

that the communion was instituted by Jesus of Nazareth the night before his death.

Let us now approach and read the inscription on this venerable altar ;— in other words, let us notice the language in which the Saviour established this ordinance. "Take, eat; this is my body, which is broken for you : this do in remembrance of me." "This cup is the new testament [or covenant] in my blood : this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me." 1 Cor. xi. 24, 25. These words, in substance, are inseparable from the ordinance. It would be nothing without them. We know, therefore, that these words were uttered by Jesus before he was put to death. What does this prove ?

It proves that Jesus, while banqueting with his disciples, foretold his own violent death, and with so much certainty of the fulfilment of his prophecy, that he instituted an ordinance in memory of the event.

It proves that his prophecy was fulfilled, and that he was violently put to death. Otherwise, the observance of the rite among his followers would have been but mockery.

It proves that his death was voluntary ; for it shows that he knew his danger, and that, instead of taking measures to escape or to resist, he remained where it was certain to come upon him, foretold the result, and even rendered it necessary to his own cause ; for he would have been proved a false prophet, if his enemies had not succeeded in their design against his life.

It proves that he acted from benevolent motives, and those of the most elevated kind ; for no others could be found to induce a man voluntarily to submit to a tormenting, and, as it was then regarded, a shameful death.