

## CHAP. III.

Chap. 3. in the  
Greeks:

The contention between Arius and Alexander Bishop of Alexandria, and how that Alexander deprived Arius with his complices of the Ministry.

After Peter Bishop of Alexandria, which suffered Martyrdom under Diocletian, Achilles succeeded in the Bishoprick. After Achilles, Alexander in the time of the afore-said peace was chosen Bishop: who leading a quiet and peaceable life brought the Church unto an unity, and on a certain time in presence of the Priests which were under him, and the rest of the Clergy, he intreateth somewhat more curiously of the holy Trinity, and the Unity to be in the Trinity. Arius then being one of the Priests placed in order under him, a man very skilfull in the subtilties of sophistical Logick, suspecting the Bishop to have brought into the Church the erroneous doctrine of Sabellius the Affrick, and being kindled with the desire of contention, set himself opposite against the opinion of Sabellius the Affrick, and as it seemed directly against the allegations of the Bishop, saying: If the Father begot the Son, then had the Son which was begotten a beginning of essence: here-by it is manifest that there was a time when the Son was not, and the consequent to follow necessarily that he had this essence of nothing. \* When he had with his strange kinde of doctrine concluded and laid down this position, he provoked many to reason hereof, so that of a small sparkle a great fire was kindled. For this noisome pestilence beginning from the Churches of Alexandria spread it self throughout all Egypt, Lybia, and the upper Thebais; yea passed moreover through the rest of the Provinces and Cities. Many other also embraced the pestilent opinion of Arius, of which number chiefly Eusebius (not he of Casarea) but another which aforesaid was Bishop of the Church of Berytus, but then craftly crept in to be Bishop of Nicomedia a City of Bithynia, clave fast unto him. Which things when Alexander had both heard and seen done with his eyes, was very much moved thereat, and summoning together a Council of many Bishops, he deprived Arius and such as favoured his opinion of the Priestly order: and wrote unto the severall Bishops throughout the cities in this manner.

Peter.  
Achillas.  
Alexander.Arius contra-  
meth his Bishop  
and ordinary.The original  
of Arius hereby\* Chap 6 in  
the Greek.Two Eusebius,  
the first was  
writer of the  
former Histo-  
ry: the second  
Bishop of  
Nicomedia,  
and an Arius.

## The Epistle of Alexander Bishop of Alexandria.

To the Welbeloved and most reverend brethren, fellow Ministers with us throughout the Churches wheresoever. Inasmuch as we are commanded by holy Scripture to retain the bond of unity and peace, it is requisite that we write and signifie one to another the things that severally happen among us, to the end that if one suffer or one rejoyce, we all may suffer together or rejoyce together. Now in our Church there are risen certain men which transgresse the laws: which impugne Christ: which lead men into Apostasie: whom a man may rightly suppose and justly terme the forerunners of Antichrist. I was disposed truly to be silent, and not to blaze at all so hainous an offence, if peradventure by any means possibly this blemish might have been wiped away from among them which alone fell from the Church, least that straying abroad into strange places, it might infect with the filth thereof the ears of simple and silly souls. But in as much as Eusebius now Bishop of Nicomedia, supposing the whole state of the Church to be under his jurisdiction, and seeing with himself that he is to be charged of none for leaving the Church of Berytus, and for that he greedily gaped after the Church of Nicomedia, and in that he is become the patron and ring-leader of these Apostata's, going about to publish letters into all Provinces, highly extolling them, that he may plunge certain of the ignorant sort into an extreame pestilent heresie, altogether contrary to Christ himself: I thinke it necessary (seeing the like is written in some part of the law) no longer to be silent, but to declare unto you all the whole matter, whereby ye may not only know them which fell from the truth, but also their detestable doctrine, and the circumstance of their heresie, and also if peradventure Eusebius doe write unto you that you give no ear unto him. For he having concealed for a season his old festered corruption of minde, and now disposed to renew the same, feigneth to further his cause by his Epistles, but in very deed he sheweth plainly that these his practices be directed to the furtherance of his own cause. Such as fell from the Church were these: Arius,  
Achillas;