

in that Providence which watches over our actions—which makes sin frequently feel its misery in the present life, and bestows on righteousness the most precious rewards.

As king Hezekiah was distinguished for his piety and confidence in God, so was he remarkable for his love to his people. His government was truly paternal. Even in his plans of reformation, he proceeded with the greatest gentleness and condescension. "My sons;" said this good king to the Priests and Levites, "be not now negligent, for the Lord hath chosen you to stand before him to serve him, and that you should minister unto him and burn incense."—"And when the altars of idolatry were destroyed, and the true worship again set up, the king spake comfortably to all the Levites that taught the good knowledge of the Lord."

To complete the good example which this amiable monarch set his people, he became a pattern of active industry, by cultivating that art upon which the prosperity of individuals as well as kingdoms chiefly depends. He attended to agriculture in all its branches, and was not only remarkable for his flocks and herds, but for the produce of the ground.

The consequences of this general reformation soon became visible, not only in the deliverance of Judah from all her enemies, but in the great prosperity of the people. Nor were they insensible of the blessings which they enjoyed, and which, next to God, they owed to the wisdom and goodness of their king. They returned his paternal love with affectionate obedience, and manifested their gratitude by bringing him presents, so that Hezekiah was magnified in the sight of all nations. And when he was gathered to his fathers, he was followed to the tomb by his grateful and weeping subjects, who bestowed upon his remains equal honors with those that had been conferred upon David, the most glorious of their kings.

It is, I trust, with kindred feelings that you are now assembled to commemorate the death of our venerable Sovereign, who hath resigned his soul into the hands of God who gave it, after a long and arduous reign. His eventful life and character present a striking resemblance to those of Hezekiah. His piety was rewarded by similar deliverances. His kindness to his people by the strongest loyalty and affection, and his example of integrity, regularity, and firmness produced among them corresponding fruits.