

III. I come now, in the last place, to make some practical reflections and observations on this subject.

I. It appears then that the first and greatest duty of man is what he owes to his Maker. To fear God, and obey him, is the truest wisdom. The benefits of serving our Creator faithfully, extend to every state and condition; in which we are, or can be placed; they extend to every period of our existence. The happiness of individuals here, the welfare of society, and our salvation through eternity, are all suspended on the attention we pay to his service.

THIS shews how careful we should be to discharge our duty to God, with punctual and scrupulous exactness. Nothing should ever be permitted to interfere with that duty. To neglect it, or prefer any other before it, would be inconsistent with the nature of things; with the relation in which we stand to the Almighty, and with the obligations we are under. It would therefore be irrational and unwise, as well as impious.

AND this holds equally true, whether we consider ourselves separately, as individuals; or collectively, as united in society. Religion is the surest, firmest support of society and government. Without it, they cannot exist. There never was a sounder maxim of policy than that of Solomon—"That righteousness exalteth a nation; but sin is a reproach to any people.*" The regular, devout and conscientious practice of religion engages the Almighty's protection, and draws down his blessing upon a people; whilst it disposes individuals to reverence legal authority, as the ordinance of God; to pay respect and obedience to the laws; to love and promote peace and order, and to discharge every other

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