

the spirit and life, are conjoined by a chain as inflexible as the chain that links causes and consequences in the material world. The condition in which the United States stand at this moment (on the very brink of a crisis more terrible than the recent civil war), is there before the nation in a parable of fire on the heights of Brooklyn; and the sight is impressing on thoughtful men the conviction that nothing can save the Republic from anarchy and chaos, but a return to the Puritanism, (the opposite pole of the Parisian theatre on which the theatres of the States are modelled,) which laid the foundation of the United States, in these two maxims: the negative and the positive of the same thought, "He that liveth in pleasure is dead while he liveth;" but, "the chief end of man is to glorify God and to enjoy him for ever."

"It pleases God," as Thomas Adams writes in 1623, the same day on which happened a terrible public calamity in London, "to make fearful comments on His own texts. The argument which is audible (in Scripture) in the morning becomes before night visible (in providence). His holy pen has long since written with ink; now His hand of justice expounds it in characters of blood. There was only a conditional menace, 'so shall it be;' here a terrible remonstrance, 'so it is.' Sure he did not mean it for a nine days' wonder. Their sudden departure out of the world must not so suddenly depart from the memory of the world. Woe to that soul that shall take so slight a notice of so extraordinary a judgment. We do not say, they perished: charity forbid it. *We pass no sentence on them, but let us take warning by them.* The remarkableness should not be neglected; for the time, the place, the number, the manner. Yet still we conclude not this was for the transgression of the dead; but this we are sure of, it is meant for the admonition of the living. Now the holy fear of God keep us in the ways of faith and obedience, that the preparation of death may never prevent our preparation to die. And yet, still, after our best endeavour 'from sudden death, good Lord deliver us all.'" Amen.