

is said to have offered up his eldest son, as a burnt-offering, when in danger from the superior prowess of the Edomites, *2 Kings*, 3, 27. Nor was the belief that the Gods were rendered propitious by this particular mode of sacrifice, confined to the nations which were more immediately contiguous to the territories of Israel. We learn from Homer, that a whole hecatomb of firstling lambs, was no uncommon offering among his countrymen, *Iliad* 4, v. 202. And the ancient Goths having "laid it down as a principle, that the effusion of the blood of animals appeased the anger of the Gods, and that their justice turned aside upon the victims, their strokes which were destined for men," soon proceeded to greater lengths and adopted the horrid practice of devoting human victims. In honor of the mystic number three, a number deemed particularly dear to heaven, every ninth month witnessed the groans and struggles of nine unfortunate victims. The fatal blow being struck, the lifeless bodies were consumed in the sacred fire, which was kept perpetually burning; while the blood, in singular conformity with the Levitical ordinance, was sprinkled partly upon the surrounding multitude, partly upon the trees of the hallowed grove, and partly upon the images of their idols. Even the remote inhabitants of America have retained similar customs, and for similar reasons. It is somewhere observed by Acosta, that in cases of sickness, it is usual for a Peruvian to sacrifice his son to Verachoca, beseeching him to spare his life, and to be satisfied with the blood of his child.—*Faber's Hore Mosaicæ*.

THE FATE OF PERSECUTORS OF CHRISTIANITY.

THE Christians, being blessed with an Emperor of their own religion, were of opinion, that the Divine Providence had, in a signal manner, appeared, in raising up and protecting Constantine, and in destroying the enemies of the Church. There is usually much rashness and presumption in pronouncing that the calamities of sinners are particular judgments of God; yet, if from sacred and profane, from ancient and modern Historians, a collection were made of all the cruel persecuting tyrants, who delighted in tormenting their fellow-creatures, and who died