

by whom he was opposed, and whose wickedness he so nobly condemns. How often would the Apostles be called upon by their new friends, to relate his miraculous conception and birth, to repeat the history of his life, to speak of his last agonies, his death, his resurrection and ascension? It is not to be credited that these most important and interesting things were confined to set discourses, to public sermons before the whole Church. They were the subjects of anxious inquiry. And when that age passed away, when the disciples had extended the limits of Christ's kingdom, and had planted Churches far from Jerusalem, with what anxiety would these new converts inquire into the lives and labours of the Apostles and first Disciples! How frequently must Ignatius the cotemporary of the Apostles, Clemens the companion of St. Paul, have been asked about their conduct, that singleness of heart, that victory over the frailties of human nature, that humility and love for their Divine Master and anxiety to save the souls of men, which they uniformly exhibited? Could such inquiries fail, to animate these new converts to embody good resolutions, to inspire them with the most vehement desire to equal the glorious examples of righteousness and truth, which were thus brought vividly before them? Could they forbear, when they met together, of speaking of the mercy and goodness of God through Christ Jesus, in calling them to a state of salvation? Could they who had been lost in trespasses and sin, who had been given to all uncleanness, changing the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man, to birds and beasts and creeping things, who had lost all knowledge of God, and were given over to a reprobate mind to do these things which are not convenient, refrain from congratulating each other for their glorious deliverance, from rejoicing that they had beheld the promised helper and deliverer who was to redeem Israel and be the desire of nations, the Saviour of the world, proclaiming grace and pardon to sinful men, exterminating sin and misery, and conducting lost and wandering mortals to their benevolent Creator, depriving death of his dominion and reconciling earth to heaven? Could they refrain from speaking of that blessed King who is to reign forever and ever to subject all nations? The Son of the Father, the only begotten, through whom all the nations of the earth are blessed, the