

Take a survey of the morals of the people through the Union, and see what unnumbered crimes present themselves to view. How do intemperance, profanity, lying and slander abound! What extravagance and luxury, what criminal diversions and pleasures, prevail in some of our opulent towns! And what ignorance and carelessness in respect to the doctrines and duties of religion every where abound! Deism and infidelity have made inroads upon us, and many adore the glimmering light of reason, and despise the Sun of Righteousness. These are marks of a degenerate people. How far are people from being humbled under the frowns of Heaven! Multitudes not only neglect the duties of christianity, but wholly overlook a superintending Providence; and even the Senate of the United States lately spent the whole of the christian sabbath in transacting public business. Wickedness prevails in all quarters; and it is the duty of every good citizen, especially of all who are set for the defence of the country, to bear their testimony against it. These crimes have provoked Heaven, and distress and darkness have come upon our land. Our commerce, one great source of our wealth, is cut off, and we are threatened with more serious disasters.

The Lord of Hosts is the supreme governor of the world; to him belong all the kingdoms of men. It is his prerogative to deal with nations, to bless or punish them in this life as he may determine. He has appointed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness, when every individual will receive according to the deeds done in the body. But as nations will not subsist in a civil capacity in another world, they can be punished only in this life. In the present state, there are many relations between the different members of society. They receive many mercies in common with one another, and there are many sins, which prevail through the community, which are properly national sins. And when a people have cast off the fear of God, and corrupted them-