

nature and importance, and our own deep interest in them? Shou'd our lives be without reproach; are there not many heart evils which need reformation? Let it be kept in mind that I am now addressing those who are christians by profession. Is there nothing in our conversation, nothing in our families which needs reformation? Are there not many prayerless families in particular which need reformation? Are we or are we not criminally negligent in the great duty of bringing up our families in the nurture and admonition of the Lord; of instilling into their minds the principles and of exciting to the practice of true religion, both by precept and example? Should a real reformation take place among the professing people of God it might do much. Tho' it did not immediately change our national character into that of a religious or christian nation, yet God has frequently blessed whole nations for his churches sake. No doubt there are many of God's people in our land. Should these universally separate from the camp of the ungodly, and arise and trim their lamps, it might be the means of not only of calling down present blessings, and prolonging our tranquillity, but of commencing such a general reformation as might in due time become national, so that we might in the issue become that happy people whose God is the Lord.

4thly. Another duty of great importance at all times, but in a special manner in the present crisis, is prayer. Do we wish for either spiritual or temporal blessings, let us pray for them. Even where the people of God have an absolute promise of good things in store, they are directed to pray for them. *Thus saith the Lord God, I will yet for this be enquired of by the house of Israel to do it for them.* The prophet Daniel was a man greatly beloved of God, and also mighty in prayer. It was immediately after one of the most spiritual and heavenly prayers recorded in scripture, in which he particularly confesses his own sins and the sins of his people; at the same time acknowledging the justice of God in all the evils which had come upon them for their sins; that the Angel Gabriel was sent unto him to communicate the most important of all his prophetic revelations: i. e. that which related to the time of the Messiah's coming. The prayer is recorded at large in the 9th chapter; the conclusion of it ver. 18, 19, is remarkable. *O my God,*

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