

an earthly for an heavenly Habitation. "For we know that if our earthly House of this Tabernacle were dissolved, we have a Building of God, an House not made with Hands, eternal in the Heavens. For in this we groan earnestly, desiring to be cloathed upon with our House which is from Heaven†."

OUR Saviour informed his Apostles, that in his Father's House were many Mansions to receive them, and all his Followers\*; St. Paul had told the Corinthians in a former Epistle that the Souls of the Faithful would finally be clothed with spiritual and immortal Bodies||: To both these he seems to allude in these Words, and thence deduces an Argument of Consolation. Our Bodies are frail, and continually verging to decay---they are transient, like occasional, temporary Tabernacles, not permanent Abodes. Christians are burdened, whilst in them, with various Calamities; they groan under this oppressive Weight, earnestly desiring and sighing for those everlasting Habitations prepared for them in Heaven, where all their Evils will be removed. Therefore Death need not be dreaded by the Christian, since it would only dissolve this

fleeting

† Chap. v. 1, 2. There is some Obscurity in the Connection of the second, third and fourth Verses, chiefly owing to the figurative Terms used by the Apostle. Several eminent Commentators imagine he hints at an Opinion then prevalent among Christians, that our Saviour would come to Judgment before that Generation passed away, by which the Faithful, who were then alive, would be exempted from dying, and only *changed*, to prepare them for Glory; and it is supposed St. Paul here wishes, if it were possible, and the Will of God were such, that this might be the Case with himself. The chief Difficulty is in V. 3. By *cloathed-- and not found naked*, some understand being alive, and not dead or divested of the Body at Christ's coming; others, the Graces in general of the Gospel which adorn sincere Christians. The Reader who desires to examine the Passage further may consult MILL, WALL's *Critical Notes*, LOCKE, WHITBY and DODDRIDGE, on the Place.

\* John xiv. 2.

|| I Corinth. xv. 44, 54.