

low him in his labours, to accompany him in his sufferings, to mark his successes, to converse with him in his writings, to listen to him in his discourses, to attend him in his death. It is history that enables us to do all this; and we are therefore thankful for history, especially for an inspired history, such as the New Testament supplies. But no history can reveal facts to us with the same vividness and intensity with which they are communicated to the mind by positive observation and sight. We are creatures of sense, and no imagination can fully supply to our minds a living reality which has not been previously contemplated by actual vision. High and noble as is the view of the great apostle which we acquire from sacred history, it is impossible that we should conceive what he really was as correctly as if we had known him and conversed with him, and heard him preach and pray, and seen him toil and suffer. By his successors, indeed, we may learn more, his successors whom we have known and seen and heard; and the