

chaeo legeris, nec illis, nec tibi. Illis, quia de te mihi mentiti sunt: tibi autem, quia eam Scripturam mihi profers, cui per illos credideram, qui mihi mentiti sunt. Sed absit ut ego Evangelio non credam, Illi enim credens, non invenio quomodo possim etiam tibi credere. Apostolorum enim nomina, quae ibi leguntur, non inter se continent nomen Manichaei.' S. Aug. Ibid. c. v. D.

Some learned Biblical Scholars are of opinion, and not without reason, that about Twenty different Books of Scripture have been entirely lost. We read in Numbers xxi. 14—"It is said in the *Book of the Wars of the Lord*." No such Book is now extant. In our Third Book of Kings (alias First) iv. 32. It is said that "Solomon spoke three thousand Proverbs, and his Canticles were a thousand and five." We have only a very small part of those Books. In 2, Chronicles ix. 29, it is said: "Now the rest of the Acts of Solomon, first and last, are they not written in the Book of Nathan the Prophet, and in the Prophecy of Ahijah, and in the Vision of Iddo?" Not one of these Books is now in existence. Again, we read at the end of the First Book of Chronicles these words: "Now the Acts of David the King, first and last, behold are they not written in the Book of Samuel the Seer, and in the Book of Nathan the Prophet, and in the Book of Gad the Seer?" We have no such Books at the present day. The same may be said of "the Acts of Josaphat" (2 Chron. xx. 24), and "The Book of Jehu, the son of Hanani" (Ibid), and "The Book of the Righteous, or Just" (Josh. x. 13. 2 Kings i. 18), and the Treatises on Plants and Animals written by Solomon (3 Kings iv. 33). St. Paul directs the Colossians (iv. 16) to read the Epistle of the Laodiceans; and in his 1st to the Corinthians he says "I wrote to you in an Epistle." There are no such Epistles now. Two quotations are given by St. Matthew from the Old Testament (Matt. ii. 23, xxvii. 9) which are not now to be found in the Scriptures. St. Chrysostom declares in his Homilies on St. Matthew, that many of the Prophetic monuments have perished through the carelessness and impiety of the Jews; that they burned some, and tore others in pieces. It may be safely said that they destroyed as many of the prophetic passages as they could, which had reference to Christ, or helped to prove the divinity of his mission.

Amongst several Books which were believed by many to be inspired, in the first centuries of the Church, we may reckon:

"The Epistle of Our Saviour to Abigaris, King of Edessa," mentioned by Eusebius, Darius correspondent of St. Augustine, St. Ephrem of Edessa, Procopius, Evagrius, St. John Damascene, and many others

"The Gospels of the Twelve Apostles, or according to the Hebrews."

"The Gospel of St. Peter."

"The Apocalypse of St. Peter."