

judgment, such as the Ninevites, were unquestionably threatened with. Still, that God can, that God will, and that God does punish the wicked, whether that character apply to a nation or to an individual, is established by many express declarations in the inspired volume. Under the present dispensation, God, as the supreme Governor of the Universe, ordinarily makes use of natural or human means to

"Work his Sovereign will ;"

the effects of which may be attributed to what are usually termed *second causes*. But that these, in the hand of God, are as efficient to subserve his purpose, although to us, indeed, not so striking and awful, the history of the world affords undeniable proofs.

Notwithstanding then, God may not interpose in a miraculous manner to punish the wickedness of mankind,—albeit, we hear not the expressly appointed divine herald going through our land proclaiming, "Yet forty days," and "Your habitations shall be made desolate ;" still, when we see secondary causes assuming, by the permission of providence, the alarming appearance of a divine visitation,—when we see strange, frightful, and, hitherto, almost unknown diseases

———"Waiting round,
To hurry mortals home ;"

when, in short, to use the language of the Prophet Isaiah,—when "the judgments of the Lord are perceived in the earth, it is the duty of the inhabitants thereof to learn righteousness."

We observed that between the situation of the Ninevites and our own, there is some affinity: the Ninevites were exposed to impending danger, and so, we conceive, are we ; and beyond this it is not our intention, nor indeed is it necessary, to press the resemblance.

Most of you, my brethren, have doubtless been informed, through the medium of the public prints, of the frightful ravages which that dreadful disease the *Cholera*, has made on the Continent of Europe, and now, more recently, is making, though under more mitigating circumstances, in our parent Country, the island of Great Britain. To lay before you any thing like a full and correct statement of its alarming progress and malignity, would not comport with the compass of a single discourse, nor indeed, with the present occasion. It may suffice to say that, up to the last foreign dates, it has been gradually extending itself ; and so great has been its mortality that, upon an average, considerably more than one-third of the number of persons attacked by it, have fallen victims to the disease. Whether the disorder be contagious or no, is a