

It seems apparent from the whole story,—and the fact will presently receive incontrovertible proof,—that John's question, and the answer of our Lord, were neither of them spoken aloud, but that all that passed was in an under tone between the two. With regard to the *sop*, that was simply a portion of food. It was the part of him who presided at table to distribute portions of food to the different guests. The circumstance, therefore, of a *sop* being given to Judas was nothing singular, nor was it calculated in the least degree to excite suspicion with regard to him.

VER. 27.—“And after the *sop* Satan entered into him.”

Scripture informs us that Satan has, in some manner, access to our hearts, and is constantly endeavouring to seduce us into sin. Our wills, however, as rational agents, are left free. It remains with us to comply with his solicitations, or to reject them. Now, there are few things, if any, which lead a man to surrender himself so entirely to evil influences as the consciousness of detected guilt. In the mind of one who is meditating some scheme of nefarious wickedness, there will oftentimes long remain a reluctance to strike the blow which will perfect his intended crime,—a hesitancy to take the step, after which there can be no retreat. But, amidst such indecision, let him be aware that his villany has been detected, and the consciousness of this will drive him to the last extremities. So it was with Judas. Guilt is quick-eyed; and I suppose that while the rest of the company were looking in perplexity on one another, Judas would observe Peter beckoning to John. At all events, on the watch, as he would be, to find indications of the extent to which his designs were ascertained, he would be certain to observe John whispering in the Saviour's ear,—and then the Saviour whispering something in reply,—and then the dipping of the *sop*, and the handing of it to him,—succeeded by the serious regard of Jesus, and by the shuddering gaze of the other,—and