

I have been thought worthy of this honor ; not for that I think I have deserved it, but by the grace of God, which I wish may be perfectly given unto me, and through your prayers I may attain unto God. And, therefore, that your work may be fully accomplished both upon earth and in heaven, it will be fitting and for the honor of God, that your church appoint some worthy delegate who being come as far as Syria, may rejoice together with them, that they are in peace, and that they are again restored to their former state, and have again received their proper body."

Leaving Troas, and still sailing up the Egean sea, they came to Neapolis, a city in Thrace ; and probably with the view of saving time, they travelled over land to the Adriatic sea ; where getting a vessel at one of the ports, they crossed over and came again into the Mediterranean sea ; and as it appears passing Rhegium, they came within sight of Puteoli, the port at which the apostle Paul had landed in his voyage from Melita. When this place was pointed out to Ignatius, he desired to land and to travel thence to Rome. But an adverse wind arising they were obliged to yield to it, and sail forward. And so his friends who attended him in his voyage, go on to say, "And the wind continuing favourable to us, in one day and a night, we indeed were unwillingly hurried on, as sorrowing to think of being separated from the holy martyr ; but to him it happened just according to his wish, that he might go sooner out of the world, and attain unto the Lord whom he loved. Wherefore sailing into the Roman port, and those impure sports being almost at an end, the soldiers began to be offended at our slowness ; but the Bishop with great joy complied with their hastiness. Being therefore soon forced away from the port so called, we forthwith met the brethren (for the report of what concerned Ignatius was spread abroad) who were full of fear and joy ; for they rejoiced in that God had vouchsafed them the company of Theophorus, but were afraid when they considered that such an one was brought thither to die. Now some of these he commanded to hold their peace who were the most zealous for his safety, and said they would appease the people, that they should not desire the destruction of the just, who presently knowing this by the Spirit, and saluting all of them, he desired that they would show a true love to him ; disputing yet more with them than he had done in his epistle, and persuading them not to envy him who was hastening unto the Lord. And so all the brethren kneeling down, he prayed to the Son of God in behalf of the churches, that he would put

a stop to the persecution, and continue the love of the brethren towards each other. After this prayer was ended, he was led into the Amphitheatre and thrown into the wild beasts, which speedily devoured his mortal part, leaving only a few bones that were carried back to Antioch—"the dust returned unto the dust from whence it was taken, and the spirit returned to God who gave it. He was faithful unto death, and doubtless received a crown of glory."

SOME REMARKS ON THE WRITINGS OF THE EARLY FATHERS.

It appears that in consequence of the apostasy of the Jewish people, the Christian church was placed in peculiar circumstances, seeing that the Gentile converts who were to become teachers of others, were by their early education poorly provided for their work. The Old Testament is the source from which the inspired writers of the New have uniformly taken their illustrations of gospel mysteries : and of the things written in that book, the Gentile converts had not only been ignorant, but their minds were formed after a different mould.

The church from the earliest ages, has been in the attitude of protesting ; and if it was needful in diverse rites and observances prescribed to the Jews to guard them against the proneness of men to idolatry, it was if possible more needful to guard against that philosophy which only gratified men's vanity, and so led them farther than before from the simplicity of the truth : and such a safeguard is provided in the word of God. This appears in all the books of Moses, but more especially in the book of Leviticus, which is the great repository of the ceremonial law ; and whose plain observances, as all the commentators show, are types and shadows of gospel mysteries : and not only so, but now that these have been unfolded by the coming of Messiah, they serve by their palpable character to guard men against abstract speculation, as well as to convey the truth to babes in understanding.

The Gentile converts who were received into the bosom of the church must have laboured under a great disadvantage, when they sat down to write concerning those truths which they believed, and through which they were enlightened. Their pagan education had little congruity with their christian character. They could not compare spiritual things with spiritual, but with carnal—the truths of the gospel with the fancies of their philosophers—the wisdom of God with the rhetoric of man. And as the truly pious must needs have dis-