

ture, which may well cause every countenance to turn pale, and every heart to quake.

In view of this approaching judgment, what was Judah to do? Were they to resign themselves to the pleasure of their destroyers? or muster their forces, and rely for protection on an arm of flesh? Either of these measures alone would have evinced a degree of stupidity, and atheism, deserving severe chastisement. The Lord by his prophet called upon the whole nation to return to him by fasting, and weeping, and fervent supplication, as the only means of averting the judgments which were hanging over the country, or of being recovered from their fatal effects.

In this discourse, I shall mention some of the sins of this land, shew that turning to the Lord by repentance and prayer is the principal means of preventing, or removing national calamities, and point out the manner in which this duty is to be discharged.

Sin is the cause of all suffering. This sentiment no man will question; yet how few are restrained from iniquity by a consideration of the miseries they may bring upon their country! On our annual fast, my brethren, I set before you the sins of this nation, and exhorted you to return to God by repentance and prayer. I warned you that judgments were preparing for us, and that if we went on in our iniquities, God would visit us for these things, and smite his soul on such a nation as this. We are a people laden with iniquity. This land has been greatly prospered, and we have become opulent and powerful. Perhaps no nation was ever laid under higher obligations to God, than the people of these United States. But how ungrateful have we been! How many and how provoking are our sins! No part of our country is so moral, and attentive to christian institutions, as New-England. Yet what crying sins prevail among us! What abundant cause for fasting and prayer do we see among ourselves! And if this be the most moral part of the country, what shall we say of the rest!