

as modern European custom allows, only an occasion for license, such as no rational teacher could desire.

The records of the first proceedings of the apostles of Christ are so scanty that we must depend more on the conclusions to be drawn from casual hints, than on any actual history: from these slight notices, however, we may gather that the diligence of these preachers and their pupils had been such, that converts had been made throughout the whole Roman empire, and even beyond it at a very early period. The tradition of the church assigns Egypt to Mark the Evangelist, Parthia to the Apostle Thomas; Andrew is said to have devoted himself to Scythia; John to Asia minor, where he took up his abode, and died at Ephesus.* Peter preached to the dispersed Jews; Paul's journeyings we gather from his own epistles, as well as from the Acts of the Apostles. He is said also to have visited Spain.

The death of Christ took place, as is well known, about A.D. 33, in the reign of the Emperor Tiberius;† and during the thirty following years, the preaching of the gospel met with scarcely any opposition from the ruling powers excepting among the Jews. Cornelius, a Roman Centurion, was converted A.D. 37; and a few years after, Sergius Paulus, the pro-consul of Cyprus. Dionysius, a member of the council of the Areiopagus at Athens, consequently one who had borne high office in the state, was convinced by the discourse of Paul before that body, about A.D. 53: and indeed, so great had been the success of the apostles

* Euseb. Hist. Ecc. lib. ii. c. 16.—lib. iii. c. i.

† The vulgar era differs from the common one by about four years, but this is of no consequence in the consideration of general results.