

The series of troubles David passed thro', few amongst us are ignorant of; and yet he afterwards became as one of the great men of the earth.

Some evidences of the divine wisdom appears in those things, in that such who are intended for high stations, have first been very low and dejected, that truth might be sealed on their hearts; and that the characters there imprinted by bitterness and adversity, might in after years remain, suggesting compassionate ideas, and, in their prosperity, quicken their regard to those in the like condition: which yet further appears in the case of Israel: they were well acquainted with grievous sufferings, a long and rigorous servitude; then, thro' many notable events, were made chief amongst the nations: to them we find a repetition of precepts to the purpose abovesaid: though, for ends agreeable to infinite wisdom, they were chose as a peculiar people for a time; yet the Most High acquaints them, that his love is not confined, but extends to the stranger; and, to excite their compassion, reminds them of times past, "Ye were strangers in the land of Egypt," Deut. x. 19. Again, "Thou shalt not oppress a stranger, for ye know the heart of a stranger, seeing ye were strangers in the land of Egypt," Exod. xxiii. 9.

If we call to mind our beginning, some of us may find a time, wherein our fathers were under