

tuated in their elections by prejudice and passion? I only ask, and leave it with conscience to make the application and give the answer.

In regard to upholding rulers in the abuse of their power, can we stand in the presence of God, and plead not guilty? Have not our state and federal governments, in this way, refused to obey the voice of the Lord? Have not unjust and oppressive laws been enacted, and sometimes executed in a cruel and arbitrary manner? Have not the public treasures been squandered on objects that are useless, or worse than useless, to the community? Have none of our chiefs in power been patrons of evil doers, and persecutors of them who do well? Does it uniformly appear, that what was in their gift has been conferred to promote the public good, rather than to establish the interest of a party? Can it be shown, that the disastrous war into which we are plunged is absolutely necessary? Is it a war of simple self defence? Has every other reasonable measure been tried in vain, for the preservation of liberty and peace? In relation to the two great belligerent powers of Europe, has our Executive pursued a course of strict neutrality? I only ask, and leave the questions to be resolved by facts. I have always discarded the idea of making the pulpit a place for mere political discussion.

In regard to the corruption of principles and manners prevailing among the people, the prospect before us is truly alarming. The flood of licentiousness, which has deluged Europe, and brought down the judgments of Heaven upon those wicked nations, has spread into our land, and makes a threatening progress. Impiety and crime of every