

fluence on individuals : In like manner, sin and vice debase a people, and make them miserable, by their personal influence, and by drawing down the displeasure of heaven.

The Almighty is infinitely holy in himself, and requires holiness in his intelligent creatures. What he thus requires in them, and brings them to have a resemblance to himself, he will naturally approve ; and whatever he approves, will share his blessings and his smiles.

On the other hand, his innate purity must lead him to detest sin, to look upon it with abhorrence, to check its progress, and inflict punishment on the guilty.

In doing this, his character, as moral governor of the universe is deeply concerned. For what could be more inconsistent with the character of an infinitely just and holy God, who is placed at the head of the intellectual system, the righteous governor of intelligent beings, than to suffer those beings to violate his laws, dishonour his government, and destroy his kingdom, without punishing the offenders ?

The Almighty has inseparably connected our duty and happiness together : He hath also invariably joined the breach of that
duty