

when we are settled down in peaceful and tranquil life, may it not be hoped, that we may be led to serious reflection, to a solemn consideration of the judgments and the mercies of the Lord, to attend to that religion, which is the firmest security of peace, which brings us peace with God, and is the chief good, the best hope, and the strongest bond of man and of human society?

Looking abroad to other nations, we behold, what wonders are wrought in the earth. The nations, which were lately and long engaged in the most terrible wars, are now enjoying an universal repose; and their Chiefs are assembled in a grand Congress, to effect a general pacification. Seldom or never, I believe, has such a scene been exhibited on the face of the earth. Rarely has there been so great a change so suddenly produced. The conqueror is fallen, and the world is at rest. The Providence of the Lord is "made manifest" in these mighty operations. What a happy and glorious change is wrought in the condition of so many nations, of so many millions of people. Glorious I deem it, "not to destroy men's lives, but to save them;" not to render them wretched, but to render them happy. If they are not all completely happy, yet they are happy comparatively with their former condition. The nations were repeatedly torn up from their foundations, and dashed together, and broken to pieces, in tremendous conflicts. We should account it a most happy and glorious change in the policy of the world, if the nations could be settled and preserved in peace, and justice, and friendly relations: And to observe justice on all sides would infallibly preserve the peace of all. We had hoped, that this most wise and happy policy would be the study and the consequence of the present assembly of Sovereigns and their ministers; that their long experience of the miseries of war and the crimes of ambition would persuade them to study to preserve the peace for a long time; to infix principles of justice in their own minds; to establish the nations with equity and with generosity; and, if