
UNION FAVORABLE TO IMPROVEMENT.

ISAIAH II. 13.—The envy also of Ephraim shall depart, and the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off; Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not vex Ephraim.

IN these words the inspired Prophet points out those causes which had proved so pernicious to the internal prosperity of the Israelites, and which had so often rendered them an easy prey to their ruthless and ambitious neighbours. By listening to the suggestions of envy, by taking a pleasure in vexing each other, they became divided, and consequently weak, and by this means were often reduced to a state of bondage under a foreign yoke. Instead of keeping in view that they were brethren sprung from a common source; and that however much they might differ in matters of small importance, still that they were equally interested in maintaining that constitution, by which alone their strength as a nation could be preserved; they gave way to those passions and to those feelings, which