

cern the memories of the Temptation which St. John does not record underlying particulars that he has recorded.

It is surely remarkable—and this, indeed, has never been overlooked—that out of pity for the famishing multitudes Jesus was willing to put forth a power which to satisfy His own hunger He would not exert. Of those that were pressing round Him when He afterwards spoke the words, "Labour not for the meat that perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life," none probably were aware how true the Teacher had shown Himself to His own teaching, when at the close of His long fast He rested on the words, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." But what was hidden from them has been revealed to us. We have been permitted to take knowledge of the secrets of that Teacher's inner life. And brightly glow for us the words of Jesus to the multitude in the light let in upon them from the first temptation. Out of pity Jesus had done for them what He would not do for Himself. It was simply pity. Had the people afterwards dispersed, there might have been no further reference to the miracle than to that which followed, the walking on the sea, which had apparently no direct ulterior object than the relief of the disciples in their terror and distress, and is never alluded to again. But when the people followed on to Capernaum seeking for Jesus, and that with no loftier aim than "because they did eat of the loaves, and were filled," then must He make an effort to draw them too up to that higher level on which He stood, the teaching must be pressed home how "man shall not *live* by bread alone, but by every *word* that proceedeth *out of the mouth of God*." I will dwell no longer on this point save to put in contrast the claim of Jesus at the close of His discourse, "*The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life ;*" and to draw attention to the effect on St. Peter. The tempter had begun with an "if." "*If Thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread ;*" give proof of your Divinity so, was the request. And Jesus had refused the proof. Was no proof, then, to be forth-