

Patience Under Provocations Our Interest As Well as Duty

To him in vain is affluence. in vain are health and prosperity. the least trifle is sufficient to discompose his mind and poison his pleasures.

his very amusements are mixed with turbulence and passion I would beseech this man to consider of what small moment the provocations which he receives or at least imagines himself to receive are really in themselves but of great moment he makes them by suffering them to deprive him of the possession of himself I would beseech him to consider how many hours of happiness he throws away with a little more patience would allow him to enjoy and how much he puts it in the power of the most insignificant persons to render him miserable But who can expect we hear him exclaim that he is so possess the insensibility of a stone how is it possible for human nature to endure so many repeated provocations or to bear calmly with so unreasonable behaviour my brother if thou canst bear with no instances of unreasonable behaviour withdraw thyself from the world thou art no longer fit to live in it leave the intercourse of men retreat to the mountain and the desert or shut thyself up in a cell for hermit in the midst of society offences must come We might as well expect when we

Patience

Behold a calm atmosphere and a clear sky that now clouds were ever to rise and no winds to blow as that our life were long to proceed without receiving provocations from human frailty the careless and the imprudent the giddy and the fickle the ungrateful and the interested every where meet us they are the briars and thorns with which the paths of human life are beset he only who can hold his course among them with patience and equanimity he who is prepared to bear what he must expect to happen is worthy of the name of a man if we preserved ourselves composed for a moment we should perceive the insignificance of most of those provocations which we magnify so highly when a few suns more have rolled over our heads the storm will of itself have subsided the cause of our present impatience and disturbance will be utterly forgotten can we not then anticipate this hour of calmness to ourselves and begin to enjoy the peace which it will certainly bring if others have behaved improperly let us leave them to their own folly without becoming the victims of their caprice and punishing ourselves on their account Patience in this exercise of it cannot be too much studied by all who wish their life to flow in a smooth stream it is the reason of a man in opposition of a child it is the enjoyment of peace in opposition to uproar and confusion &c &c &c