

understand that, instead of water from *that* well, He would give her the water of Baptism, and Baptism would be in her a well of water springing up into everlasting life. Now, no one seriously believes such to be the true interpretation of the passage, as it is abundantly evident that our Lord designed to impress upon her mind a deep, life-giving truth, but which she, on her part, utterly failed to comprehend. By water, our Lord means here eternal life, and every other spiritual blessing which comes to us through Him. The "gift of God," says the Apostle Paul, "is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord," (Rom. vi. 23.) and therefore this living water is not *material* water, but eternal life, and every other holy gift, in Jesus Christ our Saviour. If now we turn to the seventh chapter of St. John, we find our Lord again speaking of water—"living water." Here, however, we have positive inspiration to tell us what He meant: "But this spake He of the Spirit, which they that believe on Him should receive." Thus water here means the Holy Ghost; but it had not this signification in the third chapter, for our Lord would not