

our governors and of the people, on the temper of the laws, and of those who framed them, as well as of those who administer them. It is this holy influence of Christianity, principally, "which, by mitigating in some degree the rancour of contending parties against each other, and by inspiring them with some little share of mutual charity and forbearance, has hitherto preserved this country from those scenes of carnage and devastation, that stain and disgrace the annals of ancient history. It is this, which has, in general, restrained our provincial governors from exceeding the bounds of equity and humanity in their administration; and has carried even to our most distant colonies a large share of the freedom, the justice, the ease, the tranquillity, the security and prosperity of the parent state. It is this, in fine, which has impressed on the minds of our magistrates and our judges, that strong sense of duty to God, to man, and to their country; that sacred regard to justice and rectitude, which renders them beyond all example, impartial, upright, and uncorrupt; which secures to every rank of men the equal benefit of the laws; which extends to the meanest their protection, and brings the greatest under their control."

FAMILY SERMON.

1 THESS. v. 17.—"Pray without ceasing."

It is scarcely necessary to say to Christians, certainly not to experienced Christians, that "one of the most effectual means of maintaining a principle of religion in our hearts, is prayer." I do not say public prayer, or private prayer, or family prayer; but prayer in its most general acceptation. The exhortation is, "pray:" it neither prescribes the manner, nor fixes the time. Except, indeed, the text be understood in its severest construction. One thing, however, it certainly has respect to: a religious and circumspect walk before God.

Prayer is a mark highly characteristic of the new man; of a change from a state of nature to a state of grace. We no sooner hear of the conversion of St. Paul, than he is described to us under this very character: "Behold, he prayeth!" Indeed, so inseparable from the character of a Christian is the duty of prayer, that they are unworthy the name, who live in an open and habitual neglect of it. This very circumstance evidences beyond a question, that they are "aliens," and "strangers to the covenants of promise;" and ignorant, it would appear, of a very important par-