

more instances; He seems even in this of his national visitations to point out the connection which He intended should subsist between man and man.

For we can hardly deny, that our Creator might if He pleased, without any departure from the unalterable laws of his nature, punish or reward individuals, even in this life, in exact proportion to their conduct, whether public or private, without involving others in the consequences. But to shew us, in all ways, that we have an interest in each other; and to engage us, even on principles of selfishness, to promote among our neighbours a love for piety and virtue, He chooses to punish a general violation of these by general calamities.

And indeed we find all history bearing witness, that almost every nation has been prosperous while virtuous; and that after they had corrupted their ways they have decayed or totally perished. Not only the Jews were whilst they continued to be a people, and are still, in their dispersion, at the present day, a notorious evidence of this truth; but heathen nations, also, both were, and confessed themselves to be examples of the same: Nay the ruin and desolation of many amongst them would proclaim it, whether they confessed it or no. For where is now that mighty BABYLON? *She that hath been a golden cup in the Lord's hand, that made all the earth drunken?—Babylon is suddenly fallen and destroyed.—O thou that dwellest upon many waters thy end is come. And they shall not take of thee a stone for a corner, nor a stone for foundations, but thou shalt be desolate for ever.* And so literally was God's threatened judgment fulfilled, that travellers cannot now discover where that magnificent residence of Luxury and Vice hath stood.

TYRE, also, whose wealth and trade surpassed all that was elsewhere seen in the earth—*Whose merchants were PRINCES—when the multitude of her merchandize filled the midst of her with violence; and she sinned, was cast as profane out of the mountain of God.*

And ROME herself, whose dominion grew to a wonderful extent in the days of her simplicity and virtue; whom God used as the instrument of his vengeance on the rebellious Jews; When she gave herself up to pride and profligacy, was ruined by a train of circumstances as unexpected and unaccountable (unless we confess them the judgments of Heaven) as her rise and progress had been.

I would far exceed the limits I have designed for this whole discourse, were I to recite all the passages that are to be found