [4] The king by justice establisheth the land; / But he that exacteth gifts overthroweth it. / [5] A man that flattereth his neighbor / Spreadeth a net for his steps. / [6] In the transgression of an evil man there is a snare; / But the righteous doth sing and rejoice. / [7] The righteous taketh knowledge of the cause of the poor; / The wicked understandeth not knowledge. / [8] Scornful men set a city in a blaze; / But wise men turn away wrath. / [9] If a wise man contendeth with a foolish man, / Whether he be angry or laugh, there will be no rest. / [10] The men of blood hate him that is sincere; / And as for the upright, they seek his life. / [11] A fool spendeth all his spirit; / But a wise man stilleth it within him. / [12] If a ruler hearkeneth to falsehood, / All his servants are wicked. / [13] The poor, man and the oppressor meet together; / The LORD giveth

light to the eyes of them both. / [14] The king that faithfully judgeth the poor, / His throne shall be established for ever. / [15] The rod and reproof give wisdom; / But a child left to himself causeth shame to his mother. / [16] When the wicked are increased, transgression increaseth; / But the righteous shall gaze upon their fall. / [17] Correct thy son, and he will give thee rest; / Yea, he will give delight unto thy soul.

[18] Where there is no vision, the people cast off restraint; / But he that keepeth the law, happy is he. / [19] A servant will not be corrected by words; / For though he understand, there will be no response. / [20] Seest thou a man that is hasty in his words? / There is more hope for a fool than for him. / [21] He that delicately bringeth up his servant from a child / Shall have him become a master at the last. / [22] An angry man stirreth up strife, / And a wrathful man aboundeth in transgression. / [23] A man's pride shall bring him low; / But he that is of a lowly spirit shall attain to honour. / [24] Whoso is partner with a thief hateth his own soul: / He heareth the adjuration and uttereth nothing. / [25] The fear of man bringeth a snare; / But whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be set up on high. / [26] Many seek the ruler's favour; / But a man's judgment cometh from the LORD. / [27] An unjust man is an abomination to the righteous; / And he that is upright in the way is an abomination to the wicked.

30 The words of Agur the son of / Jakeh; the burden. / The man saith unto Ithiel, unto Ithiel and Ucal: / [2] Surely I am brutish, unlike a man, / And have not the understanding of a man; / [3] And I have not learned wisdom, / That I should have the knowledge of the Holy One. / [4] Who hath ascended up into heaven, and descended? / Who hath gathered the wind in his fists? / Who hath bound the waters in his garment? / Who hath established all the ends of the earth? / What is his name, and what is his son's name, if thou knowest? / [5] Every word of God is tried; / He is a shield unto them that take refuge in Him. / [6] Add thou not unto His words, / Lest He reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.

[7] Two things have I asked of Thee; / Deny me them not before I die: / [8] Remove far from me falsehood and lies; / Give me neither poverty nor riches; / Feed me with mine allotted bread; / [9] Lest I be full, and deny, and say: 'Who is

the LORD? / Or lest I be poor, and steal, / And profane the name of my God.

[10] Slander not a servant unto his master, / Lest he curse thee, and thou be found guilty. / [11] There is a generation that curse their father, / And do not bless their mother. / [12] There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, / And yet are not washed from their filthiness. / [13] There is a generation, Oh how lofty are their eyes! / And their eyelids are lifted up. / [14] There is a generation whose teeth are as swords, and their great teeth as knives, / To devour the poor from off the earth, and the needy from among men.

[15] The horseleech hath two daughters: 'Give, give.' / There are three things that are never satisfied, / Yea, four that say not. 'Enough': / [16] The grave; and the barren womb; / The earth that is not satisfied with water; / And the fire that saith not: 'Enough.' / [17] The eye that mocketh at his father, / And despiseth to obey his mother, / The ravens of the valley shall pick it out, / And the young vultures shall eat it.

[18] There are three things which are too wonderful for me, / Yea, four which I know not / [19] The way of an eagle in the air; / The way of a serpent upon a rock, / The way of a ship in the midst of the sea; / And the way of a man with a young woman. / [20] So is the way of an adulterous woman; / She eateth, and wipeth her mouth, And saith: 'I have done no wickedness.'

[21] For three things the earth doth quake, / And for four it cannot endure: / [22] For a servant when he reigneth; / And a churl when he is filled with food; / [23] For an odious woman when she is married; / And a handmaid that is heir to her mistress.

[24] There are four things which are little upon the earth, / But they are exceeding wise: / [25] The ants are a people not strong, / Yet they provide their food in the summer; / [26] The rock-badgers are but a feeble folk, / Yet make they their houses in the crags; / [27] The locusts have no king, / Yet go they forth all of them by bands; / [28] The spider thou canst take with the hands, / Yet is she in kings' palaces.

[29] There are three things which are stately in their march, / Yea, four which are stately in going: / [30] The lion, which is mightiest among

beasts, / And turneth not away for any; / [31] The greyhound; the he-goat also; / And the king, against whom there is no rising up. / [32] If thou hast done foolishly in lifting up thyself, / Or if thou hast planned devices, lay thy hand upon thy mouth. / [33] For the churning of milk bringeth forth curd, / And the wringing of the nose bringeth forth blood; / So the forcing of wrath bringeth forth strife.

31 The words of king Lemuel; the / burden wherewith his mother / corrected him. / [2] What, my son? and what, O son of my womb? / And what, O son of my vows? / [3] Give not thy strength unto women, / Nor thy ways to that which destroyeth kings. / [4] It is not for kings, O ^aLemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine, / Nor for princes to say: ‘Where is strong drink?’ / [5] Lest they drink, and forget that which is decreed, / And pervert the justice due to any that is afflicted. / [6] Give strong drink unto him that is ready to perish, / And wine unto the bitter in soul; / [7] Let him drink, and forget his poverty, / And remember his misery no more. / [8] Open thy mouth for the dumb, / In the cause of all such as are appointed to destruction. / [9] Open thy mouth, judge righteously, / And plead the cause of the poor and needy.

¶ [10] A woman of valour who can find? / For her price is far above rubies. / ॥ [11] The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, / And he hath no lack of gain. / ॥ [12] She doeth him good and not evil / All the days of her life. / ॥ [13] She seeketh wool and flax, / And worketh willingly with her hands. / ॥ [14] She is like the merchant-ships; / She bringeth her food from afar. / ॥ [15] She riseth also while it is yet night, / And giveth food to her household, / And a portion to her maidens. / ॥ [16] She considereth a field, and buyeth it; / With the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard. / ॥ [17] She girdeth her loins with strength, / And maketh strong her arms. / ॥ [18] She perceiveth that her merchandise is good; / Her lamp goeth not out by night. / ॥ [19] She layeth her hands to the distaff, / And her hands hold the spindle. / ॥ [20] She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; / Yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy. / ॥ [21] She is not afraid of the snow for her household; / For all her household are clothed with scarlet. / ॥ [22] She maketh for herself coverlets; / Her clothing is fine linen and purple. / ॥ [23] Her husband is known in the gates, / When he sitteth among

a Heb *Lemoel*.

the elders of the land. / ⚡ [24] She maketh linen garments and selleth them; / And delivereth girdles unto the merchant / ☙ [25] Strength and dignity are her clothing; / And she laugheth at the time to come / ⚡ [26] She openeth her mouth with wisdom; / And the law of kindness is on her tongue. / ☙ [27] She looketh well to the ways of her household, / And eateth not the bread of idleness / ☠ [28] Her children rise up, and call her blessed; / Her husband also, and he praiseth her: / ☠ [29] ‘Many daughters have done valiantly, / But thou excellest them all.’ / ☙ [30] Grace is deceitful, and beauty is vain; / But a woman that feareth the / LORD, she shall be praised. / ☠ [31] Give her of the fruit of her hands; / And let her works praise her in the gates.