

But let us turn from the prison to the less distressing scene, the closing one of this dismal tragedy:—See this excellent Prince mount the scaffold with firm step, and that dignified composure, which he derived from his innocence and Christian virtues.—See him refused the privilege, which we grant to the worst malefactors, to speak a few words to the people in defence of his character; for his life he had no hopes (indeed, I suppose at that time no desire) to save.—See him hurried rudely to the block:—And the fatal stroke at last put an end to his cruel sufferings; whilst thousands of *Fiends* shouted for joy, and pressed to dip their pikes and daggers in his blood!—*Shall I not visit for these things? saith the Lord: And shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this.*

Alas! his vengeance is already sufficiently upon them. Their land is full of distraction and civil bloodshed. Their armies are discomfited and beaten back: The hosts of enemies whom they have provoked are advancing upon them from all sides: The elements combine to destroy their fleets: And dreadful famine seems ready to devour them. Yet *the people turneth not unto him that smiteth: Neither will they seek the Lord of Hosts. They have made their faces harder than a rock, they have refused to return.*

Every new defeat they are told of, the populace cry louder for the blood of their harmless fellow-citizens. And in the midst of all this their Convention sit hearing speeches to disprove the being of God! Nay a very small number, who did not well endure such impiety, were publicly hooted out of their presence, with bursts of laughter and unspeakable contempt!!

What sufferings still await them for this dreadful impenitence, it is not for us to determine. God grant they may be as light as the nature of their case will admit. Our part is (which was the third and last thing I proposed) to consider what effect these things ought to have on our own conduct and opinions.

We read in the history of our blessed Lord, that some persons told him of the Galileans whose blood Pilate mingled with their sacrifices; and *Jesus answering, said unto them, suppose ye that these Galileans were sinners above all the Galileans, because they suffered these things? I tell you nay: but except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.*

In this answer our duty, on the present occasion, is clearly enough laid down. When an individual or nation has fallen  
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