

## ST. MATTHEW.



St. MATTHEW was by birth a Galilean, and related to our Lord by his mother's side. He was a publican or tax-gatherer, before he was called by Jesus Christ to follow him, which he immediately did.

After our Saviour's ascension, St. Matthew travelled into Æthiopia, and it is said that he suffered martyrdom at Neddaber, a city in those parts, by what means is not known. By some it is said that by his prayers he extinguished the fire that was kindled to destroy him, and afterwards died a natural death.

He was the first of the four Evangelists, having written his gospel just before his departure from Judea, as a guide to the Jewish converts during his absence. The authenticity of his gospel is undoubted, being confirmed by those of Mark, Luke, and John, though some things omitted by the former are mentioned by the latter.