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J U S T I C E .

The principles adopted in composing this allegory, vary not a little from those usually introduced in this character. It is common to represent JUSTICE as "holding aloft her scales," and waiting with her sword unsheathed, to employ her force in punishment: but punishment seems to be only one idea contained in the notion of JUSTICE; and it seems no less proper, that whoever has distinguished himself by his merit, should also be distinguished by JUSTICE, and rewarded, than that a villain should suffer vindictive retribution.

In order to combine these two ideas, we have given to this figure of JUSTICE, in one hand a palm branch, as expressing that dignified and honorable recompense bestowed on worthy and exemplary behaviour; the reward of meritorious actions and laudable principles! In the other hand, the flaming thunderbolt denounces vengeance against whatever is repugnant to virtue and propriety: and that neither reward nor punishment may exceed due proportion, the scales are introduced in order to mark the exactness of this character: which yet is more ready to reward, than inclined to punish; as appears from her offering the palm, and holding back the thunder.