

appears to have had
sequence of it, whilst
dictated by true wis-
dom followed by all who,
—their request and

goodness and mercy
And now, O Lord
instead of David,
now not how to go
the midst of thy
le, that cannot be
His request then
understanding heart
between good and

solomon had asked
thou hast asked
life; neither hast
life of thine ene-

“mies;

“mies; but hast asked for thyself understanding to discern judg-
“ment; Behold, I have done according to thy words: Lo, I
“have given thee a wife and an understanding heart; so that
“there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall
“any arise like unto thee.” †

From wisdom thus bestowed, and far surpassing what was ever
possessed by any other mortal, proceeded that book from which
my text is taken. It is a collection of Proverbs, or wise maxims,
adapted to all states, degrees and conditions of men.

My text is one of those maxims. Without searching then for
its meaning in a connection with what goes before, or what imme-
diately follows, I shall attend to the plain and obvious sense of
the words, as they lie before me; and conveying truths which
are very interesting to every member of society — that
“righteousness exalteth a nation; but sin is a reproach to any
“people.”

Righteousness is a word of extensive signification in the style
of scripture; comprehending the several duties we owe to God
and man. It implies that cheerful and uniform obedience to the

laws

† 1 Kings III. 7—12.