

Thus formally invested with authority, and endued with power from on high, the Apostles entered on their office; and, declaring to Jew and to Gentile the terms of salvation, repentance from sin, and faith in the crucified Redeemer, experienced "the testimony" of Christ "to the word of his grace,"* in the unexampled triumph of the Gospel over the passions and prejudices, the inveterate intellectual habits and social usages, of mankind. In the course of a few years, a mighty revolution was effected, by their ministry, in the religious opinions and practice of the various nations which acknowledged the dominion of Rome. The early predominance of the Faith in the capital and provinces of that vast empire was naturally regarded as the immediate prelude of the happy consummation presignified in the records of Prophecy, when Christianity should assume her legitimate sovereignty, and become the religion of the world. The magnitude of the obstacles already surmounted might justify the most sanguine expectations. The Faith, which had baffled in its infancy the united hostility of human wisdom and power, had attained stability and permanence, and was advancing with progres-

* Acts, xiv. 3.