

¹These are also proverbs of Solomon, which the men of Hezekiah king of Judah copied out. ²It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honour of kings is to search out a matter. ³The heaven for height, and the earth for depth, and the heart of kings is unsearchable. ⁴Take away the dross from the silver, and there shall come forth a vessel for the finer. ⁵Take away the wicked from before the king, and his throne shall be established in righteousness. ⁶Put not forth thyself in the presence of the king, and stand not in the place of great men : ⁷For better it is that it be said unto thee, Come up hither; than that thou shouldest be put lower in the presence of the prince whom thine eyes have seen. ⁸Go not forth hastily to strive, lest thou know not what to do in the end thereof, when thy neighbour hath put thee to shame. ⁹Debate thy cause with thy neighbour himself ; and discover not a secret to another: ¹⁰Lest he that heareth it put thee to shame, and thine infamy turn not away. ¹¹A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver. ¹²As an earring of gold, and an ornament of fine gold, so is a wise reprovener upon an obedient ear. ¹³As the cold of snow in the time of harvest, so is a faithful messenger to them that send him: for he refresheth the soul of his masters. ¹⁴Whoso boasteth himself of a false gift is like clouds and wind without rain. ¹⁵By long forbearing is a prince persuaded, and a soft tongue breaketh the bone. ¹⁶Hast thou found honey? eat so much as is sufficient for thee, lest thou be filled therewith, and vomit it. ¹⁷Withdraw thy foot from thy

neighbour's house; lest he be weary of thee, and so hate thee.¹⁸ A man that beareth false witness against his neighbour is a maul, and a sword, and a sharp arrow.¹⁹ Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble is like a broken tooth, and a foot out of joint.²⁰ As he that taketh away a garment in cold weather, and as vinegar upon nitre, so is he that singeth songs to an heavy heart.²¹ If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink:²² For thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head, and the LORD shall reward thee.²³ The north wind driveth away rain: so doth an angry countenance a backbiting tongue.²⁴ It is better to dwell in the corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman and in a wide house.²⁵ As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country.²⁶ A righteous man falling down before the wicked is as a troubled fountain, and a corrupt spring.²⁷ It is not good to eat much honey: so for men to search their own glory is not glory.²⁸ He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls.