

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES.

LEXINGTON, Ky. December 30, 1836.

The Church here continues to grow in strength ; but few of the weekly meetings pass, without an addition to the number of those, who worship in the ancient Apostolic mode. There is so much beauty and consistency in the Scriptures ; that, when properly understood, their divinity is admitted—all opposition is disarmed ; and sinners, repenting sinners, fly to Jesus as a sure refuge from the impending wrath, which is treasured up for the ungodly. Much good is to be hoped for, from the rising generation. The young mind, will receive truths much more readily than the old. Habituated, as the latter, generally are, to a particular train of thought, and disciplined in the scholastic theology of the times, and deeply imbued with prejudice, but little good can be expected from them. How much have the sects to answer for ! Their conceptions of Christianity tend to Deism. Until within a few years past I was a Deist : I speak it with shame. I could not believe that God, had adopted a plan of salvation, designed only, for a few of the human race ; and that although all men are free agents, and all, sinners, yet God, through special and particular visitations of the Holy Spirit, would select a few of these sinners, and leave the greatest number to perish. This doctrine exhibited God as a partial and unjust being. I observed schisms, contradictions, and divisions, a proud and aspiring Clergy—the natural fruit of these systems. There was confusion, disorder, derangement. I would naturally contrast it with the order, regularity, and harmony of the visible creation, and a confirmation of Deism would be the result. I lived thus, until I became acquainted with the Gospel as taught and proclaimed by the Reformers and Primitive Christians : its broad Philanthropy calling all to drink of the waters of life freely—prohibiting none, who believed upon the testimony of the Prophets and Apostles that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and would put themselves under his subjection. This is so plain, so consistent with our ideas of the impartiality and justness of a benevolent Creator, that a mind devoid of prejudice, whether it be sceptical or sectarian, must assent to its truth. JAMES M. SHAKLEFORD.

We are so accustomed to see sin within and without us, that we seldom deeply feel it ; or are so shocked at it, as we should be, were it less frequent. If an inhabitant of the Court, were to walk through some of the filthy streets and alleys of the Metropolis, how would he be disgusted and terrified ! while the poor wretches, who live in them, think nothing of the matter. Thus a clearer view of sin and of the holiness of God, made the Prophet cry out, *Woe is me ! for I am undone ; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips : for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of Hosts.*