

were grown men trained to arms.—“ This day will I begin to put the fear of thee and the dread of thee upon the face of the nations under all the heavens :” \* yet this declaration respects only the nations of Canaan and those lying upon its frontier, all being within a very small geographical district. We likewise find the phrase, “ under heaven,” employed by the inspired writers to signify an extent of country, large indeed, but falling exceedingly short of a geographical universality : as, “ I gave my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all things that are done under heaven.— There were dwelling at Jerusalem, Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven.” With this passage is combined a geographical enumeration, which points out the extent of country intended, as being from Italy to Persia, and from Egypt to the Black Sea : and thus a probable elucidation is given to the declaration of the apostle, that “ the gospel was preached to every creature which is under heaven.” † —“ Ye shall be plucked from off the land whither thou goest to possess it, and the Lord shall scatter thee among all peoples, from one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth :” ‡ a prophetic description of the dispersion of the Jewish people, as the punishment of their apostasy from God and rejection of the Messiah, but no one can regard the expression as denoting a proper geographical universality.—“ The fame of David went forth into all the lands, [the plural of the word generally rendered *the earth*,] and Jehovah put the fear of him upon all the nations.” § This expression cannot be taken as reaching beyond the range of Syria, Armenia, Mesopotamia, Arabia, and Egypt.—“ And all the earth sought the presence

\* Deut. ii. 25.

‡ Deut. xxviii. 63, 64.

† Eccl. i. 13. Acts ii. 5. Col. i. 23.

§ 1 Chron. xiv. 17.