

S E R M O N .

2 Thess. ii. 4.—Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped ; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

This is a very remarkable prediction. It has attracted the notice of the students of Scripture from the earliest times down to the present day. To enumerate the books that have been written, and give even an outline of the various theories of interpretation that have been put forth, would itself form a large volume. Those interpreters, that have any right to be regarded as Evangelical, have been generally of the opinion that it is Antichrist that is here spoken of under the names of "the man of sin," and "the son of perdition"; but who Antichrist is, or where he is to make his appearance, or what are his characteristics, are all questions on which there is a wide divergence. I shall not take notice of their various opinions, or hypotheses, farther than to express my accordance with what may be here called "the unanimous consent of the Fathers," namely, that the Man of Sin is Antichrist. And without attempting, at present, to identify Antichrist with any historical personage, or system whatever, let us first endeavour to understand the description which is here given of him, by a careful analysis of the words of the inspired writer.