

shame, and is set down at the right hand of the Majesty on high. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest you be wearied and faint in your minds. Wherefore, lift up the hands that hang down and the feeble knees: and make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way." In allusion to that prodigious assembly, from all parts of the world, which convened at *Olympia* to be spectators of those celebrated games, the Apostle places the christian combatant in the midst of a most august and magnificent theatre, composed of all those great and illustrious characters, who in the preceding chapter he had enumerated, the fancied presence of whom should fire him with a virtuous ambition, and animate him with unconquered ardor to run the race that was set before him. "Wherefore, seeing we are compassed about with such a cloud of witnesses:" whose eyes are upon us, who expect every thing from the preparatory discipline we have received, and who long to applaud and congratulate us upon our victory—"let us lay aside every weight and the sin that doth so easily beset us:" let us throw off every impediment, as the competitors for the *Olympic crown* did, and that sin that would entangle and impede our steps, and prove the fatal cause of our losing the victory—"and let us run with patience the race set before us"—like those who ran in the Grecian stadium, let us, inflamed with the idea of glory, honor, and immortality, urge our course with unremitting ardor toward the destined happy goal for the prize of our high calling in God our Saviour—"looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith" as the candidates for the *Olympic honors*, during the arduous contention, had in view those illustrious and venerable personages from whose hands they were to receive the envied palm, and who were immediate witnesses of their respective conduct and merit; in imitation of them, let us christians keep our eyes steadfastly fixed upon JESUS the original introducer and perfecter of our religion, who, if we are victorious, will rejoice to adorn our temples with a crown of glory that will never fade. "Who, for the joy set before him, endured the cross, despising the shame, and is now set down at the right hand of God:" Jesus himself, to seize the glorious palm which his God and Father placed full in his view in order to inspire him with ardour and alacrity in the race he had set before him, cheerfully submitted to sorrow and sufferings, endured the cross, contemning the infamy of such a death, and, in consequence of perseverance and victory, is now exalted to the highest honors, and placed on the right hand of the Supreme Majesty. "For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest you be wearied and faint in your minds:" consider him who conflicted with such opposition of wicked men all confederated against him, and let reflections on his fortitude prevent your being languid and dispirited—"therefore lift up the hands which hang down and the feeble knees. And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way:" exert in the christian race those nerves that have been re-