

phet, " and with vinegar they drenched me in my thirst."

Yes, my Brethren, when the rays of a burning sun had pressed his scars and penetrated to his bones ; when the blood no longer circulated through his mangled veins, and his tongue no longer could utter a sound ; when the soul was bursting from restraint, and the spark of life just extinguished—then a sponge was presented to allay his thirst, but filled with vinegar and gall. The scene is now closing, he dispenses pardon to the penitent thief, he commended his disciple to his mother, and his mother to his beloved disciple—he raises his voice once more to heaven and prays for his persecutors, saying : " Father forgive them for they know not what they do." Then inclining his head, he gives up the Ghost—He dies ! He expires !!

Until then all nature continued in suspense and trembled for its Creator, but could not interpose ; but now, as if fearing for its own existence, it revolts, and as far as the creation extended, mourned for its Lord. The sea moves in agitation, and the earth is convulsed to its centre—the sun withholds its light from the eyes of man, and will not be a witness to their crimes, a darkness overspreads the surface of the globe, and a Gentile exclaims : " the God of nature suffers, or the universal system is dissolved." The prisons of the dead are no longer closed, the bodies walk abroad—the Jews are rejected, their laws annulled, their temple is no longer consecrated, for its veil is rent asunder ; their ministry is cancelled, and their sacrifices are rejected—and all is finished.

Thus, my Brethren, the life of our Divine Redeemer ended. A life devoted to the redemption and reformation of mankind, who in return crucified the author of all good. Indeed when we reflect that during his mission, he was wholly occupied in instructing the ignorant, in relieving the distressed, in restoring