

affectionate, and charitable husband ; see him bending over his reputed son in silent adoration and respectful love ; see with what earnestness he ministers to Jesus and Mary, and how she obeys him in all things. Learn to regulate your life by theirs, and to make your family a holy family, like that of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

O, all ye little children dear to Christ behold He invites you to approach Him : ' Suffer little children,' says he, ' to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of God.' Do then approach Him, tender objects of His complacency and love ; lo, He is become as a little child, like to one of you : in his greatness, He is worthy of admiration ; in his littleness, He is worthy of love ; look on His infant smiles—His angelic face—His lovely hands—His tender feet ; see how in all things He submits to the guidance and care of His Virgin Mother—how He seems to have no will of His own, but to be perfectly regulated by her ; and in all this littleness and humiliation and obedience recognise the Eternal Son of God, the Creator of Heaven and Earth. O ! what lessons of obedience, and docility, and resignation to the will of your parents, will you not learn from your infant God, thus humbled for your example ?

DESCRIPTION OF BETHLEHEM.

TRANSLATED FROM CHATEAUBRIAND.

Bethlehem receives its name from Abraham, and signifies *The House of Bread*. It was called Ephrata, from the name of Caleb's wife, and to distinguish it from another Bethlehem in the tribe of Zabulon. It belonged to the tribe of Judah, and also bore the name of the City of David, being the

native place of that monarch, where he tended flocks in his youth. St. Matthias, the Apostle, had the happiness to be born in the city where the Messiah came into the world.

The primitive Christians had raised an oratory over the manger where the Saviour was laid ; but Adrian overturned it to place there a statue of Adonis. Saint Helen destroyed this idol, and built a Church on the spot where it stood ; the architecture of which is now blended with the different parts added to it by Christian princes. Bethlehem, conquered by the crusaders, was retaken, and fell with Jerusalem under the infidel yoke. It has always been an object of the greatest veneration to the Christian pilgrim. The holy religious devoting themselves to a perpetual martyrdom, carefully guarded it during seven centuries.

On the 5th October, 1806, I began my visit to the monuments of Bethlehem ; and though they have been often described, the subject is in itself so interesting, that I cannot avoid entering into some details. The Convent of Bethlehem is joined to the Church, and enclosed in a court with high walls.—We crossed this court, and a small latticed door gave us admittance into the Church. This Church is of the highest antiquity, and though frequently destroyed, and as often rebuilt, still preserves traces of its Greek origin. Its form is that of a cross. The long nave or foot of the cross, is ornamented with forty-eight pillars of the Corinthian order, placed in four lines. The roof of this nave is wanted, and the pillars support nothing but a frieze of wood that replaces the architrave. Timber-work has been placed on the top of the wall, and raised *en dome* to bear a roof that exists no more, and that never had