**CHAPTER** **10**

*Observations on wisdom and folly, ambition and detraction.*

**1** Dying flies spoil the sweetness of the ointment. Wisdom and glory is more precious than a small and shortlived folly.

**2** The heart of a wise man is in his right hand, and the heart of a fool is in his left hand.

**3** Yea, and the fool when he walketh in the way, whereas he himself is a fool, esteemeth all men fools.

**4** If the spirit of him that hath power, ascend upon thee, leave not thy place: because care will make the greatest sins to cease.

**5** There is an evil that I have seen under the sun, as it were by an error proceeding from the face of the prince:

**6** A fool set in high dignity, and the rich sitting beneath.

**7** I have seen servants upon horses: and princes walking on the ground as servants.

**8** He that diggeth a pit, shall fall into it: and he that breaketh a hedge, a serpent shall bite him.

**9** He that removeth stones, shall be hurt by them: and he that cutteth trees, shall be wounded by them.

**10** If the iron be blunt, and be not as before, but be made blunt, with much labour it shall be sharpened: and after industry shall follow wisdom.

**11** If a serpent bite in silence, he is nothing better that backbiteth secretly.

**12** The words of the mouth of a wise man are grace: but the lips of a fool shall throw him down headlong.

**13** The beginning of his words is folly, and the end of his talk is a mischievous error.

**14** A fool multiplieth words. A man cannot tell what hath been before him: and what shall be after him, who can tell him?

**15** The labour of fools shall afflict them that know not how to go to the city.

**16** Woe to thee, O land, when thy king is a child, and when the princes eat in the morning.

**17** Blessed is the land, whose king is noble, and whose princes eat in due season for refreshment, and not for riotousness.

**18** By slothfulness a building shall be brought down, and through the weakness of hands, the house shall drop through.

**19** For laughter they make bread, and wine that the living may feast: and all things obey money.

**20** Detract not the king, no not in thy thought; and speak not evil of the rich man in thy private chamber: because even the birds of the air will carry thy voice, and he that hath wings will tell what thou hast said.