

demolished that, in the progress of years, the smallest traces of its existence were not to be found; the place where it stood was unknown; the wild beasts of the field had therein their dwelling place.

Or shall I remind you of Jerusalem; Jerusalem that so often was threatened, so often spared, so often chastized! Jerusalem, to which so many prophets were sent! Jerusalem, over which our Saviour wept, and would have saved her from the Divine vengeance impending over her! And her inhabitants heard not the warning; they disregarded the chastisements, and sadly and fearfully was the threatened punishment accomplished in the siege which was her final overthrow; a siege, the horrors of which have never, perhaps, been equalled; when the prophecy made against her was literally fulfilled; when the tender and delicate women amongst them, which would not venture to set the sole of her foot upon the ground for delicateness and tenderness, did secretly eat the children which she bore; when not one stone of her glorious temple was left upon another; when above a million of the Jewish nation were slaughtered without mercy by the victorious Romans, and the miserable remnant were scattered over every quarter of the globe, where, until this day, they have remained, a despised and rejected people.

I need not adduce any further instances, though the concurrent testimony of history, both sacred and profane, both ancient and modern, bears witness to the fact I have stated; that the fate of nations, the prosperous events that raise, and the calamitous events which afflict them, come directly from Almighty God, to encourage or to warn, to try or to correct, to chastize or to bless.

Individuals are not always punished in the present life, because a future state of retribution is reserved for us; but nations, since they have no existence beyond time, seem to be peculiarly liable to temporal rewards and chastisements, and can only be warned and corrected by temporal afflictions. The occasion of this day's solemnity leads us to think of our own beloved fatherland. Do we believe that England stands foremost among the nations, because her commercial resources are inexhaustible, her agriculture unprecedented, her institutions the best which the world ever saw? because her navy is a power such as no other empire ever possessed? because her armies are covered with untarnished laurels, and