

If then the line of human conduct be thus clearly marked out through all the lesser obligations of life, just reason have we to expect that directions should not be wanting, on the most important of all concerns—the propagation and spread of the Religion of Christ. And such is the case. Exhortation and example are holden out to us in the writings, and by the lives, of the first Preachers of the Gospel. To extend the knowledge of Christianity over the face of the then known world, was one of the injunctions which they most laboured to inculcate; whilst, to further this same glorious end, They endured all things; rejoicing in persecution, and tortures, and death, if only they were counted worthy to suffer for the name of Christ.

Nor is the *mode* in which this duty should be performed, left unrecorded by the sacred writers. Many are the declarations to this point; but among them all, none are more important, none include a wider field of action, than these words of our blessed Lord to his Disciples: “Behold I send you forth as sheep, in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.”

I. Varying