

the favor of heaven? A true lover of Israel and her venerable institution, a zealous teacher of the laws of Moses, and the traditions of the fathers; and a scorner of the unclean dogs of the Gentiles; for these things he gained the esteem of the self-righteous Pharisees, and also, as he fondly, but vainly, thought, the favor of the God of Israel. But however high his thoughts were about himself, however much he "rested" in the law of Moses, and made his "boast of God," (Rom. ii: 17.) truth, to whose voice, alas! he seems to have too often closed his ear, declared that he was bound as a transgressor, by the strong cord of God's unanswerable justice, under the curse of the law he had transgressed. Yet he thought that he was free, partly through the favor of God, partly through his own righteousness. But a voice from heaven soon disturbed the music of his thoughts, and troubled the spirit of his dream. Swift as the sun-beam passing through the air, so swiftly a great light from heaven descends and surrounds him, and he falls to the earth. Immediately a voice says, "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?" Hear the terrible accusation. He is charged with persecuting the messenger divine. He asks, "Who art thou Lord?" The voice replies, "I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom thou persecutest." It is the Holy One of Israel who speaks, the charge is repeated; and this time Saul is charged with persecuting his Creator, Lawgiver, and Redeemer. As the terrible reverberations of Sinai's thunders terrified the ancient Israelites, so these utterances of Jesus the Nazarene filled Saul with alarm; for as Luke informs us, he trembled and was astonished. (Acts. ix: 6.) O Saul! what does it now avail thee that thou art a child of Abraham? Where is now thy boasted righteousness? Were you before persuading yourself that you *loved* God sufficiently, in accordance with the requirements of the first and greatest commandment? Behold! you are charged with *hating* the Only-Begotten of the Father, manifesting this hatred by persecuting him and his people. O how swiftly does the presence of "Deity offended" dissipate your dream, as your naked and guilty soul is laid bare to his all-seeing glance! For a few moments the silence of death reigns around the wondrous scene. Saul's eyes are closed in blindness. And a dense gloom hovers around his mind, as he beholds himself exposed so fearfully to the wrath of an offended God. Now would the rushing memories of the past, crowd into the great heart of Saul; and waves of emotion would roll over his spirit, like the waves of the Galilean sea, when lashed by the raging