

of what small estimation wealth is held in his sight, since he frequently permits the worthless to share it among them.

You see God's own children persecuted and oppressed even for their goodness : you see them leaving houses and lands, their friends and their country for the sake of doing their duty and keeping a good conscience : Shall we say that heaven is unjust, because these men suffer ? No ; God wisely permits these things to happen, as a good Governor permits what he is far from encouraging or approving. Infinite wisdom however bringeth good out of evil : For by sufferings, their virtues are increased, their graces brightened, and their imperfections cleared away, as gold is refined and purified from its dross by passing through the furnace.

In every community, a subordination of rank is necessary and unavoidable ; and in all times and places, there must be a mixture of rich and poor. This subordination, this mixture conduces very much to the order, happiness and improvement