

oppressed with burdens, taxes, exactions, and complicated distresses of the people, and of families. Their bread is snatched from the poor, and their living from those, who were in comfortable circumstances. Heavy imposts exhaust the resources of life. Multitudes are thrown out of business and subsistence. Almost every thing is arrested, but what contributes to supply and support the destroyer of men. Fathers, brothers, and children are torn from their families, with the probability, that they shall never see them again. The whole land and the people are oppressed, exhausted, wasted, and reduced to various wretchedness. The moral ruin of war is among its most deleterious, poisonous effects. The moral pestilence spreads through the camp, the court, the city, and the country. The great principles of religion, the laws of virtue, the sentiments and the institutions, which are most salutary to mankind, are violated, rejected and despised. Vice, iniquity and impiety abound.

The court, indeed, is already infected, and spreads the contagion through the country. These miseries generally proceed from one, or a few men, working upon the passions of mankind. Those, "who rule over men," whose office and duty it is, to watch and labor for their peace and happiness, these, possessing power, consider the people as made only for their service, made to be destroyed at their will, or for their pleasure. They regard the life of a man no more, than the life of a beast. No doubt there are exceptions. No doubt there have been rulers, who have studied and labored for the good of the people. But very commonly they have other designs, of their own will, or their own pleasure, or their own glory, or their cupidity, which they place in pursuits far distant from the people's happiness, often in those, which produce the people's misery and destruction. Yes, misery and destruction, and iniquity and wickedness are called honor, and glory, and prosperity; and the infatuated