

many novel realities in all this, that we have no power to attempt a description. But let the fact be remembered, let it never be forgotten, that Jesus Christ the son of God was accounted and treated by the nation of the Jews as an impostor, usurper, and heretic.

Not intending and therefore not attempting to enumerate the many hundreds of christian heretics that arose shortly after the crucifixion of their great Leader, we shall specify only one—a notable one—the apostle Paul. But who is Paul? and what is his history? A character so conspicuous should have a suitable introduction, and therefore we shall bring the apostle into notice somewhat in accordance with his rank.

The apostle Paul was by birth a Jew. His fathers were the sons of Abraham. Nor was he Jew simply by natural descent; for not only was he a son of Abraham in having a nature and feelings common to his brethren, but his disposition, early education, and general interests induced views and motives which were peculiarly adapted to qualify him to advocate and propagate the religion of his fathers. If he was an Israelite by birth, he was doubly so by reason of his training and religious prejudices.

While yet a youth he studied in the school of Doctor Gamaliel, who was a distinguished literary Professor, and an honorable member of the Jewish Council. Possessed of talents, and great natural activity, he made unusual proficiency under his instructor, being more profoundly versed in all the questions and customs of the Jews, together with a deep knowledge of how they should be enforced, than any of his age.

About this time his talents, energy, and national prejudices were in great demand. A new order of heretics arising among the Jews, this people, so zealous for everything they had received from Abraham and Moses, determined to quench the spirit of this new heresy, and stop the mouths of all its adherents.—Paul therefore in this emergency was an able instrument, and the more so because of his sincere attachment to the law, and his spontaneous desire to engage in its support. Very soon he is found with more than a missionary spirit and with ample authority from the heads of the nation searching for christian heretics, forcing them to Jewish justice, or securing them in prison for a day of trial; and even sometimes dispensing with the appearance of justice, and inflicting the penalty of the law himself.

But the persecuting Jew becomes the christian apostle, and is ranked among those that he formerly hated. Behold the change! from being a persecutor he is now persecuted; for he is also a heretic! But still his constancy, his zeal, his firmness of character, his fearless spirit, his extensive plans, his conscientious energy and activity are unaltered and unalterable. His energies are