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CHRONOLOGY.

*Thoughts on a few Events of the first five Centuries of the Christian Era.*

THE most hasty view of the historical notes of olden time, affords to the studious mind matter of deep and instructive interest. If History gives the form and pressure of departed days, if it is as the body itself embalmed with exquisite skill, and forming a study at once fit for the connoisseur, the moralist and the scholar; Chronology which gives dates and mere concatenation of facts, seems the valuable skeleton of the departed giant; if not so picturesque as the embalmed figure, it is less deceptive, and gives the mechanism, and the proportions of events with admirable and most satisfactory accuracy.

The years which in the present chapter lie before us, as recalled shadows in a magical glass, possess many incidents of peculiar concern to the Briton and the Christian.—In the free and rather fancy sketch which we here give—the stern spirit of the era, its politics and its wars, are not the first to catch the imagination;—we recollect that at its opening the Christian's Lord and Master became Emanuel; and at this commencement of the visible reign of the Spirit of Spirits among men, the comparatively sordid and paltry concerns of mere monarchs yield a moment's precedence. The Poet and the Christian will join us in treating the Roman's grasp at the sceptre of ocean, which was about this time made; and the ravages of that power over Europe, when the warriors of the "eternal city" erected fortress along the beautiful Rhine, and still unsated, directed their falchions against the painted savages of Britain, as secondary incidents—