

to argue with Christians." He began reading; first with secret reluctance; but the longer he continued reading, reluctance merged into a tormenting alarm and distress of mind.

The sermons of Jesus contained in the Gospels, appeared to him so full of wisdom; his actions so supernatural; his views so pure; his sentiments so noble and so holy, that he felt himself struck with reverence, and was convinced, that not one of all men that have lived here on earth, not even Moses or Abraham, was comparable to him. From his early infancy he had heard his parents and teachers represent Jesus of Nazareth, as proud and quarrelsome, and, to his own people, a hostile innovator, rautineer, and impostor. He now was amazed to see before his sight, on every page, the humblest and meekest of all the sons of Abraham, nay, of all the children of Adam. He could not be satiated by reading the sermon on the mount, and his last conversation with his disciples, overflowing with the most tender parting love. With silent tears in his eyes he read the history of the passion and death of Jesus; but at his last words upon the cross, especially at that prayer, "Father, forgive them," he burst into tears and wept bitterly. He could scarcely prevail upon himself to proceed; but his desire to know the conduct of the disciples after the death of their master, induced him to go on to the Acts of the Apostles also. The events of the day of Pentecost, and the effects of the sermon of that day, struck him with peculiar power; but the conversion of Saul made the deepest impression upon his soul. This marvellous event operated decisively. He exclaimed, "As truly as the God of Abraham lives in heaven, Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah, the Son of the living God!" In the same state of extacy he