

that are very numerous, and whose fate is recorded in the prophecies of the Old Testament, I shall only mention the four great Monarchies of Babylon, Persia, Greece and Rome. It is an undoubted fact, that these were the subjects of prophecy; and that they were also objects of retributive justice equally with the Jews. To the overruling hand of providence, according to their moral state, their progress and declension are ascribed. Judgments are denounced against their vices; those judgments were inflicted; and under them, when the measure of their iniquity was full, they expired. So that the prophecies, in this view, may be considered as a history of providence—of its dispensations to mankind—dispensations which are suited to their moral conduct. *

We may then lay it down as an invariable rule, that the Almighty in vindication of his own attributes, and in support of his Government, always hath, and always will, sooner or later, distinguish national virtue by his blessings; and manifest his displeasure against national crimes. Or to use the language of my

Text

* The reader who desires further information on this subject, may consult Sir ISAAC NEWTON's *Observations on the prophecies of Daniel*; PRIDEAUX's *Connexion*; but chiefly Bishop NEWTON's excellent *Dissertations on the Prophecies*.