



A

THANKSGIVING SERMON.



MY BRETHREN,



IN an occasion, and under circumstances like the present, a preacher of moderate invention can find no want of subjects, in the use of which he may advantageously guide the devotional contemplations of this day. They present themselves from such innumerable sources, that the principal difficulty lies in selecting. Public and fervent gratitude to the Supreme Governour of the world; is the appointed, the special, and the indispensable duty before us. The whole immensity of the Divine goodness, in its wide extent, and in the endless channels through which it flows, is the proper basis of this gratitude. What kindness God has shewn to you, or to me, to your friends, or to my friends, is by no means the exclusive reason why we should unite in rendering to him our warmest acknowledgments. All the riches of his unlimited

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ed benevolence, diffused through all parts of the universe, and sliding down through the lapse of ages, to whomsoever, and under whatever circumstances dispensed, constitute the reason of, and present an infinitely persuasive motive to this great duty. But who, if he had a thousand tongues to speak with, and a thousand ages to speak in, could distinctly describe all that is displayed of benignity, in the works, in the providence, and in the everlasting plan of God? It is, in truth, beyond all finite comprehension; and, therefore, beyond all finite utterance. For myself, whether my attention be turned to the inexhaustible treasures of knowledge, of support, and of happiness, existing in what God has formed; or to the momentary aids, protections, and comforts, dispensed in his providence to unnumbered millions of beings; to the favor exercised towards holy, and the long suffering exercised towards unholy creatures; whether I contemplate the fiat, by which this fair system sprang into birth; the cross, by which a guilty world is redeemed;* or the conflagration, by which a still more glorious system is to rise out of the ashes of this; whether I look backward, or forward, through time, or into eternity, in other countries, or my own; or think of the present, and especially of the future triumphs of the Church of Christ, I am overwhelmed with the vastness of the ideas, which crowd upon my mind, and feel ashamed of the coldness, with which my slender gratitude moves, and the poverty of language, in which it is expressed.

From

* Provisionally with respect to all; and effectually, in all cases, in which rejection prevents not its salutary influence.

From the sublimity of this great whole, I am compelled, my brethren, to come down. From this ever-blooming garden of divine benignity, extended over the whole bosom of nature, and far more copiously enriched than the primeval paradise of our first parents, I can only pluck and shew you two or three flowers ; whose texture, and beauty, however, you cannot observe unmoved.

As the gratitude, to which we are invited this day, by our Chief Magistrate, has a more immediate respect to those public circumstances in our country, both municipal, and national, which peculiarly demand it ; to this part of the scene let us for a moment attend. And here, with great propriety, might your attention be turned to the almost unparalleled national prosperity,* with which Providence distinguishes us ; our hitherto fortunate exemption from war, especially that singularly bloody one, which now exhausts the nations of Europe ; the increasing, and pleasing retirement of all sanguinary struggles, from between us and the tribes which inhabit on our frontiers ; the abundance

* Scarce any circumstance has induced the preacher to question his capacity of judging, with tolerable exactness, on any subject of this nature, more, than the grave manner in which several respectable members of Congress have hesitated to admit that the United States are in a condition of national prosperity. But it is possible that he may be right, and they wrong. Surely, if a rapid increase of population, with the competent means of a comfortable subsistence, which, if I do not misremember, Mr. Paley makes the prime object of government ; if individual growing opulence ; if a prodigiously extensive and lucrative commerce ; if the government of law, not of force ; if an increase of almost every valuable commodity, which renders it nearly impossible that the industrious should want ; if the evident growth of knowledge, with a great multiplication of the means of preserving and diffusing it ; if public peace, and domestic repose, are marks of national prosperity, our condition must be singularly prosperous. Whether it be owing to this cause, or the other, is another question. The great First Cause, to all but Atheists, is *Divine*.

dance which flows in our cup ; the rapid progress of commerce, arts, and learning, of population, and agricultural improvements, by which our Atlantic settlements vie with the crowded cities of Europe, and inhospitable forests are converted into fruitful fields ; the continuance and accumulated strength of our National Government, the excellency of which experience, the best instructor, has clearly evinced ; and the entire preservation of our public liberties, civil and religious. In the view of these things, your gratitude might be forcibly urged : For they are distinguished mercies, which come down from the open hand of everlasting kindness. But, as the time confines us to narrower limits, I shall take leave, with respect to public mercy, to concentrate your attention to a single object, a single character. Your admiration, and, it is to be hoped, your warmest gratitude, ever accompanying your Maker's goodness, anticipates what I am going to say. *The Man, the rich gift of a merciful God to the Republic of North America, it is to be presumed, is in your view. The amiable, the respectable, the never to be forgotten WASHINGTON, who took us by the hand, when in the cradle of our political existence, who has been so long at the head of our victorious armies, and of our Federal Councils, who has suffered so much in our behalf, and, under God, wrought such salvations in our favour, is, to our world, but especially to our country, one of the most conspicuous memorials of the Divine mercy.*

In what is about to be said, mistake me not. Think not, that I design to be guilty of adulation

tion towards the MAN, in prejudice of the gratitude which is due to the munificent Being, whose agency is the invisible source of all good, and whose sovereignty setteth up one, and putteth down another.* It is in aid to your gratitude, that the character is introduced. And it is introduced now, because no period can present the obligation with more weight than the present. The circumstance of the President's retiring, at this time, voluntarily and irrecoverably, from all public functions, strongly points out this as a peculiarly fit occasion, to recognize and adore the signal goodness of God, in what *he* has been made the eminent instrument of procuring. Be it also remembered, that, though gratitude be primarily due to God, as the great first cause and munificent fountain of all good ; yet it is, on principles of indisputable equity, due secondarily, and in an inferior sense, to the creature, who has done us essential service. If, therefore, while we suggest some of the reasons for gratitude, which appear in the individual, in this great human character, a decent tribute of respect should be paid to the character itself, it is presumed that no friend to God, and the public happiness, will be displeased.

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* As the author is solicitous to escape the censure, of hanging too fondly about the creature, in his way to the Creator ; and would by no means offend the pious mind, in its habitual wish, to see the hand of God, as nearly as possible, in all the good that takes place ; he requests leave, in a note, to present this example of it, in alliance with such passages of scripture as these : Psalm lxxxvii. 7. " All my springs are in thee." Psalm cxxvii. 1. " Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it." John iii. 27. " A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven." Acts xvii, 26. " In him we live and move and have our being." Romans xi. 36. " For of him, and to him, and through him, are all things ; to whom be glory forever. Amen."

Had I not have gotten too far, in this part of the discourse, to make use of a text, it would naturally enough be found in the following words :

J U D G E S iii. 9, 10, 11.

And when the children of Israel cried unto the Lord, the Lord raised up a deliverer to the children of Israel, who delivered them, even Othniel, the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother. And the spirit of the Lord came upon him, and he judged Israel, and went out to war ; and the Lord delivered Cushan-rishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand : And his hand prevailed against Cushan-rishathaim. And the land had rest forty years.

AS this passage may, at least, add some weight and authority to our remarks as we go along, it may not be improper to observe, that the posterity of Abraham, in the line of Isaac and Jacob, were a people, whom God vouchsafed to take into a peculiarly near relation to himself, and to call his people. He spread over them the wing of his almighty protection. Though in anger he occasionally withdrew it, and chastened them for their apostasies, he forgot not, that they were the progeny of Abraham his friend, and a people whom he had redeemed from the house of bondage. In every manner did he consult their benefit. He was *Jehovah* their strength. He put their enemies to flight before their invincible hosts, settled them in secure possession of the good land of promise, and caused it to pour from its bosom ample harvests, to enrich their habitations. But in scarce
any

any thing was his paternal care more tenderly extended over them, than in interposing, when they were broken by the iron rod of oppression, and, in audience of their cries, extricating them out of the hands of their cruel oppressors, through the instrumentality of some eminent character, who was raised up for that particular purpose. Of this we have several distinct examples recorded in the book of Judges.

As the defeats, captivities, and afflictions, to which this people were occasionally abandoned, were the just punishment of their disobedience ; so all the divine interpositions in their behalf, to rescue them from their sufferings, were in sovereign and distinguishing mercy, for which all possible gratitude was due. And it is evidently in honor to the divine mercy, that these events are recorded. But it is important to remark, that the individual characters, who were introduced on the theatre of public action, and made the illustrious instruments of these deliverances, are named with particular respect, as examples, in which the mercy of God shone most conspicuously upon his people.

The interposition of God, in behalf of his American Israel, has been as signal, and ought to be as devoutly honored. And the circumstances in both cases are so similar, that the correspondent duty must strike our minds with peculiar force. After our ancestors had been led out of their house of bondage, over an Ocean, as difficult of passage as the Red Sea, the wilderness, and Jordan ; and had been made so far successful in driving the idolatrous savages before them, as to obtain a comfortable settlement in this

then inhospitable, but now pleasant land ; it pleased God, perhaps for the wrongs which were done to his goodness, to give them, and especially their posterity, up, to the gradual encroachments of arbitrary power, until we were completely loaded with the oppressive shackles of a foreign and cruel government. How calamitous was our lot, under the hand of the principal agents of this government ! They used us as slaves ; stripped us of our property ; maltreated and slew many of our countrymen ; skirted our borders with fleets and armies ; instigated the savages to desolate our frontiers ; and presented us with no alternative, but unconditional submission, or entire excision. In connection with personal exertions, we had recourse, in this dilemma, by the most solemn appeals and prostrations, to the God of our fathers. He heard our prayer, in heaven his holy dwelling place, and *raised up a deliverer, to us, the children of his American Israel, even GEORGE WASHINGTON. And the spirit of the Lord came upon him, and, placing himself at the head of our armies, he went out to war ; and the Lord delivered the armies of the king of Great Britain into his hand, and his hand prevailed against the king of Great Britain ; and the land has had rest thirteen years.*

This deliverance was incalculably great. And such it must appear to be, to every considerate mind, which is able to comprehend, with any tolerable justice, the contrast which there is, between our present situation, and what we must suppose it would have been, had the designs of our oppressors succeeded.*

And

* Colonization, according to the system of European politics, proceeds on scarce a better principle, than the management of the overgrown planter, who sends

And as our obligations of gratitude to God are vast, in proportion to the greatness of the deliverance ; so they rise high in regard to the deliverer ; whether we consider the astonishing qualifications, with which he was furnished ; the long, and hazardous struggles he has been made willing to sustain ; the consistent, respectable, and generous part he has been influenced to act ; the wisdom, with which his plans have been concerted ; the calm and patient fortitude, with which he has borne opposition ; or the general success, which has crowned his exertions, during the long time he has moved at the head of our military and civil departments. There are several circumstances, in relation to this distinguished character, which, as they display the divine mercy to us, and call for our gratitude to him, are perhaps without a parallel. I need not inform you, that the elevated station he was called to fill, while at the head of our armies, was extremely arduous ; and attended with, what would have been, to any other man, and to him, without a peculiar blessing, insurmountable difficulties. A people spread abroad over an extensive territory,

his least valued slaves abroad to level distant forests, and reduce, to a productive culture, a new territory. Profit is the object. To secure this, government must be efficient. And that it be efficient, it must be decisive, with a tone, stern, and awful, in proportion as distance from the throne renders its administration more difficult. Every privilege, and every patriotic effort, approximates, in the opinion of government, towards independence. And they, as all history testifies, who are so unfortunate as to go into an open rupture for that independence, without success, are bound down inevitably with tighter chains. In this, ancient and modern politics perfectly harmonize. The most distant provinces of the Roman Empire wore a far heavier yoke than the municipal towns of Italy : And it is well known, that the waves which roll in the vast waters, between the two Islands of Britain and Sumatra, lash the shores of Indostan often with the havoc of a second deluge.

ritory, unskilled in arms, swayèd by strong local prejudices, wholly unaccustomed to the patient perseverance of a doubtful contention in war, were to be harmonized in their feelings, and led, with unremitting zeal, to concentrate their efforts to the one great object, the defence of all. Had a man of feeble conceptions, of unpopular talents, of a captious temper, of aspiring designs, and whose conduct upon the whole would have been calculated to detach, rather than to conciliate, been at the head of our affairs ; especially in the first stages of the controversy, when we most needed a point of union, what an immense, probably irreparable, injury it would have been to our cause !

Besides, resources were to be drawn from quarters, whence it was next to impossible that they should be derived. An undisciplined multitude, under the name of an army, ever changing its subjects, and quitting one want, but to embrace another, was to be kept together ; made to meet with firmness the veterans of an old country ; or to sustain with patience the long and tedious marches, the decampments, the retreats, the sicknesses, and the poverty of a protracted war. An arduous business most certainly. Every thing pertaining to reputation, property, and life, was, with these prospects in view, to be virtually devoted. And nothing short of the most inflexible fortitude, under circumstances inexpressibly trying, superior to the influence of craft, of bribery, and terror, would have lasted a day. And from whom could all this be expected ? Was this assemblage of rare talents found in the man we love ? Yes : Our amiable Washington was eminently fitted by Providence, in all these respects,

spects, to act the part of our deliverer. He virtually made all these sacrifices. He encountered all these difficulties. He exercised all this patience. By his conciliatory conduct, he concentrated all minds. By the consistency and dignity, which he displayed on all occasions, he intimidated our enemies, baffled their designs, won the public confidence, and held in advantageous poize the public counsels, and the public operations. He subdued prejudices, wrought wonders almost without any means, and led an unformed army to regularity and conquest. His integrity rose superior to the most potent temptations, which an opulent government could proffer.

And here, my fellow citizens, let me ask you to look back and consider, what would have become of our little, shattered, desponding army, on several occasions, had it not been for the tie, which the astonishing influence of his character formed ! How certainly would our enemies have swallowed them up, had he not dextrously concealed their weakness, which was sometimes extreme ! How soon dissipated would have been our scanty fortunes, had not his own vigilant economy embraced every thing ! And how irretrievably low would our affairs have sunk, had he been capable of the mercenary conduct of an Arnold ! How certain would have been our destruction, had he abandoned his post, when the deficiencies of the country, and the pressure of circumstances, most strongly provoked him to it !

It is, moreover, to be observed, that almost all other great characters, who have figured in government, or in arms, have had ample pecuniary rewards in view,
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and frequently have accumulated immense fortunes ; an object to which their efforts were supremely directed.* But our illustrious Washington, with a disinterestedness almost singular, has sustained all this long and arduous struggle, wholly unrewarded,† save by the approbation of his own mind, and the testimony, which is borne in all grateful hearts, that he has not ceased to deserve well of his country. Instead of drawing property from the vitals of his country, which it certainly was in his power to do, he has made a great and a cheerful sacrifice.

Again, most other men who have had capital influence in revolutions, or led powerful armies to victory, have been stimulated by the basest ambition. Having completed the destruction of the public enemy, they have appropriated dominion to themselves, become tyrants over the country they professed to defend, and perhaps transmitted the people to their descendants as indefeasible property. How many examples of this nature does history furnish ? But our deliverer, the great Washington, though, to say the least, conjecture was flattering, as he had an incensed army nearly devoted to his will, ever paid a most scrupulous respect to the existing civil government, in all its branches.

* The celebrated achievements of the famous Frederic the III^d, when narrowly examined, appear to have been accomplished in a paltry struggle for property, to which his claim was extremely questionable. And the great Duke of Marlborough was accused of avariciously amassing great riches, in the wars of the Low Countries. See Life of Frederic the III^d, and Millot's Elements of the History of England.

† It is true, the President receives an annual salary of twenty five thousand dollars. But this, if I am not misinformed, is scarcely adequate to the defraying of his inevitable official expenses. But if it were properly of the nature of a reward, what would it be ? It is not equal to the income of even the Prince of Wales, for a fortnight.

branches. And, when he had returned the sword of war into its sheath, he generously stepped down from the exalted height, to which success had raised him, assuaged the tumults of a dissolving army, by lenients wholly patriotic, divested himself of the robe of power, became a mere citizen, and retired to the unambitious calm of rural, and domestic life.

But his character, as our deliverer, was not finished, when he came to the end of the toils of war. Summoned by the call of his country, he again renounced the tranquil comforts of his home and his farm, and launched on the perilous ocean of his political career. Now the patriotic and the prudent, pleased to see the vessel, in which so much had been embarked, safely moored in the desired harbor, trembled, lest, in a new, untried, and distant voyage, some disastrous storm should dash hard upon her, and spoil her comeliness.

But the winds and storms have beat in vain. Solicitude is turned into the greeting of increased joy. The great and good man assisted, you know, in forming our excellent federal constitution. To the Head of the Executive Department, the First Chair of Government, he was conducted, by the unanimous suffrages of the people. There he has executed his high, and important trust, through eight long years of dreadful uncertainty and hazard, exposed to intrigues abroad, and the attacks of faction at home; held firm the reins of constitutional government, repelled the attacks of our insidious adversaries, kept off the scourge of war, maintained the public confidence, and guarded the public liberties with an equal hand. Having
completed

completed this great work, he is now voluntarily retiring from his official relation to us, with the same generosity and dignity, which he has ever displayed ; is taking a final and solemn farewell of his country, with respect to any public connection with it ; and is again devoting himself to the tranquillity of old age, and domestic life.

Here pause again, and maturely consider, the inestimable mercy, the peculiar care of a gracious God, in this case, extended to our country. And, while you take leave of this first political character in our country, and perhaps in our world, who has been as a Father with you, through so long and so arduous a struggle, let tears of gratitude to God, run down your cheeks ; and join, on the elevated key of public praise, the acclamations of this day, that he hath graciously vouchsafed to distinguish, and enrich you so highly, in this his servant. And that you may feel the obligation the more, consider for a moment, here, the vast importance, in times so perilous, when old systems of government were dissolving, and new ones were to be formed ; when the bonds by which we were holden together were extremely feeble ; when the jealousy of party was in danger of sapping the foundation of our political existence ; when we were exposed to intrigue and faction ; when it was with the utmost difficulty that the ship of state could be steered so as to strike neither Scylla nor Charybdis ; of our having such a man at the helm, in whom the confidence of all could be freely placed ; who might be a bond of union to all ; who could extend his views abroad with such extensive discernment, and keep his
course

course so steadily. The mercy is very great. Calumny, in this case, is the basest ingratitude. It has the ghastly form of a hissing hydra.* But this fifty-headed monster has done its worst. And it has done nothing but add to the blackness of its own foul mouths. Our country is at peace, and, the tumbling of speculators apart, in great prosperity. And the good, and great man retires, loaded with the best honors which were ever borne; the admiration and blessing, of the best part of a free, and understanding people. May his last days be the peaceful sequel of an honorable, and useful life, and a preparation for the bliss of the righteous. May his last, and best advice be impressed on every heart; and his great political example be impressed on every eye; that all, as citizens of the most happy of all countries, may adopt the one, and imitate the other.

Lest, in admiration of the man, you criminally lose sight of that all perfect Being, who formed and endowed him, and to whom, therefore, gratitude is supremely due; I must again entreat you, to view all that is great, useful, or amiable in him, or in the part he has been enabled to act, as so many rich discoveries, of the overflowing benignity of the blessed God, towards us.

GIVE me leave now to ask your attention to quite another object, wholly dissimilar to this, yet such as ought to be particularly noticed, in the grateful acknowledgments of this day. It was observed, in the beginning of this discourse, that from among exhaust-

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* *Quinquaginta atris immanis hiatibus Hydra.*—VIRGIL.

less displays of divine goodness, calling for our gratitude, the time would allow me to select and dwell upon but two or three. Our duty, respecting the object I now have in my eye, will, perhaps, strike your minds advantageously, under a quotation from the Psalms, which, if you please, you may consider as a new text, to a new subject.

P S A L M ciii. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.

Bless the Lord, O my soul ; and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits. Who forgiveth all thine iniquities : Who healeth all thy diseases : Who redeemeth thy life from destruction : Who crowneth thee with loving kindness, and tender mercies : Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things, so that thy youth is renewed like the eagles.

THE last verse of this passage presents to our minds a striking memento of the annual tide of divine mercy. Did we ever know, on the whole, a more productive season, than that which is past ? Has it not covered our tables, filled our markets, and diffused plenty through our whole territory ? No particular judgment has fallen on any part of the husbandman's toil. Or, at least, none which has been generally felt. The cries of the great multitude of the poor in distant countries,* are scarce at all heard in our streets. The paths of that ample and munificent Providence, which presides over the seasons, drop marrow and fatness to us. " He crowneth the year
with

* Arising, however, not from the narrowness of providential supplies, but from the inequalities produced, by feudal systems, and oppressive measures.

with his goodness. He sendeth springs into the valleys, which run among the hills. He watereth the hills from his chambers ; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of thy works. He causeth the grais to grow for the cattle, and herb for the service of man ; that he may bring forth food out of the earth : And wine that maketh glad the heart of man, and oil to make his face to shine, and bread which strengtheneth man's heart. O Lord, how manifold are thy works ! in wisdom hast thou made them all : The earth is full of thy riches. O that men would praise the Lord for his goodneis, and for his wonderful works unto the children of men !”

But another branch of the passage is, “ Who healeth all thy diseases : Who redeemeth thy life from destruction.” Here the tear of painful remembrance may possibly start from some of your eyes. Some parts of our common country have been visited with noxious and fatal diseases. We ourselves have felt, with more severity than we ever felt before, the hand of the justly indignant Lord of heaven and earth. With the flowing tide of his unnumbered bounties, he has righteously intermixed the sad ingredient of a wide-spreading death. You will remember how frequently we trod the dreary way to the grave, the house appointed for all living. Some of the dear objects of your affection, who participated in the comforts of your ample board on the last thanksgiving day, you have been obliged to deposit with the dead. And the heaving sigh of tender remembrance will, I doubt not, follow them to the place where they lie mouldering to dust. So uncertain are all our earth-

ly comforts. So fleeting is every human joy. So proper it is for us to rejoice, in present things, as though we rejoiced not ; and to remember, in our best temporal condition, in our highest worldly elevation, that man is altogether vanity. So proper it is, to be in the habitual reflection, that the fashion of this world, however enchanting, passeth away.

Yet, my friends, let not your remembrance of the afflictive scene, which has elapsed, be too poignant ; nor let it chill, at all, the fervor of our gratitude to him, who healeth all our diseases. Several of you were dangerously sick, with the epidemic disorder, to whom now the vigor of health is restored. The lives of those God has eminently redeemed from destruction. To such the debt of gratitude is peculiarly great. Consider, moreover, that we are punished far less than our iniquities deserve ; that, in the midst of judgment, God hath remembered mercy ; and that his kindness, even when in the depths of our distress, superabounded the strokes of his displeasure.

Let us mourn for our sins, which provoked him to chasten us with so much severity ; and mingle godly sorrow, with godly joy. He saw fit, in undeserved compassion, to command the plague to stay. He has, in the issue, compassed us about with songs of deliverance. Very justly might we all have been cut down : For we are, except wherein his grace restrains us, cumberers of his ground. To him solely it is to be ascribed, that so many of us are alive, and that extensive health, with its concomitant enjoyments, is again restored. We are the living. And why are we the
living,

living, but to praise God? "The living, the living, he shall praise thee."

It may be proper, on this occasion, to state to you the number of deaths, which took place in this town, and in this society, during the course of the sickness and mortality, which the foregoing observations respect. From the most accurate estimate I am able to make, and that it should be erroneous is hardly possible, the following appears to be a just statement.

From the 19th of July, the day on which young Mr. Carey died, to November 12th, when a child of Benjamin Heywood, Esq. deceased, the last which died of the dysentery, the number of deaths, through the town extensively, amounted to - - - 68

Of these there died, from the first parish, - 37

Of the dysentery, - - - - 34

Of other disorders, - - - - 3

From the second parish, - - - - 31

Of these, with the dysentery, - - 25

Of other disorders, - - - - 6

Total of those who died with the dysentery, - 59

Of which there were persons upwards }
of five years of age, } 15

Of children under five years, - - 44*

May

*As it may be a gratification to some of the inhabitants of this town, to form a comparative view, of the mortality of the past year; with the assistance of the Rev. Mr. Bancroft, an obituary for the six past years, farther back than which my connection with the town does not reach, is here added.

There died, in *Worcester*, in the year 1791, 22

1792, 26

1793, 23

1794, 18

1795, 33

1796, 80

Total, 202

May this heavy loss be more than counterbalanced, by the rich blessing of sanctifying, and everlasting grace. When we consider the prodigious waste of mankind, which is taking place in other parts of the world, and how far more fatally, beyond comparison, malignant disorders have raged during the past season, in some parts of the southern States, and especially in the West Indies, we cannot but admit, and therefore ought gratefully to feel, that upon the whole we have been mercifully spared. Let the affliction serve to effect its great end, our humiliation under the mighty hand of God. Let us be solicitous, that, "these light afflictions, which are but for a moment, work for us a far more exceeding, and eternal weight of glory." Let us be persuaded, by the most potent of all arguments, the goodness of God, to break off our sins by righteousness, and our iniquities by turning unto the Lord; welcome, with believing joy, the overture of salvation in the great Immanuel, who is the resurrection and the life, and, with scrupulous obedience, walk in all his commandments. Thus let us demonstrate the genuineness of our gratitude, by its legitimate fruits. It may be repeated again, that we are punished far less than our iniquities deserve. Let us be deeply sensible of it. And looking abroad upon the unnumbered mercies of the divine hand, of a public and private nature, observing the entire preservation extended to so many of our families, and the kindness reached out to all, let us join the symphony of this day, and ascribe blessing, and honour, and glory, unto him who redeemeth our lives from destruction, and crowneth us with loving kindness, and tender mercy.

“NATURE,

" NATURE, attend ! join every living soul,
 Beneath the spacious temple of the sky,
 In adoration join ; and, ardent, raise
 One general song ! To Him, ye vocal gales,
 Breathe soft, whose Spirit in your freshness breathes :
 O talk of Him in solitary glooms !
 Where, o'er the rock, the scarcely waving pine
 Fills the brown shade with a religious awe.
 And ye, whose bolder note is heard afar,
 Who shake th' astonish'd world, lift high to heaven
 Th' impetuous song, and say from whom you rage.
 His praise, ye brooks, attune, ye trembling rills ;
 And let me catch it as I muse along.
 Ye headlong torrents, rapid, and profound ;
 Ye softer floods, that lead the humid maze
 Along the vale ; and thou, majestic main,
 A secret world of wonders in thyself,
 Sound His stupendous praise ; whose greater voice
 Or bids you roar, or bids your roarings fall.
 Soft roll your incense, herbs, and fruits, and flowers,
 In mingled clouds to Him ; whose sun exalts,
 Whose breath perfumes you, and whose pencil paints.
 Ye forests bend, ye harvests wave, to Him ;
 Breathe your still song into the reaper's heart,
 As home he goes beneath the joyous moon.
 Ye who keep watch in heaven, as earth asleep
 Unconscious lies, effuse your mildest beams,
 Ye constellations, while your angels strike,
 Amid the spangled sky, the silver lyre.
 Great source of day ! best image here below
 Of thy Creator, ever pouring wide,
 From world to world, the vital ocean round,
 On Nature write with every beam His praise.
 Ye chief, for whom the whole creation smiles,
 At once the head, the heart, and tongue of all,
 Crown the great hymn ! In swarming cities vast,
 Assembled men, to the deep organ join
 The long resounding voice, oft breaking clear,
 At solemn pauses, through the swelling base ;

And,

And, as each mingling flame increases each,
 In one united ardor rise to heaven.
 Or if you rather choose the rural shade,
 And find a fane in every sacred grove ;
 There let the shepherd's flute, the virgin's lay,
 The prompting seraph, and the poet's lyre,
 Still sing the God of Seasons, as they roll.
 For me, when I forget the darling theme,
 Whether the blossom blows, the Summer ray
 Ruffles the plain, *inspiring* Autumn gleams ;
 Or Winter rises in the blackening east ;
 Be my tongue mute, may fancy paint no more,
 And, dead to joy, forget my heart to beat !

“ Should Fate command me to the farthest verge
 Of the green earth, to distant barbarous climes,
 Rivers unknown to song ; where first the sun
 Gilds *Indian* mountains, or his setting beam
 Flames on th' *Atlantic* isles ; 'tis nought to me ;
 Since God is ever present, ever felt,
 In the void waste as in the city full ;
 And where He vital breathes, there must be joy,
 When even at last the solemn hour shall come,
 And wing my mystic flight to future worlds,
 I cheerful will obey ; there, with new powers,
 Will rising wonders sing : I cannot go
 Where Universal Love not smiles around,
 Sustaining all yon orbs and all their sons ;
 From *seeming evil* still educating *good*,
 And *better* thence again, and *better* still,
 In infinite progression. But I lose
 Myself in Him, in Light ineffable !
 Come, then, expressive Silence, muse his praise.”

THOMSON.