

CHAPTER II

CHRIST'S FIRST RECORDED WORDS

THese were the first drops to fall into the flask of history from the fountain of Christ's speech. We taste in them all the distinctive flavours of that Water of Life which afterwards flowed so freely from that exhaustless spring. The qualities of spontaneity, originality and authority, which characterise the later utterances of the Great Teacher are all present in this first crystal jet of speech which fell from His fresh, young lips. Yet with all these qualities in them, the words do not impress us as being precocious words. There is nothing weird about them. They do not sound like the sententiously ambitious sayings of a child-prodigy. They do not make us think of Jesus as of one grown old before His time—one too early withdrawn from the natural interests and simple joys of happy boyhood. Even