

sent crisis most unseasonable. But infinite wisdom determined otherwise, and fixed upon the present season, as the fittest, and the best. And though we may not be able to discern the reasons of the divine conduct, we cannot but believe that they are perfectly satisfactory, and the result of the most comprehensive views, and the most benevolent designs. This awful stroke might be intended to baffle human wisdom, and to humble human pride. The hopes of mankind were too highly elevated, and too much confidence was placed in human sagacity and power. Nothing was thought too great, or too good, to expect from those counsels, which were "as if a man inquired at the oracle of God," and from that eloquence, which bore down all opposition. But the Almighty frowns,—and all these towering expectations vanish at once; and the vanity of human confidence is written in the dust of him upon whom that confidence was placed. Thus we are taught the affecting and important lesson, "*what shadows we are, and what shadows we pursue.*"