

pity', who were the most zealous to condemn him'. The king himself went to the house of lords', and spoke for some time in his defence': but the spirit of vengeance', which had been chained for eleven years', was now roused'; and nothing but his blood could give the people satisfaction'. He was condemned by both houses of parliament'; and nothing remained but for the king to give his consent to the bill of attainder'.

5 But in the present commotions', the consent of the king' would very easily be dispensed with'; and imminent danger might attend his refusal'. Charles', however', who loved Strafford tenderly', hesitated', and seemed reluctant'; trying every expedient to put off so dreadful an office', as that of signing the warrant for his execution'. While he continued in this agitation of mind', and state of suspense', his doubts were at last silenced by an act of great magnanimity in the condemned lord'.

6 He received a letter from that unfortunate nobleman', desiring that his life might be made a sacrifice to obtain reconciliation between the king' and his people': adding', that he was prepared to die'; and that to a willing mind', there could be no injury'. This instance of noble generosity' was but ill repaid by his master', who complied with his request'. He consented to sign the fatal bill by commission', and Strafford was beheaded on Tower-hill', behaving with all that composed dignity of resolution', which was expected from his character'.

GOLDSMITH.

SECTION II.

An eminent instance of true fortitude.

ALL who have been distinguished as servants of God', or benefactors of men'; all who', in perilous situations', have acted their part with such honour as to render their names illustrious through succeeding ages', have been eminent for fortitude of mind'. Of this we have one conspicuous example in the apostle Paul', whom it will be instructive for us to view in a remarkable occurrence of his life'.

2 After having long acted as the apostle of the Gentiles' his mission called him to go to Jerusalem', where he knew that he was to encounter the utmost violence of his enemies'. Just before he set sail', he called together the elders of his favourite church at Ephesus', and', in a pathetic speech', which does great honour to his character', gave them his last farewell'. Deeply affected by their knowledge of the certain dangers to which he was exposing himself', all the assembly were filled with distress', and melted into tears'.