

counted for from the gradual manner of communicating the will of 'Heaven. The Apostles were taught to extend their labours to the Gentiles; to desist from requiring their adherence to the Law, but these things were not revealed till they became necessary, and in the same manner the government of the Church was consolidated by gradual communications. Elders were first appointed, and while the Evangelists and Apostles made them frequent visits, matters proceeded very well, but after the first fervour of conversion passed away, difficulties and dissensions arose. The Elders or Presbyters contended for pre-eminence, and to restore order the Apostles found it necessary to ordain Bishops or Overseers over each Church.

The history of Christianity shews that no other government than that by Bishops ever prevailed in the Church, and recent discoveries have demonstrated that Episcopacy has been preserved among Christians insulated from their Brethren, and living for centuries in the midst of Pagans and Mahometans. A Church of this description has lately been found in Mesopotamia, under the direction of an Archbishop and several Suffragans, which has flourished for many ages. And in the East, the late Dr. Buchanan gives a most interesting account of a large body of Christians, who inhabit the mountains of Malabar, with some extracts from which I shall conclude.

“The Syrian Christians inhabit the interior of Trevancore and Malabar, in the South of India; and have been settled there from the early ages of Christianity. The first notices of this ancient people in recent times are to be found in the Portuguese histories. When Vasco de Gama arrived at Cochin on the coast of Malabar, in the year 1503, he saw the sceptre of the Christian King; for the Syrian Christians had formerly regal power in Malay-Ala.* The name or title of their last King was Beliarte; and he dying without issue, the dominion devolved on the King of Cochin and Dianper.

“When the Portuguese arrived, they were agreeably surprised to find upwards of a hundred Christian Churches on the coast of Malabar. But when they became acquainted

* Malay-Ala is the proper name for the whole country of Trevancore and Malabar, comprehending the territory between the mountains and the sea, from Cape Cormorin to Cape Illi or Dilly. The language of these extensive regions is called Malayalim, and sometimes Malabar. We shall use the word *Malabar*, as being easier of pronunciation.