

band of thieves, or maniacs, when they happen to be so numerous, as to overpower the force that is opposed to them. But while, by these means, they are enabled to carry their nefarious plans into execution, and appear to rise superior to the rules of justice and order, they, at the same time, render themselves detestable in the eyes of all good men; call down upon themselves the just vengeance of Heaven; and run head long to their own destruction. How long, in any nation, at one time, such a scene of disorder may be permitted to last, it doth not belong to us to judge. But that it cannot be permanent, nor of long duration, we may confidently believe. There are natural and necessary causes, which, by a silent and gradual operation, must infallibly work its cure, and restore the exercise of injured faith and honour. If ever it be possible for a people, rising into power by unrighteousness, violence, and oppression, to give any degree of stability to a power so acquired, we may venture to affirm that it can only be, by a total change of character.

2. From the nature of the connexion, which, as we have seen, subsists between the civil and religious state of society, we may perceive, that a regard to religion, and a proper attention to its public institutions, are indispensibly requisite for the maintaining of social order, and to promote
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