

valuable cargo ; no hurricane has swept over country after country to desolate the earth ; no volcano has sent forth its fires to such an extent as to reduce the inhabitants of a continent to poverty ; no earthquake has swallowed a hundred trading cities with all their well stored repositories of food, clothing, and merchandize ; no general* conflagration has reduced to smoke and ashes the materials of commerce and the supply of human wants. We hear not any complaints of deficiency in the usual articles of consumption and merchandize. Commodities of every kind are every where to be found ; the only difficulty is to obtain and pay for them. Providence has been very bountiful to us ; but *in the midst of our sufficiency we are in straits*. How is this to be accounted for ? Evidently by a derangement of that artificial and delusive system which a morbid craving of accumulation, and a neglect of moral considerations, have introduced into the commercial world. Illustrations and proofs of this sentiment might be easily adduced, did the time and place permit.

In this point of our enquiry, then, it is of great importance to observe that the eternal Sovereign will not suffer his laws to be broken with impunity, whether they be the laws of our physical constitution—of our social intercourse—of our moral relations—or of his spiritual kingdom. If we thrust our hand into

* I do not overlook the great fire at New York last year. It destroyed much property, ruined many individuals, and put a transient stop in some quarters to the operations of trade ; but it does not invalidate the substantial truth of the statement, as it will not account for a thousandth part of the misery which the world has suffered, is suffering, and will suffer.