

grandeur and declension of nations, and the rise and ruin of states. He sees what judgment the Almighty forms both of Princes and Empires, and, consequently, what idea he himself ought to entertain of them. The mighty empires both of Nineveh and Babyion furnish a thousand proofs of this truth. Their most powerful Monarchs were so many instruments in the hands of God to punish the transgressions of his people.

*“He lifted up an ensign to the nations from far, and hissed unto them from the end of the earth, to come and receive his orders.”* He himself put the sword into their hands, he regulated their marches, he breathed courage and ardour into their soldiers, made them indefatigable in labour, invincible in battle; and caused terror and consternation to go constantly before them. The Christian walking in the meridian light of the Gospel, perceives the hand of God conducting these conquerors through fields of blood and carnage. Puffed up with the rapidity of their conquests, instead of ascribing them to the true cause, instead of receiving a single glimpse of the invisible hand that conducted them, they exclaim; *“By the strength of my hand I have done it, and by my wisdom: for I am prudent, and I have removed the bounds of the people, and have robbed their treasures,*