

were also good. The morals of a people must be good when vice is obliged at least, to conceal itself ; when it is not countenanced nor attempted to be justified.

When we think of the manners of ancient times when vices, not even to be named amongst us were openly and publicly committed even by their greatest and their supposed wisest men ; what great reason have we to be thankful ; that we have been preserved from such foul contagion.

But the good morals of a people are shewn in the way in which men act when placed in the most trying circumstances. When an ancient Roman found himself placed in disagreeable circumstances, he thought he performed a noble exploit by putting himself to death : and this cowardly action was gravely spoken of as a heroic deed, as something great and praise worthy. So do not those act who have learned, what is taught them in the Christian religion. It is true that in the madness of passion, many instances there are of this crime amongst the people of which we have been speaking, but still it has not been commonly considered as any proof either of wisdom, or of real courage.

To see the manner in which the courage of the nation to which we belong has been displayed, I shall not desire you to turn your attention to those fields where hosts encounter hosts ; and where the soldier calmly