

officers, who had been commissioned to arrest him, returned without performing their bidding. "We are Moses' disciples," says the examiners of the man who had been born blind, "We know that God spake unto Moses : but we know not whence this man is."

To us, this appears obstinacy : but it must be remembered that the preaching of Christ went to do away with the Mosaic law ; the venerated, and justly venerated legacy of their forefathers : a law whose infringement had always brought severe punishment in its train : — could that man be sent by God, who sought to abrogate it? — Even a conscientious Jew might doubt, — and, like Nicodemus, would only suspend his judgment and wait for further information. "Doth our law judge any man before it hear him, and know what he doeth?" — was his quiet observation to his more violent colleagues. When therefore to the reasonable cause for doubt, was added the powerful motive of self-interest, we can hardly wonder that the young Carpenter was looked at with suspicion and alarm. The greater his popularity, the greater the danger. The Romans willingly caught at any pretext for incorporating fresh provinces into their empire, and an insurrection, such as this singularly gifted preacher might at any time give rise to, would afford one. "The Romans would come and take away their place and nation."

Let us place ourselves for a moment in the situation of the Jews : — let us imagine a preacher, a man from among the people, calling together numbers, and addressing them in the open air from any eminence he could find : condemning our rulers, as covetous, immoral hypocrites ; — pronouncing our constitution and laws to be obsolete, or