**CHAPTER** **26**

*Of good and bad women.*

**1** Happy is the husband of a good wife: for the number of his years is double.

**2** A virtuous woman rejoiceth her husband, and shall fulfil the years of his life in peace.

**3** A good wife is a good portion, she shall be given in the portion of them that fear God, to a man for his good deeds.

**4** Rich or poor, if his heart is good, his countenance shall be cheerful at all times.

**5** Of three things my heart hath been afraid, and at the fourth my face hath trembled:

**6** The accusation of a city, and the gathering together of the people:

**7** And a false calumny, all are more grievous than death.

**8** A jealous woman is the grief and mourning of the heart.

**9** With a jealous woman is a scourge of the tongue which communicateth with all.

**10** As a yoke of oxen that is moved to and fro, so also is a wicked woman: he that hath hold of her, is as he that taketh hold of a scorpion.

**11** A drunken woman is a great wrath: and her reproach and shame shall not be hid.

**12** The fornication of a woman shall be known by the haughtiness of her eyes, and by her eyelids.

**13** On a daughter that turneth not away herself, set a strict watch: lest finding an opportunity she abuse herself.

**14** Take heed of the impudence of her eyes, and wonder not if she slight thee.

**15** She will open her mouth as a thirsty traveller to the fountain, and will drink of every water near her, and will sit down by every hedge, and open her quiver against every arrow, until she fail.

**16** The grace of a diligent woman shall delight her husband, and shall fat his bones.

**17** Her discipline is the gift of God.

**18** Such is a wise and silent woman, and there is nothing so much worth as a well instructed soul.

**19** A holy and shamefaced woman is grace upon grace.

**20** And no price is worthy of a continent soul.

**21** As the sun when it riseth to the world in the high places of God, so is the beauty of a good wife for the ornament of her house.

**22** As the lamp shining upon the holy candlestick, so is the beauty of the face in a ripe age,

**23** As golden pillars upon bases of silver, so are the firm feet upon the soles of a steady woman.

**24** As everlasting foundations upon a solid rock, so the commandments of God in the heart of a holy woman.

**25** At two things my heart is grieved, and the third bringeth anger upon me.

**26** A man of war fainting through poverty: and a man of sense despised:

**27** And he that passeth over from justice to sin, God hath prepared such an one for the sword.

**28** Two sorts of callings have appeared to me hard and dangerous: a merchant is hardly free from negligence: and a huckster shall not be justified from the sins of the lips.