

like his master, unspotted, lovely, and good; and he was eminently holy, "a burning and a shining light," making apparent and reproving the sins of the age. His apparel was coarse, his diet plain and sparing, and his entire deportment rigidly correct and austere.—"He had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins, and his meat was locusts and wild honey."—*Matt.* 3, 4. "He drank neither wine nor strong drink; and he was filled with the Holy Ghost from his mother's womb."—*Luke*, 1, 15: 7, 33. His sanctity was soon and widely famed abroad, and without repelling or offending many, it attracted the multitude, and commanded the admiration and confidence of his countrymen. And all the servants of the LORD should be like him—eminent in holiness, pure in life and conversation, "giving no offence in anything, that the ministry be not blamed; but in all things approving" or commending "themselves as the ministers of GOD." All Christians should shine as lights in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation; but Christian ministers are to be eminently holy and devout, "burning and shining lights."

John was also eminent for spiritual gifts;—he was called and qualified to occupy an important post, and in the discharge of his office "he was a burning and a shining light." He was sent to "preach the kingdom of Heaven," to announce the coming of the Messiah, and to prepare the way before him, by rousing and fixing the attention of men; and his ministry was remarkable for the importance of its subject, and for the zeal with which it was discharged. His preaching related to the Son of GOD, and the salvation of men, and on these important points he was intelligible to