

acles. During the passage, he brought back to a sailor who had been killed by falling from the yards. At Alexandria, they received him in triumph; but he fled to visit St. Anthony in his desert. He then visited Palestine, with tender devotion, shedding tears of love and sorrow wherever he trod ground hallowed by his Master's foot-steps. He would fain have lived and died among those sacred places, but a voice from Heaven ordered him back to Asia.

During his absence his uncle's successors to the See of Myra had died. The electing Bishops being perplexed about the choice of his successor, a voice from above spoke thus to the most aged among them: "Ease praying, go to the temple; the first man whom thou shalt see entering is he whom God hath chosen; his name is Nicholas. The aged Bishop received this inspiration. At the church-door he beheld a man of modest bearing and countenance coming towards him. "My son," said he, "who art thou? why dost thou so early? art thou of Myra or a stranger?"—"I am only a sinner," observed our Saint, "(for it becometh me); my name is Nicholas and I come to implore thy mercy of God." At these words, the Bishop brought him into his colleagues' presence, and all, struck with the nobleness and majesty of his features, chose him of one accord for their Archbishop. He received the episcopal consecration, and a striking miracle confirmed his election. At the close of the ceremony, an unfortunate mother, bearing in her arms her only infant, who had been suffocated to death falling into the fire, came to throw herself at the Archbishop's feet, and begged him to give her back her son. The new elect raised his eyes to heaven, made the sign of the cross on the child, and restored him living to his mother.