

place was usually (at any rate it was on the present occasion) filled by John; and, reclining on the same couch with Jesus, next our Lord, his head was brought into close proximity with the bosom of the Saviour. This is what is meant by the expression, *leaning on Jesus' bosom*.

VER. 24.—“Simon Peter therefore beckoned to him, that he should ask who it should be of whom he spake.”

This must be understood to have taken place *aside*. It was what may be termed a piece of by-play. Peter,—unable to endure suspense,—wishing, with the impatience natural to his character, to know the whole at once, beckoned to the beloved disciple to ask Jesus *softly*, as his position enabled him to do, who was the person to whom he referred. The sign made by Peter was not such as to attract the notice of the whole company, but was private, meant for the eye of John alone. What followed?

VER. 25.—“He then, lying on Jesus' breast, saith unto him, Lord, who is it?”

I have two things here to remark. The one is, that John's question was not put aloud, but in a suppressed tone. The other is, that the word *lying* is not the same with the word *leaning* in the twenty-third *ve*. It is different in the original Scriptures as well as in our version; and the thing intended is different. It describes the motion of John's body, as he inclined himself towards our Lord for the purpose of whispering the inquiry in his ear. The matter took place thus:—On being beckoned to by Peter, John, who occupied a position at table such that his head was in close proximity to the bosom of the Saviour, inclined himself nearer to our Lord; and familiarly (yet, we doubt not, with reverential familiarity) asked, in a low, soft voice, inaudible to any besides, “Lord, who is it?”

VER. 26.—“Jesus answered” (of course in a whisper likewise), “He it is to whom I shall give a sop, when I have dipped it. And when he had dipped the sop, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon.”