

glory, conscious that the eyes of all assembled Greece were now upon them, and that the envied palm, if they won it, would secure them the highest honors and immortalize their memory. It is natural to imagine with what rapidity they would urge their course, and emulous of glory, stretch every nerve to reach the goal. This is beautifully represented in a very elegant *epigram*, with the following *translation* of which the late ingenious Mr. West has favored us.

On ARIAS, of Tarsus, victor in the Stadium.

The speed of ARIAS, victor in the race,
 Brings to thy founder, TARSUS, no disgrace :
 For able in the course with him to vie,
 Like him, he seems on feather'd feet to fly.
 The barrier when he quits, the dazzled sight
 In vain essays to catch him in his flight,
 Lost is the RACER through the whole career,
 'Till victor at the goal he re-appear.

I need hardly remark that the combatants in all these athletic exercises contended *naked*. For though, *at first*, they wore a scarf round the waist, yet an unfortunate casualty once happening, when this disengaging itself, and entangled round the feet, threw the person down, and proved the unhappy occasion of his losing the victory ; it was after this accident adjudged to be laid aside.

Chaplets composed of the sprigs of a *wild olive*, and branches of *palm*, were publicly placed on a *tripod* in the middle of the *stadium*, full in the view of the competitors, to inflame them with the ardor of contention, and all the spirit of the most generous emulation. Near the goal was erected a tribunal, on which sat the *Presidents* of the *Games* called *Hellanodics*—personages venerable for their years and characters, who were the sovereign arbiters and judges of these arduous contentions, the impartial witnesses of the respective merit and pretensions of each combatant, and with the strictest justice conferred the crown.

It is pleasing and instructive to observe how the *several* particulars here specified concerning these celebrated solemnities, which were held in the highest renown and glory in the days of the Apostles, explain and illustrate various passages in their writings. I will now exhibit before the reader a particular detail of those distinguished passages, whose beauty, energy, and sublimity consist in the metaphorical allusions to these *games*, from the various *gymnastic* exercises of which their elegant and expressive imagery is borrowed. I shall annex such remarks as may contribute to elucidate the diction and phraseology employed by the *sacred* authors. Says the writer of the *epistle to the Hebrews*, an epistle which in point of composition may vie with the most pure and elaborate of the Greek classics : “ *Wherefore, seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us. Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him, endured the cross, despising the*