

soon after he had attained that exalted station which the true friends of the country had long wished for in vain, and of his advancement to which, they began almost to despair. He was removed at a very critical season ; in the midst of a very difficult and important negotiation, when all the hopes of his country were centred in him, and when the whole nation looked up to his wise and vigorous councils, for a successful war, or, for a safe and honourable peace. But in the midst of his vast projects for the prosperity of his country, and for the good of mankind—behold ! he is summoned away by a warrant from irresistible authority, and all his short-lived dignities, his benevolent purposes, and the nation's hopes, are laid prostrate in the dust.

Such was the pleasure of Him who has an unquestionable right to dispose of his creatures as he pleases ; and who orders all things wisely and well. Our limited understandings are ready to apprehend that this mournful event, at any time highly distressing, was in the pre-