

termination of that captivité had been miraculously foretold, and the restoration of the Jews to their native country and ancient temple. But, notwithstanding this, the mode of language is by no means unapplicable even to present times. For nature itself is not without her prophecies ; which may to us in some measure supply the place of those, that were used to be delivered by the inspired seers of old. And it is undoubtedly one part of the divine intention, in the favorable events of providence towards a people, not merely to put them in possession of some present emolument, not merely to excite some transient emotions of joy, but to inspire them with hope, as to their future prosperity and encreasing grandeur. And, if there be any such natural prognostications now subsisting in our own favor, concerning which we might almost venture to affirm, that nothing but our own iniquities can defeat them ; may we not then, humbly, as we most surely ought, but yet with some considerable degree of animating propriety say ; “ The Lord will
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