

shower, the dew, and the sunshine, are limited in their effects by the quality of the soil, or the measure of industry employed in its cultivation. In a similar manner, without the slightest impeachment of our Lord's fidelity or power, the progress of conversion will recede or advance, in proportion to the piety and knowledge of his servants, their zeal and ability in the propagation of truth, and the intellectual and moral capacities of those to whom the word of salvation is addressed.

It is the object of the present discourse, to verify these observations, by reference to some of the principal Missions in different ages of the Church; and if their truth is established, we shall at least have obtained some direction for our future proceedings, in the performance of duties peculiarly incumbent on a nation, which covers the seas with her navies, and extends her dominion to the ends of the earth.

I. The first and most successful of Preachers were those very disciples of Christ, whose encouragement and instruction were the primary objects of the injunctions delivered in my text. They were Missionaries, in the strictest sense of the