

spect to publishing the glad tidings amongst the Gentiles, as yet sitting in darkness and entangled with many superstitions; but aspiring after wealth and worldly honours, take hold of means to obtain their ends, tending to stir up wrath and indignation, and to beget an abhorrence in them to the name of christianity. When these things are weightily attended to, how mournful is the subject?

It is worthy of remembrance, that people in different ages, deeply baptised into the nature of that work for which Christ suffered, have joyfully offered up their liberty and lives for the promoting of it in the earth.

Policarp, who was reputed a disciple of St. John, having attained to great age, was at length sentenced to die for his religion, and being brought to the fire, prayed nearly as follows, "Thou God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom I have received the knowledge of thee! O God of the angels and powers, and of every living creature, and of all sorts of just men which live in thy presence. I thank thee! that thou hast graciously vouchsafed this day and this hour to allot me a portion among the number of martyrs, among the people of Christ, unto the resurrection of everlasting life; among whom I shall be received in thy sight, this day, as a fruitful and acceptable sacrifice, wherefore for all this, I praise thee, I bless thee, I glorify thee through the everlasting high Priest, Jesus Christ, thy well beloved son;