

He should have shuddered at the sight of what He had undertaken, should have shrunk for a moment from the bitterness of the cup which He had undertaken to drink? It is fortunate for us that the church rejected any theory of Christ's nature that would represent Him as other than a true man, with a real body and a reasonable soul, of like passions with ourselves. We must therefore conceive of Him as having the same sensibilities as those by which we are led and misled. It is a very familiar fact that just in proportion to the refinement of man's nature in general is the delicacy and acuteness with which his sensibility quivers under any pain to which it may be exposed. We must therefore suppose that that beautiful nature, which stands for us as an ideal of all that is perfect in our own, must have trembled at the thought of all He had to endure in accomplishing the work He had undertaken to do.

He went up from the Jordan, away into the silence of those lonely hills which rise from the river's banks, and there communed with His own spirit and the Eternal Spirit too. But the spirit of evil then met Him, and evidently the temptations, which the evil spirit suggested, are to be interpreted as attempts to dissuade Him from the work which He had undertaken, the work of founding the Kingdom of God upon the earth, the work of sacrificing Himself to death that He might win salvation for His fellow-men.

The tempter begins as if he did not understand the nature of the being whom he was tempting. He begins in a clumsy fashion by appealing to His animal nature:—"Turn these stones into bread," as much as to say, "Never mind the purpose for which you have received the powers with which you are endowed, prostitute these glorious powers in the gratification of your lower nature." Is not this temptation one to which we are exposed every day in our lives? Who does not feel its power? Now, how is that temptation to be met? Christ does not meet it in any way in which we may not meet it. He appeals to the fact that man is not a mere animal, that "man