

Chapter 28

The maruelous workes of God, the author of nature, shew his powre and wifdome, 12. and that true riches confist not in temporal creatures, but in wifdome, 28. and feare of God.

Siluer hath ^{a)}beginnings of her vaines, and gold hath a place, where in it is molten. ² Yron is taken out of the earth, and ftone refolued with heate, is turned into braffe. ³ He hath fet a time for darkeneffe, and the end of al thinges he confidereth, the ftone alfo of darkeneffe, and the shadow of death. ⁴ The ^{b)}torrent diuideth from the pilgrime people, them whom the foote of the needie man hath forgotten, and to whom there is no way. ⁵ The land, out of which bread grew in his place, is deftroyed with fire. ⁶ The place of the fapphire the ftones thereof, and the cloddess of it gold. ⁷ The bird hath not knownen the path, neither hath the eie of the vultre beheld it. ⁸ The children of merchantess haue not troden it, neither hath the lionesse passed by it. ⁹ He hath stretched forth his hand to the flint, he hath ouerthrowen mountaines from the rootes. ¹⁰ In the rockes he hath cut out riuers, and his eie hath seene euerie pretious thing. ¹¹ The depthes alfo of riuers he hath seached, & hid thinges he hath brought forth to light. ¹² But where is wifdome to be found, and what is the place of vnderstanding? ¹³ Man knoweth not the price therof, ^{c)}neither is it found in the land of them that liue pleafently. ¹⁴ The depth fayth: It is not in me. And the fea speaketh: It is not with me. ¹⁵ The finest gold fhall not be geuen for it, neither fhall siluer be weyed in the change therof. ¹⁶ It fhall not be compared with

^a By these more precious and rare creatures, men ought to consider the creator and so not set their rest in them, but in him, which is true wifdome.

^b Sudaine headie waters bursting out do change the wayes and passages of men.

^c True wifdom is not in natural thinges, but in fupernatural vertues.

the died colours of India, nor with Sardonyx the moſt pretious ſtone, or with the Sapphire. ¹⁷ Gold or glaſſe ſhal not be equal to it, neither ſhal veſſels of gold be changed for it. ¹⁸ High and eminent thinges ſhal not be mentioned in compariſon of it: and wiſedom is drawn out of ſecrete places. ¹⁹ The topazius of Æthiopia ſhal not be equal to it, neither ſhal it be compared to the cleaneſt dying. ²⁰ From whence then cometh wiſedom? and what is the place of vnderſtanding? ²¹ It is hid from the eies of al liuing, the foules of the ayre alſo know it not. ²² Perdition and death haue ſayd: With our eares we haue heard the fame therof. ²³ God vnderſtandeth the way of it, and he knoweth the place therof. ²⁴ For he beholdeth the endes of the world: & looketh on al thinges that are vnder heauen. ²⁵ Who made a poſſe to the windes, and weyed the waters in a meaſure. ²⁶ When he gaue a lawe to the raynes, and a way to the founding ſtormes. ²⁷ Then he ſaw it, and declared, and prepared and ſearched it. ²⁸ And he ſayd to man: Behold ^a)the feare of our Lord, that is wiſedom: and to ^b)depart from euil, vnderſtanding.

^a VVhen man hath confidered Gods workes, his dutie is to feare God,

^b then to depart from euil and do good.