

repentance before their death, experience, as individuals, the just vengeance of the Almighty upon their souls for ever.

Against this view of the divine providence, it may be objected, that the most wicked nations are often the most powerful, and appear the most prosperous and happy. Such an impression arises from a superficial view of the state of such nations. They, indeed, are powerful, and make a splendid and dazzling appearance. But the appearance is delusive. Search for happiness in such a kingdom or empire, and you search in vain. It is surely a stranger to the palace of the monarch, and to the field of battle. Among the people it is not to be found. They groan under the iron hand of a merciless despot. Freedom, peace and safety have fled from their borders. Every thing valuable in human society is sacrificed upon the bloody altar of lawless ambition. The treasures of the nation are exhausted, its families are distressed and torn to pieces, its sons are dragged from their homes, and chained to the car of the tyrant, to spread misery, blood and ruin wherever his power can reach. Besides, a nation of this character is permitted to reach a proud eminence in power and splendor, that it may experience a more tremendous downfall. Prosperity in wickedness is a sure indication that God has forsaken a people, and that they are filling up the measure of their iniquities, and ripening for destruction. When their measure is full, God has the instruments of his justice prepared to execute his threatenings upon them. Before the arrival of this dreadful hour, they must repent and reform, or fall into inevitable perdition.