

an act of Parliament was passed for that purpose. It is obvious that neither His late Majesty nor his ministers had, in these political arrangements, any intention to convey the Gospel to the nations of the South Sea Islands; but merely to provide a receptacle for the criminal population of Britain. Yet He, who governs the universe and has the hearts of Kings in his own hands, had that merciful object in view.

As a proof of the correctness of this remark it is a well known fact, that when the first Fleet was ready to sail with the convicts for New South Wales, in the year 1787, no Clergyman had been thought of. - A particular friend of mine, - a pious man of some influence, who was anxious for the spiritual welfare of the convicts, made a strong appeal to those in authority, to induce them to appoint a Clergyman to superintend the spiritual concerns of all, both free and bond, who embarked to form the intended establishment in New South Wales. - accordingly through the interest of the late

Dr. Parson, the Revd. Richard Johnston was appointed Chaplain. - The above single fact, therefore clearly shews that the whole was under the superintending providence of an all wise and merciful God. - Though He did not establish a Colony in New South Wales, for the advancement of his glory, and the salvation of the Heathen Nations, in their distant parts of the Globe, by selecting men of character and principle. - On the contrary, He took men from the dregs of Society the