

will certainly make us safe, prosperous, and happy.—  
Our great duty, as taught in the text, is to *inquire*  
concerning our sin and danger, to *return to GOD* and  
*come back to the obedience of his will.*

Can you want motives to compel you to this duty?  
Turn your eyes to *Europe*. Where are the republics,  
which once flourished, there, in freedom, virtue, and  
happiness? *Their pomp is brought down to the grave,*  
*and the noise of their viols. The worm is spread un-*  
*der them, and the worms cover them.* Where are her  
kingdoms; which once, like the cedars of *Lebanon,*  
*exalted themselves above all the trees of the field; and*  
*under their shadow dwelt great nations. Their boughs*  
*are blasted and withered. The strangers, the terrible*  
*of the nations, have cut them off; and the people of*  
*the earth are gone down from their shadow; and the*  
*earth has shaken at the sound of their fall. Upon*  
*their ruins the fowls of heaven remain; and the beasts*  
*of the field upon their branches.* Where are her  
cities? They have been searched with candles: their  
goods have become a booty, and their houses a desola-  
tion. Where are her princes and nobles? Behold,  
*the Lord of hosts hath taken away the mighty man,*  
*the man of war, the judge and the prophet, the pru-*  
*dent and the ancient, the captain of fifty and the ho-*  
*nourable man and the counsellor, and the cunning ar-*  
*tificer and the eloquent orator. Their kings have gone*  
*into captivity; their priests, and their princes together.*  
*They have called their nobles to the kingdom; but*  
*none were there; and their princes have become no-*  
*thing.* Look at her fields: they are whitened with hu-  
man bones, and drenched in human blood.

The day, in which our lot is fallen, is a *day of*  
*wrath; a day of trouble and distress; a day of*