

great sympathy among their neighbours, and when the war ended, the calamities which accompanied its progress were soon forgotten.

The intercourse between different nations has increased prodigiously within these forty years, and knowledge, both civil and religious, has been more widely diffused; hence in many points, nations advanced in improvement may be considered united, and what happens in one is immediately felt and known in all. Any great excitement that may be produced, is not therefore confined to one or two nations, which was the case some years ago, but circulates instantly through the civilized world. A wider field for improvement is consequently opened, and better prospects of success afforded, than when nations were ignorant of and strangers to one another. Accordingly we find, in the history of the last forty years, greater improvements in the arts of life, in the dissemination of the Christian Faith, and in breaking down the partitions which separated nations, than many previous centuries had accomplished.

These benefits have not been obtained without great sacrifices and the most dreadful convulsions, which clearly prove the truth of the Scripture, that the wrath of man shall praise the Lord, and that his judgments have been abroad in the earth. For ten years before the French revolution, the nations of Europe enjoyed profound tranquility, and having recovered in a great measure from the miseries of former wars, they were most actively employed in promoting civilization, ameliorating their different constitutions, softening the rigorous spirit of their laws, extending to all, the benefits of a full toleration, and paying more attention to the feelings and rights of their people than had ever been done before. But the wars produced by the French revolution were different from all others. The very foundations of Society were assaulted, existing Governments overthrown, the laws and policy of the conquered States disregarded, their independence swept away by annexing them to France, or making them tributary without regarding the feelings or wishes of the people. In this terrible contest, every thing dear to man was at stake, the whole of society was convulsed, and the meanest individual involved in calamity. It is not, therefore, to be wondered at though the most serious reflections on the nature and