

ple. Famine, pestilence, earthquakes and fires, may awaken and reclaim. But war invariably hardens and depraves. Religion flies before it. Desolation, misery, and every evil, follow in its train. The frogs of Egypt, and the destruction of all their first born, were light calamities compared with all the horrid consequences of a long and bloody war. May God, in mercy, avert this judgment. Surely it is a fore calamity, and what will be the issue of this conflict, who can divine? But what must be the infatuation of a people, that should reach out their hands and pull this vengeance down upon their own heads! that should unstop the vials of divine wrath, and draw out upon themselves their hottest plagues! But I forbear.

Have we not reason to fast and pray, and humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God? It is verily *a day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness.*

2.—If God deals with nations according to their conduct toward him, and repents of the evil he has threatened or begun to inflict, when they repent and turn from their evil, then we have great encouragement devoutly to wait upon the Lord in the duties of this day. He is a God who is rich in *mercy*. He delights not in the misery and destruction of sinful men, but that they turn and live. Repentance and reformation are our only hope. If our sins have brought this and all our calamities upon us, those sins must be lamented and forsaken, or judgment will increase. And how wonderful is the mercy of God in promising to receive, pardon and bless a returning people or individual, after all their rebellions against him! He will assuredly be