

WE should in this, as in all cases of difficulty and danger, apply to the great Ruler of the Universe, and Arbiter of nations. We should turn to him with unfeigned repentance and amendment; earnestly beseeching him that he would pardon, protect and spare us; not dealing with us according to our iniquities; but according to the riches of his mercy in JESUS CHRIST, who died for us, and redeemed us, whilst we were yet dead in trespasses and sins.\* It is thus that we may expect his blessing; and a renewal of those mercies and deliverances that he hath so often granted to our Church and Nation. From the aspiring, ambitious power of France, infligated by religious bigotry, he hath frequently delivered them :

knowledge in sound philosophy) that the overbearing power of Popery, which had so long enslaved the Christian world, must be broken by the prevalence of Infidelity for some time, before that glorious state of the Gospel which we are taught to expect, when righteousness and truth shall overspread the earth, and "the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdoms of the Lord and his Christ," can arrive. See WHISTON'S *Essay on the Revelations*, p. 321. 2d Edit. 1744.

Time only in its silent lapse can fully unfold the divine prophecies; and whenever we attempt to explain or apply them, it should be done with the utmost reverence and caution. It would really seem as if the affairs of Europe, under the guidance of a steady Providence, were going on gradually to some such great event as is mentioned above. It is devoutly to be wished that not only the Church of Rome, but all the other Churches in Christendom, may finally profit by the horrid scenes now exhibited by the enemies of Christianity. Were the atheistic system of France to prevail, there can be little doubt that the *Age of Martyrs* would be renewed. Great numbers of the French Clergy have already been massacred. Some thousands of them have fled from the assassin's poniard, and taken sanctuary in England, and other parts of the British dominions, where they are hospitably received and supported. It appears that their adherence to Christianity, is the principal cause of this persecution, and not their Loyalty only; and that no Heathen persecution of Christians, in the ancient Church, was more cruel or unrelenting. The effects attending so long a continuance of this impious system, are deplorable, and much to be lamented. Yet one benefit arises from it—the character and designs of those atheistic levellers, with the pernicious tendency of their principles, which otherwise might be problematic with us, are now fully developed and ascertained to the conviction of all mankind.

† Ephes. ii. 1.