

43. Dilexerunt enim gloriam hominum magis quam gloriam Dei.

43. For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.



*The Voice from Heaven.*

J. J. T.

*In my picture Jesus is seen standing on the Chel, which was, as is well known, a terrace approached by twelve steps surrounding the sacred buildings in the enceinte of the Temple. It was from 4 1/2 to 5 1/2 yards wide and the Gentiles were forbidden to set foot on it under pain of death, as announced in inscriptions on the stones already referred to, set up at regular intervals and rising above the ornate balustrade protecting it. Those on this terrace could look down into the Court of the Gentiles, the largest of the various Temple Courts, and all the people there assembled were witnesses of the extraordinary miracle related in the Gospel. Judging from the comment made by the author of the sacred text, to the effect that some that stood by and heard it said that it thundered, we are, we think, justified in supposing that the sky was overcast as if threatening a storm. We see, however, from the words of Jesus Himself, as quoted in the text, that He asserted the supernatural character of the incident, claiming the voice as a witness to His doctrine. "This voice", He said, "came not because of me but for your sakes", and further, on the Evangelist adds that on account of the many manifestations of the Divine power which took place during the last few days of the Master's life on earth among the chief rulers, etc., many believed on him, but, because of the Pharisees, they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the Synagogue.*