

But the new aspect under which we appear this morning, is one of the remote effects produced by the unusual occurrence, the remembrance of which, we are convened to perpetuate; but the novelty it exhibits is not half so attractive, as the moral that it conveys is picturesque and impressive. The astronomers of the East suspended their profound calculations to adore Him "*which alone spreadeth out the heavens*" and "*that maketh the seven stars and Orion*"—The shepherds quitted their flocks to offer praises unto him, who in the plenitude of time, proved himself to be "*The good shepherd,*" by laying down his life for the sheep; and on this occasion, the farmers have relinquished their rural employments to wait upon that God, who "*waterest the ridges*" of the earth and "*settlest the furrows thereof.*" The soldiers have repaired from the parade ground to acknowledge the goodness of him who teacheth "*their hands to war and their fingers to fight!*"—the duties of the camp are exchanged for the exercises of the temple; the preparation for the Sabbath is turned into a festival; and still, these are but the outward and visible forms, through which we bless the name of the Lord for having delivered us from the hands of our enemies.

The very existence of such a profession as that of arms, is an abundant proof that society is in an irregular and convulsed state. Crafty and designing men are manufacturing plans of mischief in their secret places; demagogues and political mountebanks are always declaiming against imaginary evils; and as hidden rocks and fierce winds will disturb the course of a beautiful river, so these intriguing and turbulent