

and its very nationality perishing—but let any man take his Bible in his hand and read the history of God's judgments in times gone by, and compare them with the history of this nation, and the problem is easily solved. Spain has long been pre-eminent in crime, and, therefore, the cup of her national sin has become more rapidly filled than that of some other kingdoms, but the hand of God lies heavy on that nation, just because she has long been sunk in the deepest vice.

The conclusion of the whole, therefore, is—that when God sends famine, and pestilence, and plague, and war internal, and war external, upon the nations of our earth, these calamities under which a nation groans are provoked by the nation's sins. Christ is Governor among the nations; and when his authority is disowned, his laws disobeyed, his religion despised, his name profaned, his Sabbath violated by national law and national practice—assuredly, as the King of nations, he will assert his authority, and visit with his judgments the people, the countries, and the kingdoms by whom he is publicly insulted, and his supremacy publicly disavowed.

In drawing these remarks to a conclusion, we would call special attention to the following facts:—

1. That no affliction, whether personal, social, or national, is either accidental or arbitrary. Every affliction and every bereavement which has of late been sent among the families of this congregation, and of this city, were the result of design; and not only so, but they were needed. God has had some wise purpose to serve by laying his hand so severely on this city. There is some great end in view;—what it is, God knoweth; but there is some great end in view in multiplying the widows and orphans of Hamilton. It may be to tax the generosity of our citizens; it may be to try the faith of the afflicted; it may be to arouse to activity and call into operation the latent spirit of public benevolence; it may be to prove, by the subsequent dealings of the Almighty, that he can be a Father to the fatherless and a husband to the widow; or it may be to allay the pride and the vain-glory which the rapid growth of a young city sometimes begets;—there is a species of civic pride which often grows in a young community, especially among those who have watched with interest every storm that has been laid, and have seen