

God that gave it, with a confidence that nothing but conscious virtue and piety could inspire.

This conduct, so magnanimous, so full of virtue and religion, so different from that of other malefactors, did not fail to make a proper impression on the Centurion's heart. But when he farther beheld the consequences of our Saviour's death,—that the Earth did quake,—that the rocks were rent,—that the graves opened and delivered up their dead,—that a supernatural darkness came on,—and that all nature was in agitation, he was overcome with astonishment; and could not refrain, in the fervour of his conviction, from crying out, 'surely this man was the Son of God!'

Such was the impression which this dreadful spectacle made upon the Centurion. He beheld only a corner of the picture, a most interesting corner it must be confessed, but little in comparison of what we see. We behold the whole, not merely Jesus in the midst of his enemies, an object of insult and scorn; but we are acquainted with him from his birth till he ascended up into heaven. What then makes us so cool and indifferent? Why do not our feelings break forth into warm exclamations like those of the Centurion's? Why not into stronger, as our means of knowledge is greater than his?

Had this worthy soldier more evidence than we possess? far otherwise; but he gave up his whole attention to the scene before him, he allowed nothing else to enter his mind, and he gave free passage to his honest feelings. And if we give the same undivided attention to the Gospel: examine it with diligence, and allow nothing to dissipate our thoughts a stronger conviction will be ours and we shall be able with the holy warmth of saving Faith, to exclaim "truly this is the Son of God!"—

[The above Article was omitted in its proper place among the original Communications.]