

*cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stall, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation.* Whether light shall arise out of darkness, or whether the dark clouds which now hang over us shall continue to thicken until they burst in some dreadful calamity upon our nation, the man of prayer is best prepared for either continued trials or deliverance. Let us pray for ourselves, pray for the church and nation, as for other mercies so for this especially, that we may be that happy people whose God is the Lord.

5thly. As there are important duties which we owe to God, so there are duties which we owe to our social connections, the faithful discharge of which may contribute to the regaining of our christian character as a nation. Of these the duties we owe to a rising generation ought not to be forgotten. Youth are the best hope of their parents, the church, and the nation. Their morals and principles are of the greatest importance to society. It has been a part of the plan of the infidel and the irreligious of every description, to spare no pains and use every art to corrupt them; the greater diligence should therefore be used to counteract the designs of the adversary. But I must pass this and observe that there are duties which we owe to civil society, with some brief remarks upon which I shall close. And as it is not my intention to enlarge, I shall barely notice this one, which is of great importance, and that is in our exercise of the right of suffrage, to fill important places of public trust, to pay particular attention to the religious and moral, as well as the political qualifications of candidates: i. e. that we endeavor to select not only men of wisdom and talents, but men of virtue and religion, at least men who are known to be believers in revelation, and friendly to gospel order and christian institutions, and men whose morals are not a public disgrace to the christian character.—The right of suffrage, to the extent in which it is enjoyed in this country, is a privilege with which no other nation is favored. The value of the privilege depends very much on the manner in which it is exercised. By a wise and conscientious exercise of this right, much might be done to ward off the ill effects of that irreligious feature in our national government, which has given rise to a considerable portion of