

I. To shew that righteousness, i. e. piety and virtue advance the prosperity of a nation, and the happiness of individuals; but that sin and vice will necessarily bring on the misery and ruin of both.

II. To point out the Methods by which righteousness may be promoted, and thereby the welfare of a nation insured.

III. And lastly, to make such practical observations as naturally rise from the whole, and are applicable to our state and situation.

I. The truths contained in the first proposition, are so obvious in themselves, so consonant to reason and scripture, and so fully evinced by the dispensations of God, and the history of mankind, that any necessity of proving them seems to be precluded. And this would certainly be the case, did not mankind disregard, and by their conduct seemingly disbelieve, those truths. It is in this as in other similar cases, where acknowledged principles have partly lost their influence, reminding us of those principles may stimulate us to the discharge of the duties arising from them.

Piety and virtue advance the prosperity of a nation, by securing the favour and blessings of Almighty God, and by their in-