

per to remind you, that there is such a thing as *practical atheism*; when by our actions we deny, or disregard the authority of God, in whom we profess to believe. Even this will have very pernicious effects on society; and the effects will be more general and aggravated, as the religious principle is weak, and this practical atheism prevails. The imputation and guilt of being Christians without Christianity, should therefore be cautiously avoided. We should really fear God, so as not to offend him; and be mindful of him in every part of our conduct. We should consider ourselves as ever in his presence; and conscientiously endeavour to express the native purity of our holy faith in our daily conversation and actions.

2. I would in the next place observe, that there is a close connection between that duty which we owe to God, and the duty we owe to the King, and to others in authority under him. So intimate is this connection, that they can scarcely be separated. Whoever is sincerely religious towards God, from principle and conscience, will also, from principle and conscience, be loyal to his earthly Sovereign, obedient to the laws, and faithful to the government which God hath placed over him.

It is our peculiar felicity that love, gratitude and esteem unite with Religion in attaching us to the King; and that every consideration of our own welfare, and that of our brethren, serves to confirm our attachment to the excellent Civil Constitution under which we live.

We should deem it a singular mercy, that so amiable a Sovereign fills the throne in these turbulent times; when the bands of society are torn asunder in so many places, and the miseries of mankind are thereby multiplied: And that his counsels are directed by men eminent for wisdom,
uprightness,