

can remain that they refer to his seeing the Just One on his way to Damascus. The opinion that he saw Jesus when in a trance in the temple, or when caught up into the third heavens, is untenable. "On neither of these occasions did Paul see Jesus with his bodily eyes; the impression at these times, having been made upon his mind by the power of Christ, and not by means of his external senses." *

The point is a material one. An Apostle was chosen to be a witness of the resurrection of Christ. That Paul, therefore, might be an Apostle, it was necessary that he should see Christ after his resurrection, that he might be qualified to testify that he had risen from the dead according to the Scriptures.

3. While Paul was in the house of Judas he seems to have been in a state of great distress of mind. This may be gathered from two circumstances recorded by Luke; "For three days he neither did eat nor drink," and,—“behold he prayeth.” During these three days he had much to think of; but all his thoughts would be absorbed in the consciousness of his enormous guilt in having persecuted Jesus and his friends. After having seen him in his glory, how deeply criminal would seem to him the part he had acted! He might call to mind the words of Job. (42 : 6.) “Mine eye hath seen thee, wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.” The blasphemous words he had spoken against Jesus would burn in his memory, when he thought of the grace and mercy that shone in the face of the Saviour, when he told him, that he had chosen him to be his messenger to bring the Gentiles to God that they might receive the forgiveness of sins.

He would now think of Stephen, and would comprehend the extacy of that holy man when, the heavens being opened, he saw that same Jesus standing on the right hand of God : and would think with deep shame, how he ran upon him, along with his party and while they stoned him till he died, he held their clothes.

The cruel treatment he had given to the Christians in Jerusalem—the parents torn from their children and the children from their parents—the gloom of their prisons—the mockery of their trials—their agonies as they were put to death, and their meekness and patience and animating hope would rush into his thoughts like torrents of fire : and ever and anon he would prostrate himself before God, confessing his guilt and crying for mercy—and then again adoring and admiring the grace and love of God that had saved him from the doom he merited. Who can describe the throes of such a mind as Paul's when torn with penitential feelings ; or the sublimity of his joy when awakened by the love of God to him a chief among sinners ?

It is singularly remarkable, that those great minds employed to act an important part in the church, whose zeal and piety were to give an

* McKnight's Life of the Apostle Paul.