**CHAPTER** **32**

*Lessons for superiors and inferiors. Advantages of fearing God, and doing nothing without counsel.*

**1** Have they made thee ruler? be not lifted up: be among them as one of them.

**2** Have care of them, and so sit down, and when thou hast acquitted thyself of all thy charge, take thy place:

**3** That thou mayst rejoice for them, and receive a crown as an ornament of grace, and get the honour of the contribution.

**4** Speak, thou that art elder: for it becometh thee,

**5** To speak the first word with careful knowledge, and hinder not music.

**6** Where there is no hearing, pour not out words, and be not lifted up out of season with thy wisdom.

**7** A concert of music in a banquet of wine is as a carbuncle set in gold.

**8** As a signet of an emerald in a work of gold: so is the melody of music with pleasant and moderate wine.

**9** Hear in silence, and for thy reverence good grace shall come to thee.

**10** Young man, scarcely speak in thy own cause.

**11** If thou be asked twice, let thy answer be short.

**12** In many things be as if thou wert ignorant, and hear in silence and withal seeking.

**13** In the company of great men take not upon thee: and when the ancients are present, speak not much.

**14** Before a storm goeth lightning: and before shamefacedness goeth favour: and for thy reverence good grace shall come to thee.

**15** And at the time of rising be not slack: but be first to run home to thy house, and there withdraw thyself, and there take thy pastime.

**16** And do what thou hast a mind, but not in sin or proud speech.

**17** And for all these things bless the Lord, that made thee, and that replenisheth thee with all his good things.

**18** He that feareth the Lord, will receive his discipline: and they that will seek him early, shall find a blessing.

**19** He that seeketh the law, shall be filled with it: and he that dealeth deceitfully, shall meet with a stumblingblock therein.

**20** They that fear the Lord, shall find just judgment, and shall kindle justice as a light.

**21** A sinful man will flee reproof, and will find an excuse according to his will.

**22** A man of counsel will not neglect understanding, a strange and proud man will not dread fear:

**23** Even after he hath done with fear without counsel, he shall be controlled by the things of his own seeking.

**24** My son, do thou nothing without counsel, and thou shalt not repent when thou hast done.

**25** Go not in the way of ruin, and thou shalt not stumble against the stones: trust not thyself to a rugged way, lest thou set a stumblingblock to thy soul.

**26** And beware of thy own children, and take heed of them of thy household.

**27** In every work of thine regard thy soul in faith: for this is the keeping of the commandments.

**28** He that believeth God, taketh heed to the commandments: and he that trusteth in him, shall fare never the worse.