

“ good ; that publisheth salvation ; that saith unto  
“ Zion, Thy God reigneth !”

The passage of scripture which has been read, presents to us a striking view of the general design, and excellent nature of the gospel of our Lord. It is presumed that such a subject will not be inappropriate to the present occasion : for in proportion that we appreciate the worth of the blessings we enjoy ourselves, we shall experience the satisfaction, and discern the necessity of becoming the instruments in conveying them to others. “ And, having made peace through  
“ the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things  
“ unto himself ; by him, I say, whether they be  
“ things in earth, or things in heaven.”

In this verse, the blessed Jesus is introduced by the Apostle as an agent in negotiating the great concerns of *earth* and *heaven* ; and his cross, though a stumbling block to the Jews, and foolishness to the Gentiles, as the powerful mean of advancing the highest interest of men and angels. For the information of the Colossians, to whom the Redeemer of mankind was, at this time, but little known, the text is preceded by the following sublime account of his personal qualifications and glory : “ For by him were all  
“ things created that are in heaven, and that are in  
“ earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones,  
“ or dominions, or principalities, or powers ; all things  
“ were created by him, and for him : And he is before  
“ all things, and by him all things consist : And  
“ he is the head of the body, the church ; who is the  
“ beginning, the first born from the dead, that in all  
“ things he might have the pre-eminence : For it  
“ pleased the Father, that in him should all fulness  
“ dwell.”