

sin and vice debase a
their personal influence,
heaven.

himself, and requires holi-

thus requires in them,
himself, he will natural-
will share his blessings

must lead him to detest
check its progress, and

governor of the universe
more inconsistent with
God, who is placed at
righteous governor of
ys to violate his laws,
s kingdom, without

our duty and happi-
d the breach of that
duty

duty with misery and punishment—they ever go hand in hand
together. This wise constitution which always has, and always
will be observed, clearly manifests his regard for the happiness
of mankind—his approbation of virtue, and detestation of sin.

This rule holds equally true of nations, collective bodies of
men; and individuals, of which nations are composed. The
only difference between them lies in this—that national virtue
must meet its reward, and national transgressions their punish-
ment, in this world: Whereas, the rewards and punishments of
individuals are principally referred to a future retribution.

In this life indeed, the child of God, is frequently the child
of sorrow. Virtue often lies weeping in the dust: Vice as often
exults and triumphs—it feels not the rod of the Almighty. †
Yet however true this may be of individuals, the case is far other-
wise with nations. It is here only that they can be judged as
such; and the reason is evident—all those societies, in which
men are here combined, will be totally dissolved at the day of
Judgment. Nations will not then be judged as nations; but in-
dividuals must answer for their particular conduct: And THEN
C 2 the.

† Job XXI. 9.