

childish attachment merely to hills and vales, rivers and groves, and other objects of natural scenery. It consists in warm benevolence towards the people of our native or adopted country, prompting and producing zealous and active efforts for their real welfare and happiness. Accordingly, the Divine and compassionate Saviour wept over the capital of the country of his human birth, in view of the sufferings which He knew would befall its inhabitants, from their rejection of His mission of mercy. Even after they had treated Him with the utmost scorn and indignity, and put Him to a most cruel and reproachful death, in giving instructions to His Apostles for declaring His truth, they were commanded to begin at Jerusalem. They boldly and affectionately complied, and though constantly exposed to bonds, stripes, and martyrdom, continued to hold forth to His murderers the offers of His mercy and forgiveness. Though repeatedly driven away by fierce and violent persecutions and sufferings, they still persevered in returning to the murderous city, making the same overtures of pardon and reconciliation. In like manner they, and the other Christian teachers, persevered in the same truly patriotic and gracious efforts, in every part of the countries of their nativity, or to which they respectively belonged.

The zealous and affectionate Paul, an Hebrew of the Hebrews, in the fervor of his patriotic and benevolent spirit, declared, "My heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved;" and again, "I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart, for I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ, for my brethren, my kinsmen, according to the flesh." He clung to Jerusalem, offering his people the pardon and salvation of the Gospel, until, as it were, driven away by the word of his Lord, telling him, "they will not receive thy testimony concerning me, depart, for I will send thee far hence unto the Gentiles."