

to go on in their malicious designs, and pronounce him to be worthy of death, even him who was perfect in goodness; thus "in his humiliation his judgment was taken away," and he, like some vile criminal, "led as a lamb to the slaughter." Under these heavy trials (though poor unstable Pilate was convinced of his innocence, yet) the people generally looked upon him as a deceiver, a blasphemer, and the approaching punishment as a just judgment upon him, "They esteemed him smitten of God and afflicted." So great had been the surprize of his disciples, at his being taken by armed men, that they "forsook him and fled;" thus they hid their faces from him, he was despised, and by their conduct it appeared as though "they esteemed him not."

But contrary to that opinion, of his being smitten of God and afflicted, it was for our sakes that "he was put to grief; he was wounded for our transgressions; he was bruised for our iniquities;" and under the weight of them manifesting the deepest compassion for the instruments of his misery, laboured as their advocate, and in the deeps of affliction, with an unconquerable patience, cried out, "Father forgive them, they know not what they do!"

Now this mind being in us, which was in Christ Jesus, it removes from our hearts the desire of superiority, worldly honour or greatness; a deep attention is felt to the divine counsellor, and an ardent engagement

to