

vows, and all recollection of the goodness and condescension and mercy of their deliverer, slipt from their memory like the passing cloud which leaves no trace behind. Only *one*—a tenth of the whole was “found that returned to give glory to God.” Are you not ready to exclaim: what monstrous ingratitude? to give expression to the strongest feelings of indignation, amounting to abhorrence of those nine wretches who could so outrage the spontaneous feelings of the human heart, who could so debase human nature, who could be guilty of such a degradation of the dignity of man. These, or such as these, are, no doubt, the feelings excited in the minds of most persons who read the Evangelist’s account of this transaction. But let us hold up this mirror—and let each individual look into it, and see whether he does not therein discover his own likeness. To do this effectually, let us compare the situation of these lepers with our own situation—*our* mercies with *their* mercies, and *our* conduct with *their* conduct.

They were indeed afflicted with a loathsome disease, and of a character so infectious that they were not permitted to mingle with others; insomuch that when they applied for relief, they “stood afar off”—apart from the throng. Yet their condition was by no means hopeless; since their disease was of a nature which might, in the space of a very few days, have yielded to the application of ordinary remedies. For it appears that after seven days separation, lepers might be so far recovered as to be admitted to the society of their brethren. But, what was our situation, during the prevalence of that visitation for the removal of which we are this day assembled to offer up our thanksgivings to Almighty God? It was not the unusual prevalence of some disease whose nature was well known to the physician, or whose violence we might reasonably hope