

religion and signs or badges by which they distinguish themselves from all others. Of this holy life was a pattern; so were they to be guides to others in all holiness, meekness, love and godly conversation.

IN reading the history of the Christian Church, in its early stages, we are struck with astonishment at the rapid and extensive progress of the Gospel. It was opposed by idolatry, then universally prevalent; by deep rooted prejudices, and by the corruptions of human nature in their most aggravated state. The hand of Civil power was raised against it; and every engine of wit, genius, learning and human authority was employed to overthrow it. Yet notwithstanding, it rose superior to all opposition; and the triumphs of the Cross were diffused more widely than those of the Roman Eagle.

DOUBTLESS this was the Lord's doing; his hand was stretched out in conferring miraculous powers to support his infant Church against the combined efforts of darkness and of this earth. But besides those powers, Providence did then, as usual, carry on its designs by the use of means and secondary causes adapted to the purpose; and there was no secondary cause or means that contributed more to the success of the Gospel, than the holy and exemplary lives of its Ministers—of its Bishops, Priests and Deacons.

THE Christian Clergy then literally followed the example of Jesus Christ, and the precepts deliver-