

## EXTRACTS FROM "UNIVERSAL REDEMPTION,"

BY THE REV. RICHARD WATSON.

Of a divine election, a choosing and separating from others, we have three kinds mentioned in the Scriptures.

The FIRST is the election of individuals to perform some particular and special service. Cyrus was "elected" to rebuild the temple; the twelve Apostles were "chosen," elected, to their office by Christ; St. Paul was a "chosen," or elected, "vessel," to be the Apostle of the Gentiles. \* \* With respect to others, the Apostles, were "elected" to preach the Gospel in order to the salvation of all to whom they had access.

The SECOND kind of election which we find in Scripture, is the election of nations, or bodies of people, to eminent religious privileges, and in order to accomplish, by their superior illumination, the merciful purposes of God, in benefitting other nations, or bodies of people. Thus the descendants of Abraham, the Jews, were *chosen* to receive special revelations of truth; and to be "the people of God," to be his visible church, and publicly to observe and uphold his worship. "The Lord thy God hath *chosen* thee to be a peculiar people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth." \* \*

To understand the nature of this "election," as applied sometimes to particular bodies of Christians, as when St. Peter says, "The church which is at Babylon, *elected together* with you," and sometimes to the whole body of believers every where; and also the reason of the frequent use of the term *election*, and of the occurrence of allusions to the fact; it is to be remembered, that a great religious revolution, so to speak, had occurred in the age of the Apostles; with the full import of which we cannot, without calling in the aid of a little reflection, be adequately impressed. This was no other than the abrogation of the CHURCH-STATE of the Jews, which had continued for so many ages. They had been the only visibly acknowledged people of God in all the nations of the earth; for, whatever pious people might have existed in other nations, they were not, in the sight of men, and collectively, acknowledged as "the people of Jehovah." \* \* There was then a NEW ELECTION of a NEW PEOPLE of God, to be composed of Jews, not by virtue of their NATURAL DESCENT, but through their faith in Christ, and of Gentiles of all nations, also believing, and put, as believers, on an equal ground with the believing Jews. \* \* \*

It was not the calling and the electing of one nation in particular to succeed the Jews but it was the calling and the electing of believers in all nations, wherever the Gospel should be preached, to be in reality, what the Jews had been but typically,