

of enquiry, persecution and calumny were shamed by the innocence of their victims: remorse succeeded to fury, and was followed by conversion: the mind, on dispassionate reflection, was led to acknowledge the divinity of a Religion, which reformed the vicious, emboldened the timid, invigorated the feeble, and elevated the meanest proselyte to a pre-eminence, before unexampled, in beneficence and virtue. Thus every Christian was in effect * a preacher of righteousness, exhibiting in the hour of trial, as well as in the ordinary intercourse of social courtesies and duties, a bright and attractive example of piety, a living testimony to the power of that Faith, which it was the object of his zeal to promote.

But zeal, in the bosom of the primitive Christians, was associated with meekness and patience, with conscientious attachment to order, and willing conformity to discipline. It was not a wild or impetuous passion, but a sober and rational principle of conduct, attentive to the suitableness of its means, and the sufficiency of its powers, and anxious to regu-

* 2 Peter, ii. 5.