

40 CHRIST AT THE JORDAN

as a zealot with a little programme of reforms to effect; it was as the Friend of Sinners, the Champion of Humanity, the Redeemer of the Race that He went forth from Nazareth. Humble as His human origin had been, there was in Him no "dread and fear of kings," no inherited prejudice or acquired antipathy against men of wealth and rank. These all had place, along with the common people from whom He sprang, in His inclusive sympathy. Sinless as He was, and exquisitely sensitive to impurity, He did not fear to come into contact with vice and crime. He could handle pitch and not be defiled. He could minister to any sort of moral disease without risk of infection. Thus He was able to include all men within the compass of His ministrant love.

3.

The Baptism served for a Public Consecration to His Sacrificial Mission.

The waters of the Jordan represented for Him the stream of Death, into whose deep, dark tide He was soon to enter that all its waves and its billows might pass over Him. When He rose from the Jordan, uplifted into the sweet air and