

virtue than vice, more justice than injustice in the world ; that so far is Providence from countenancing vice, that it commonly makes it the instrument of its own punishment ; and is continually producing happiness, and not misery, stability and not decay.—Satisfied that all things work together for good to them that love God ; christians expect not to behold a complete display of his moral government in the present life, much less do they flatter themselves with the hope, that they shall escape tasting of those miseries which are inseparable from mortality. They feel that he intends the welfare of all his creatures ; delights in their felicity ; and is incessantly promoting it in all possible methods—what then shall make them afraid.

When the text says that *all things work together for good*, it implies that the calamities, as well as the felicities of life, contribute to the general advantage ; and experience proves, that so far are afflictions from being real evils, that they seem necessary in this stage of our being, to the very existence of moral good. It is to misfortune, that the best men owe their noblest qualifications and most eminent virtues. From the history of nations we find, that the most terrible revolutions, like storms and tempests, have produced the most beneficial effects. From such convulsions we have commonly to date the commencement of all great advances in knowledge and civilization. And may we not indulge the pleasing hope, that the wars and revolutions which have agitated the world for so many years though
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