

not the common death of all men, nor were visited after the visitation of all men, but whose plagues were horrible and strange ; even a Sceptic would be moved at the evidence, and would be apt to suspect that the hand of God was in it. But the case of the persecuting Emperors and Princes, is still more particular, if we consider first the matter of fact, and secondly, the prophecies concerning it.

Herod the Great was the first persecutor of Christianity, as he attempted to destroy Christ in his infancy, and for that wicked end slew the male children of Bethlehem. The miseries which befel this inhuman tyrant and his family, are recorded by Josephus, and his calamitous death, and long and grievous sufferings before it, by a burning fever, a voracious appetite, a difficulty of breathing, swellings in his limbs, loathsome ulcers within and without, breeding lice and worms, violent torments and convulsions, so that he endeavoured to kill himself, but was restrained by his friends. The Jews thought these evils to be divine judgments upon him for his wickedness.

He left a numerous family of children and grand children, though he had put some to death, which in the space of about an hundred years, was extinct.

Herod Antepas who beheaded John the Baptist, and treated Christ contemptuously when he was brought before him, was defeated by Aretas, an Arabian king, and afterwards had his dominions taken from him, and was sent into banishment, along with his infamous wife Herodias, by the Emperor Caius.

Pontius Pilatè, who condemned Christ to death, was not long afterwards deposed and banished, and died by his own hands, " Nor ought it to be passed over," says Eusebius, " that Pilate himself, who condemned our Saviour to death, fell into so great calamities in the reign of Caius, that he became his own executioner : the divine vengeance overtaking him not long after his crime."

The High Priest Caiaphas was deposed by Vitellius, three years after the death of Christ, which gave no offence to the Jews, who loved him not. Thus this wicked man who condemned Christ for fear of disoblighing the Romans, was ignominiously turned out of his office by the Roman Governor.—*Jorten's Remarks.*