

"Galilæan" * as a reproach to the religion he founded ; † whilst the Christians maintain the doctrine of *Christ crucified* as the foundation of their faith and the only security of their hopes.

In support of the first branch of this Article of the Creed, that *Christ suffered*—it would be enough to cite the prediction of Isaiah, that he would be a *man of sorrows and acquainted with grief*, and to compare with the prophet's declaration the accounts of his earthly pilgrimage as recorded in the four Evangelists. To pass over the circumstances of his birth and infancy, when, in the one case, his being *laid in a manger*, and in the other, his being driven by the persecutions of Herod into Egypt, the prediction of Isaiah was very early verified—we may remark his exposure to more than the ordinary lot of suffering immediately on the commencement of his ministry. No sooner had he *come out of the water* wherein he had been baptized by John, than the *Spirit driveth him into the wilderness*, where he was *forty days tempted of Satan*, and was with the *wild beasts*. There tortured by hunger and thirst during that unprecedented space of time ; exposed, unsheltered and alone, to the storm and the tempest ; the companion of savage beasts and deadly reptiles ; and beset by every artifice of the Sovereign Tempter, he surely realizes the affecting portrait of the "Evangelical Prophet." Nor, when liberated from that painful trial, and when he was permitted to *go about doing good*, did his sorrows cease, nor was his *grief* mitigated. Whilst he gave sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, the power of speech to those that were dumb ; whilst he cured all manner of diseases, and raised even the dead to life—he was treated by his perverse countrymen with cruelty and scorn : they *despised and esteemed him not*. In him the Psalmist's prophetic plaint was literally fulfilled : *False witnesses did rise up ; they laid to my charge things that I knew not. They rewarded me evil for good, to the spoiling of my soul. But as for me, when they were sick, my clothing was sackcloth, I humbled my soul with fasting, and my prayer returned into my own bosom. I behaved myself as though he had been my friend or brother ; I bowed down heavily as one that mourneth for his mother. But in mine adversity they rejoiced and gathered themselves together against me, and I knew it not ; they did tear me and ceased not. With hypocritical mockers in feasts, they gnashed upon me with their teeth.* ‡

* The expression of the Apostate Julian, when dying, will be remembered ; "Thou hast conquered me, O Galilæan."

† Amongst innumerable heathen testimonies, these words of Tacitus are peculiarly pertinent, "*Auctor nominis ejus Christus, qui, Tiberio imperitante, per Procuratorem Pontium Pilatum, supplicio affectus erat.*" *Annal. Lib. xv. 44.*

‡ Psalm *xxix.* 11-16.