as a righteous punishment for the other offences that men have committed against him. When a society of understanding and reasonable creatures, upon which God almighty has heap'd his blessings in great abundance, shall abuse his favours, grow wanton and luxurious, forgetting him and themselves, he often gives them over to their own hearts lusts; and at the same time lets loose some or other of the infernal Spirits, who are always forward to employ themselves in such work, to sow the tares of dissention among them. *God* indeed *doth not*, cannot *tempt any man*, no more than *himself can be tempted of evil*; but as he is the wise and just Governour of the world, he beholds and observes all that is done in it, so that nothing can come to pass without his permission: and as he permits men to run into some Sins, as a just punishment for former wilful transgressions; so he permits likewise evil Spirits to tempt those to farther evil, who have before forsaken or neglected God, despising and abusing the methods of his goodness and kindness towards them. There is a very remarkable passage in the Book of

James i. 13.

Judges,