

difference in many respects, yet it will perhaps be scarcely possible to find any other nation between whose situation and that of the Jews there are more points of resemblance than in that of the United States. To trace that resemblance, by taking a review of the history of these States, and comparing it with that of the Jews, would lead to discussions foreign to my present purpose. But altho' there should, in many respects, be a dissimilarity in our situation, there is still a resemblance, not only between them and us, but between them and all other nations, in this leading feature of their respective situations, i. e. That every nation is under the watchful care of providence, and will, in their national capacity, be rewarded or punished according to their conduct, in proportion to the advantages for religious and moral improvement which they enjoy. In that remarkable passage of holy writ which we have, JER. 18, vii—x, there is no restriction to the Jews or to any particular nation. It is, *At what instant I shall speak concerning a nation or concerning a kingdom, (i. e. concerning any nation or any kingdom) to pluck up, to pull down, and to destroy it. If that nation, against whom I have pronounced, turn from their evil, I will repent of the evil that I thought to do unto them. And at what instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to build and to plant it; if it do evil in my sight, that it obey not my voice, then I will repent of the good that I said I would benefit them.* Agreeable to this declaration has been the usual conduct of providence in every age. Nations have been raised up from time to time, and fostered with the most indulgent care of heaven. They have been afterwards severely corrected for their sins, and had their names finally blotted out from among the nations of the earth. Man is to be viewed in a two-fold capacity. First as an individual placed in this world in a state of trial, as a candidate for an immortality of either happiness or misery—and 2dly. as a constituent member of civil society, or as belonging to a particular kingdom, nation or body politic. As it respects man as an individual, his situation is undoubtedly in the first point of view the most important. Our time in this world is but short, and all are rapidly hastening to an untried state of existence, where we must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, to give an account of the deeds done in the body. So