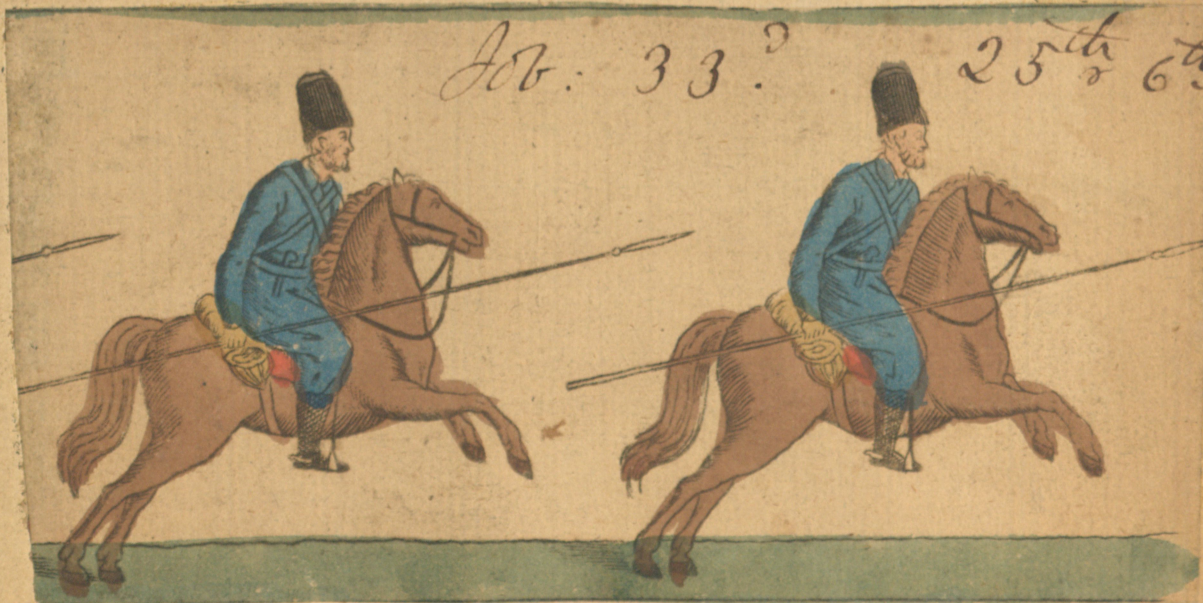


66th Psalm, last 4.
 136th Psalm.

"His Flesh shall be fester than a Chily," &c.

97th Psalm
 11. first 4.
 2 to 10



St Anne's, Ch. Annapolis, March 13. 1842
 all Ballons, So. Linn Left 11. 30.
 St. Margarety - Severn - ap! 23. 1843.
 St. Anne's, Feb. 26. 1847. 100 x 11. 5.

Annapolis, Md.
 13th July 1851 -
 St Anne's Church.

Job XXXIII. 25 & 26. "His flesh shall be fresher than a
Child. he shall return to the days of his youth,
he shall pray unto God, and he will be favourable
unto him; and he shall see his face with joy; for,
he will render unto him, his Righteousness."

God speaks to Simeon by Simeon, among other
Dispensations; and St. James says, that Job's Example
is given us, to show, that Suffering is the fruit of sin;
and that God's Grace can turn it to great good both
of Body and Soul, by a Change of heart & life so great,
that the Penitent shall be as one restored from
the verge of the Grave, to the freshness & sweetness of Youth.
Job's faith saved him, then, as fully as all faith
can save any man, in the Multitude of Christ's
Mercies; and, this Result, was the fruit of Prayer.
He had been a man of Prayer, though his offerings
are said to have been made, particularly, in behalf of
his Children. His supplications were, now, destined, to in

have their more perfect work; under Direction by
one who is called an Interpreter. Who teaches
him to begin right; i.e. to seek God's Face
through the Divine Mediator. He is also called
a "Messenger"; and "One of a thousand"; and must have
been understood to be the "Dayman" who alone can
stand between God & the sinner & lay his hand upon
both; because his Word was "I have found a Rest for
Religious Friends" could bring acceptable comfort
and lively sympathy; but the higher Consolations
of Peace and Reconciliation with the Almighty
were above their reach. Eliza was a model
both for Ministers, & private Christians, who visit
the sick; since he wasted no time in Compliments
the Penitent or Converted Sinner, is too prone
to hide his grief. He needs some one to break the
subject. He wonders why Christians do not speak to
him of the things that concern his Everlasting Peace

He knows not how to overcome his distrust -
but the Man of God goes with him, aboves,
to the Mercy Seat. ~~He learns, whether he is a~~
~~member of the Body of Christ, and, if so, if there be any~~
~~unsoundness in him.~~ His heart is melted; and he
no longer studies concealment, in his trembling
breast. He is astonished, at his former resistance;
and he blesses his Heavenly Father, who has sent
him so welcome a Teacher of his Divine Will.

But, we learn, secondly, that immediate
recess followed the adoption of this preparative;
for, the Lord was "favourable unto him". The Blood
flowed healthfully, in his veins. The fever and
corruption that had ruined his system,
were removed. There was a radical cure.
He was, still, weak and languid; but, his
improvement was obvious & rapid.

This figure of the Sanctification of the Conscience in heart,
is not overstrained. The flesh and bones, take their quality,
from what we eat and drink; and, the Penitent, who
heretofore, fed on the husks of this world's pleasures;
now, finds it his meat and drink, to do Christ's whole will
concerning him. Now, he can be said to live; for,
he lives by Faith. The Change is so wonderful,
that there can be no mistake. A living man, may
counterfeit the dead. ~~He~~ may seem, as one dead, though
life be in him; but, the dead cannot pass for the
living! The features may repose, in such placid smiles, in

death, that we exclaim, "he sleepeth;" ~~as we look on the~~
~~corpse, and think that the image breathes;~~ but,
we embrace the cold clay, and learn the mockery
of all things, except our Life in Christ! ~~Now, then,~~
~~that has ^{with us} the "body of sin", restores, to "see his~~
~~face with joy, will not eagerly look to these~~
~~great and glorious Being, to restore unto him this~~
~~Righteousness!"~~ Such is the main instruction, to be
drawn from Job's Experience, ~~that~~ the very best of our Race,
can be just with God, only by the Blood of the Covenant.
The Righteousness, that was forfeited, and lost, by the

Fall, is restored by the Son of God; and even ~~he~~ can
restore it, only, to such as believe. Job had lived
as a man, perfect, upright, and one that feared God,
and eschewed evil; and, the Lord own word, concerning
him, was, that there was, "none like him in the
Earth". Yet, even this man, was not justified!
Indeed, he was guilty of very great sin, towards God; &=
=an injury, as he was in his relation, with man.
He justified himself; and called in question, the
the Supreme Disposer, for afflicting him, as he had done!
"Thou hast spoken this, in my hearing," said Elisha! It was an

awful presumption, ^{even} to harbor ^{such a feeling} in the heart; but, ^{openly} had said, I am clean, without transgression, I am innocent. Now, it was all the same, whether Christ came to in Person, or by His Minister; to show him, His way of pardon and justifying repentant sinners; and of sanctifying and preparing them for final happiness. The Church, teaches us, that, in the absence of opportunity, any contrite heart, can have comfortable communion with ^{God} ~~Christ~~, at the Mercy Seat; only, let him pray ^{unto Him}, and He will be favourable unto him; and will restore unto him, His Righteousness. "Behold,"

said Balaam, "according to thy wish, I am in God's stead." They, even the humblest Christian, where the highest officer of the Church, can not come to our aid, may ^{join with} us, in prayer, and in confession ^{that we may} unto God. ~~Let~~ ^{us} understand the Divine Dispensation towards us, ^{and yield} ~~and yield~~ ^{our souls} to His Holy Keeping. The sin of Job, was, that he strove more to clear himself from all imputation of iniquity, than to vindicate ~~him~~ from injustice, in His Providence! He "justified himself, rather than God," was the record made of his sin. The old men of the company, seem not to have had any clear view

of Divine Justice, than his own; and, in their rash efforts
at admonition, had only aggravated his misery. Eliezer
who was young in years, showed more age in wisdom
than they all. He spoke, at the right time; and in
proper manner. He knew when to keep silence, even
from good word, as David did; and his modesty was
equal to his merit; so that, when he spoke, even
the aged listened to him. He convicted the Patience,
while he condemned these arrogant Conseillers. "Why
doest thou strive against God, for he giveth not account
of any of his matters." If you will talk of the

unreasonableness of submitting your high powers of
mind, to the mere dictation of His Spirit, I pray
you to reflect, whether you are likely to see your
way clear, for clinging to your Pride! Do not,
therefore, die, in vain attempts to fathom, what is
incomprehensible. Be persuaded, to leave some
things to be learned, after we go hence, to see
God, face to face! The sin of the angels that fell, was
unsubdued Pride. There are deep things of God; which
even angels desire to look into! Yet, must they, patiently,
abide His own time! When mortal men, therefore,

who are made lower than angels, plume themselves on their
native goodness, & quick intelligence; they are not likely
to confess, that their Punishment is less than their
Sins deserve! For, we ^{they} are prone to multiply Prayers
to God; (for, that is the original cord); meaning, that
the Contrite heart, will increase the intensity
their prayers. They count not the numerical value,
nor are they so much in distress for some one to
pray, in their behalf, as to pray for themselves;
for, this is the one indication, that they see the
 enormity of their opposition to God. This, is what

It means, when he says, "How mine Eyes seeth Thee".
In getting a more thorough knowledge of the Deceitfulness
of his own heart; he obtained satisfying views of the
attributes of the Most High. He saw Him, as One
holy, merciful, just, and true; who will by no means
clear the impenitent. All his former acquaintance
with God's Compassions, and his own infirmities, was like
hearsay evidence. Nature's light had taught him to
be honest in his dealings with his fellow creatures;
and to be thankful to a Creator, who had given
him Riches, & Honor, & Power. He had even been

regular in religious worship; and offered sacrifices, "all the days," for his ~~very~~ daughters; that they might be kept from sinning against God. One would think, that such a Character, could not have been essentially defective. But, hear his own Confession. "I have heard of thee, by the hearing of the Ear" - in my former experience of the ~~unfalseness~~ of him; I had some faint impressions of the deceitfulness of my own heart; "but, now, mine Eye seeth thee, and I abhor myself; and repent in dust and ashes!"

Such were the Results of sanctified affliction. 98

had stripped him of his worldly goods; and smitten him with grievous sickness. His life became a burden to him; and, instead of meekly bowing to the stroke, he had cursed the day of his birth, and wished himself in the grave! Now, this was precisely the time when God did not forsake his suffering Servant; but sent him so faithful a Minister, to deal honestly with him; not to condemn him upon suspicion; nor to tax him with hypocrisy; but to show him, how he had "darkened counsel, with words without knowledge!" Oh, the depth of the Mercy of God, who, so brings us, by means of his Minister, to

confess our folly; and, in the enjoyment of His loving-kindness,
to feel an ingratitude! While we look only on ourselves, &
others like ourselves, we have no fervent desires for the likeness
of Christ; for, our conduct, is as good as theirs; but when
we stand before the almighty, we shrink away, abashed
by our ignorance, and terrified by our rashness! We dare
not approach His throne, till the sense of His Grace &
Goodness, in pardoning our iniquity, purifies the offering
from Penitence and Praise.

We do not learn, that the other visitors, derived the
same ^{amount of} Improvement, from this instructive occasion.

These men had the snow of many winters on their heads;
but, no true sense of their dependence on God, in their hearts.
They had failed to give God, any "strong reason," because
they were untought themselves, having necessarily
tortured their patient, by efforts to pull the net
from his eye, while a beam was in their own! It was
not intellectual ability, that they wanted; but, proper
discrimination & moral feeling. Some men seem to be
made up of will; having pride is a mere concentration
of Reason, without emotion; and showing only brightness
and colours, as moonbeams on wintry snow! Others are

all feeling; mere creatures of impulse; always going to
extremes; swayed by one set of men, to one strong
measure; but just as liable, to be led by others, to an
opposite one. There are others, still, in whom the animal
nature predominates; and they consume God's Gift, without
looking up to Him, in the teachable straitened spirit,
which alone is able to direct the path of Duty. Hence,
Christ's Promises are made, only, to such, as entertain
the meek and humble temper. "Blessed are the poor
in heart; for they shall see God." They are not only without
guile; but without fear; and without reproach. Their

Repentance is genuine; and Spring, from no hidden or cr-
regular zeal; or from any partial study of the Divine
Will. Their Faith is strong; because they have placed
the Lord on the throne of their affections; and they know,
feel, that the Adversary of all the Earth will do right. | Thus, the
right Knowledge of God, is the source of all true Penitence
for sin; and, thus Humility, apprehends the Purposes of God;
while Goat-skin stumbles on in Darkness. Wherefore,
impudent men deceive themselves, when they say they
would believe and obey, if greater evidence were accorded to
them! The men who saw the Miracles of Moses, were as

little affected by them, as the same slap of Despisers now, as
by the word of God's Providence! Or, is it any better sign,
when persons ~~that~~ make some Professors, are greatly offended
that their pretensions to sanctity, are scrutinized! Not,
Calumniators, & uttered in casting up Oliver, his supposed
mis, as though it had been some relief to the deeper
shades of their own unrighteousness! Thus, imperfect
Believers, are peculiarly sensitive, when their small stock
of virtue is called in question; and, nothing can be
more unjust, than their want of candour, when failed
in their attempts to excuse their irregular practices!

They will make no admission; ^{they} will excuse themselves,
from further debate; but, ^{they will} retain their harsh opinions,
of such as think not with them; and, ^{they will} charge them with
corrupt motives, & evil intentions! Or, will my dear Brother Sincerity,
in pushing particular systems, any more justify ^{the} zealots,
who make many plays, and long journies, to gain
one Proselyte! Paul, did not defend his persecution of the
first Christians, on the ground of his sincerity. He thought
he was doing God service; but, he felt, that he had been
guilty of rash judgment, and ruthless malice! We might
as well talk of the peaceful skies, when the storm is abroad

in its fury, as of a pure mind or perfect heart, moved by
any prejudice, no matter how sincere! Whatever con-
-clusionary any man forms, on insufficient proof, will be
^{nonetheless} fatal to his own peace, at the last, for any except of
devotion, in which he may have used them on others!
Hence, we are as much responsible, for our Opinions, as for
our actions; and, it is no safe ground to stand upon,
that one's Conscience does not condemn him. He must
see, that his Conscience accord with God's Word. There is
a blinded Conscience; as well as a hardened one;
without accurate perception, of Divine Truth; though it

may afford a transient satisfaction, to a miserable
Sinner, who can thank God, that he is not as other
men are! Again, you may find men who are always
talking of their "tender Conscience;" in whom, it is none
other than an evil Conscience; so full of unchristianity,
that it is ever ill at ease with itself; not only
unable to see any good in other Christians; but sus-
-pecting them of all evil! Well did Christ exclaim
by self-complacency;
one such as so blind their own Judgment, how great,
is that Darkness!" What further proof does the unconverted
Heaven demand; than his own Experience supplies! He has seen men die!

He feels that he, too, must soon enter the unseen world! Perhaps, some one or more of you kindred after the first, have gone before you; and you have marked how God upheld them by His Spirit! They may have been persons, whom you did not particularly approve; as the miserable Comforters, did not commend Job! But, God seeth not as man seeth. "Go to my servant Job," said the Almighty, to these arrogant Pretenders; "and offer up for yourselves a burnt offering; and my servant Job shall pray for you; for him will I accept." These men thought they had properly reprieved the Sufferer, when they so

grossly misinterpreted God's judgment; and the Divine Angel was kindled against them. He humbled them, to ask the intervention of the very person, they had so uncharitably judged. Job showed, how superior he was to them, in spiritual attainments, by praying for them, fervently, and offering the appointed sacrifices. Indeed, he was a noble type of Christ. The tide of his woes had turned, as soon as he began to prepare his own offerings; and, the moment when he first prayed for himself, with the spirit and the understanding, he forgot not those who had so cruelly handled him! Thus, God has rich Mercies

for His Chosen Servant, whom the world Censure, and whom more
He will, He make a King & a Priest, to make known the
Sovereignty, as well as the Plenitude of His Mercy! This
illustrious Sufferer, set his Calumniators a glorious
Example, by not returning any insulting rebukes, to
make their humiliation more bitter. If they were at
peace with Him, they were reconciled to Him; for, he
would remember none of their ungenerous invectives!
Oh, it is a great Mercy, when God affrags the bodily
pains of any supplicating Creature; but, to have all the
tumults of the Mind healed, all fears silenced, all disquietudes

banished; and the Comfortable joys of Submission diffused
through the reconciled affections; who can fathom such
Compassion! When the Sinner, so, changes his evil nature,
and has his life in Christ, he obtains remission of sins;
for, to forgive men their trespasses, is the spirit of the
Cross, and it casts down all human pride.

Scripture implies, that Saints who see God's Face with
joy, are clothed in the Beauty of perpetual youth. His guilt,
that darkens the brow, and furrows the face with wrinkles; and
fills the eyes with malice and rebellion! after Calvary was driven
out, we do not hear, that he ever returned. Yet, the Left =

er, can be restored. the excommunicated, may be reconciled,
when he returns "to the Boys of his youth." His flesh
comes again; as the flesh of a little Child. The old accretions
peel away; and a new growth, fresh as blooming roses,
is produced; for he takes nothing hurtful, more than the
flower of the field, or the fowl of the air, that obey the
law of their being; and he is no longer shamed by vices
that perish; for he will not change his veins with poison.
Demons make their marks of proscription, on the clay
tenement, before the noon tide of life matures the
best efforts of manhood. Yet, when the Spirit is gone,

the face returns to the smile of youth; and there is a calm
on the countenance, where, in life, an arbitrary will, had
moulded the iron lineaments of despotism! We see something
of this, in sleep; since, when they rest, you cannot tell
the features of the guilty, from those of the innocent. But,
see the two, waking. Engage them in the concerns of
Earth. Raise a dispute. Do the same injury to both.
the features are convulsed; the Eyes flash fire; the
tongue utters fierce words; and the hands are clenched.
the passions of Chilons show then, but for the moment.
It takes time, to make the impressions permanent. etc

angels, except fallen ones, have ~~more~~ such disfigurement.
Painters understand this; when they give to cherubs,
the faces of youth; and all men understand it, when
they realize, that "Angels resteth, only in the ~~beam~~ of God's!"
See, the bright looks of that boy, who has not as yet
known the nature of sin! The care from his hand,
is soft as the touch of an angel's wing; but, you know
not, whether that hand, will be used to break the
Dread of Life, to such as hunger still for after nightmaring;
or if it shall be cunning in works of darkness, to
people the regions of Despair! Pray, then, with

your Children; and pray for them; while you are careful,
that your own steps shall depart from all iniquity.
Put not off, these holy Duties, till the Early & Importunities
of old age and infirmities, shall come upon you, together.
You need no warnings, more solemn, than such as God
gives you, every day of your life! Had you stood in the
valley of Tophet, and seen Multitudes, dying in unbelief;
while such as looked to the appointed Symbol, lived;
it would have been no more than is shown now; nor,
indeed, so much; since "Christ is actually set forth, crucified."
Had you walked by the shore, as the bodies of the Egyptians

were washed up from the Deck; and the Singers of Israel
chantered the Song of Salvation, you might have said, "Now, mine
Eye seeth thee," with deep feeling; but, what other conviction
fastens on your hearts, when we crowd the Courts of the Lord's
House, and praise Him who hath kept our feet from
falling, our Eyes from tears, and our souls from death.
What less ought we to experience, here, in Christ Church,
than we should have felt, if we had been in the Ark on the
Deluge! The House of the Pious then, as now, resounded
with thankful hymns, for, the Light of Life shone brightly
within, while, abroad, the thunders rolled over the dark
waters of bitterness and death. You need not seek for
Demerits, cutting themselves among the Tents, & crying out,
that God is come before the time! You have only to behold
the wretched outcast who has blunted his religious
feelings, till he is reckless of his fate, and who is left here,
apparently, for a season, as a monument to warn the wicked,
to flee from every evil passion, and wicked man, to make
them a new heart, to begin early, and to begin right;
to live in the Holy Scriptures, at home and abroad, by
right & day; on the Ocean you land, in morn & eve,
that you may have restored unto you "His Righteousness." You will

then, come to the final trial; not with Stoicism; but with
Resignation. I know, that men can go through the dark
valley and show no signs, of Terror; because habit
can put on an iron Mask which shall hide every
emotion, that may pierce an obturate breast.
It is a small thing, to secure these negative indica-
=tions of tranquillity. We want the positive exultation,
and holy rapture, that pious souls experience, when
the Portals of the Invisible State, are opened to them!
"Now, mine Eye seeth thee," is uttered at such propiti-
ousness, that none can misapprehend;
with a Joy that is rational and real; with a
Love, that is superior to Faith and to Hope;
because it enters within the veil, to dwell with
the Lord forever!

