

of the Missionary; though a variety of causes may have contributed to diminish the sensible effect of its influence. In every case, it does not appear, that the early disciples, while they justly ascribed their sufficiency to God, considered the Divine assistance as calculated to supersede, in the slightest degree, the necessity of their utmost exertions, or to lessen their dependance on the active co-operation, and continual prayers of their fellow Christians. This conviction on their part must impress on the minds of their successors the indispensable necessity of cultivating the graces, and seeking the aids, which, by those who enjoyed the visible protection and guidance of Heaven, were regarded as essential to success. The intellectual and moral qualifications of the Apostles for the execution of the great work to which they devoted their lives, will naturally excite a peculiar interest, as exhibiting a model of univailing perfection for the contemplation of succeeding ages. In the power of utterance, and the attainments of celestial wisdom, they were literally "thought of God;" their doctrine flowed in its original purity from

• Isaiah, liv. 13.