**CHAPTER** **11**

*Lessons of humility and moderation in all things.*

**1** T HE wisdom of the humble shall exalt his head, and shall make him sit in the midst of great men.

**2** Praise not a man for his beauty, neither despise a man for his look.

**3** The bee is small among flying things, but her fruit hath the chiefest sweetness.

**4** Glory not in apparel at any time, and be not exalted in the day of thy honour: for the works of the Highest only are wonderful, and his works are glorious, and secret, and hidden.

**5** Many tyrants have sat on the throne, and he whom no man would think on, hath worn the crown.

**6** Many mighty men have been greatly brought down, and the glorious have been delivered into the hand of others.

**7** Before thou inquire, blame no man: and when thou hast inquired, reprove justly.

**8** Before thou hear, answer not a word: and interrupt not others in the midst of their discourse.

**9** Strive not in a matter which doth not concern thee, and sit not in judgment with sinners.

**10** My son, meddle not with many matters: and if thou be rich, thou shalt not be free from sin: for if thou pursue after thou shalt not overtake: and if thou run before thou shalt not escape.

**11** There is an ungodly man that laboureth, and maketh haste, and is in sorrow, and is so much the more in want.

**12** Again, there is an inactive man that wanteth help, is very weak in ability, and full of poverty:

**13** Yet the eye of God hath looked upon him for good, and hath lifted him up from his low estate, and hath exalted his head: and many have wondered at him, and have glorified God.

**14** Good things and evil, life and death, poverty and riches, are from God.

**15** Wisdom and discipline, and the knowledge of the law are with God. Love and the ways of good things are with him.

**16** Error and darkness are created with sinners: and they that glory in evil things, grow old in evil.

**17** The gift of God abideth with the just, and his advancement shall have success for ever.

**18** There is one that is enriched by living sparingly, and this is the portion of his reward.

**19** In that he saith: I have found me rest, and now I will eat of my goods alone:

**20** And he knoweth not what time shall pass, and that death approacheth, and that he must leave all to others, and shall die.

**21** Be steadfast in thy covenant, and be conversant therein, and grow old in the work of thy commandments.

**22** Abide not in the works of sinners. But trust in God, and stay in thy place.

**23** For it is easy in the eyes of God on a sudden to make the poor man rich.

**24** The blessing of God maketh haste to reward the just, and in a swift hour his blessing beareth fruit.

**25** Say not: What need I, and what good shall I have by this?

**26** Say not: I am sufficient for myself: and what shall I be made worse by this?

**27** In the day of good things be not unmindful of evils: and in the day of evils be not unmindful of good things:

**28** For it is easy before God in the day of death to reward every one according to his ways.

**29** The affliction of an hour maketh one forget great delights, and in the end of a man is the disclosing of his works.

**30** Praise not any man before death, for a man is known by his children.

**31** Bring not every man into thy house: for many are the snares of the deceitful.

**32** For as corrupted bowels send forth stinking breath, and as the partridge is brought into the cage, and as the roe into the snare: so also is the heart of the proud, and as a spy that looketh on the fall of his neighbour.

**33** For he lieth in wait and turneth good into evil, and on the elect he will lay a blot.

**34** Of one spark cometh a great fire, and of one deceitful man much blood: and a sinful man lieth in wait for blood.

**35** Take heed to thyself of a mischievous man, for he worketh evils: lest he bring upon thee reproach for ever.

**36** Receive a stranger in, and he shall overthrow thee with a whirlwind, and shall turn thee out of thy own.