

offers protection. It is at such seasons that their usual pleasures appear trifling or disagreeable ; the recreations so commonly practised by the world, appear loathsome and unworthy the attention of rational Beings. To lift up our souls to God, is an employment, which at all times, administers the greatest consolation ; but it has that effect in a peculiar manner in times of public calamity, and is highly becoming, after deliverance from such terrible visitations. When we enter the house of God to pour out our souls before him, in an affectionate address, the recollection of our dependence and our transgressions, combined with our entire confidence in his mercies, elevate our hearts in the sacred service we are performing ; our sorrow is by degrees transformed into confidence ; the fervour of sincere devotion presents God to our minds, clothed in mercy, and inspiring us with the liveliest interest in heavenly things. We feel that we shall "*trust in the Lord for ever ; for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength. To him it belongeth to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captive, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound.*"

It is only a firm belief in the goodness of God, that he is ever ready to extend his mercy to the repentant sinner ;
that