

noble bearing not alone before the crowd in Solomon's porch, but also in presence of the Sanhedrim in the high priest's palace, proclaimed that a marvellous transformation had taken place upon him (and probably also upon his colleagues in the Apostleship) since the days when Christ sojourned with them in the flesh. More especially did this extraordinary revolution show itself in the clear spiritual insight to which Peter had attained with reference to Christ's person and work and the significance of His death and resurrection, as also in the unfaltering confidence and fearless courage with which he confronted the enemies of his Lord and the opponents of his gospel. It is impossible in contemplating Peter at this stage of his career not to recall the earlier appearances in which his seemingly clear discernment of Christ's personality and mission, running far in advance of his companions, was nevertheless intermingled with much of sensuous and worldly expectation, which once at least drew down upon him the rebuke of Christ,⁹ which often caused him, along with his co-disciples to misunderstand Christ's words,² and which up to the last moment prevented them from seeing in Old Testament Scripture any pre-intimation of Christ's resurrection.³ Nor can one help contrasting Peter's present attitude with that he so shortly before exhibited in the garden on the occasion of Christ's arrest, and in the court of the high priest's palace while a spectator of Christ's trial. But now the last speck of mental obscurity has vanished from the disc of his spiritual understanding, and the last shred of weakness from the fibre of his soul. His spirit's glance is clear, and his spirit's nerve steady. Something must have happened to effect such a change upon "the man of rock," to make him in reality what his name signified. Before death Christ had promised that something would happen in the experience of the eleven, to enlarge their mental horizon³ and clarify their spiritual vision, to deliver them from the last dregs of fear, and render them as courageous as lions.⁴ After His resurrection

⁹ Matt. xvi. 23.

² John xx. 9.

¹ Mark ix. 10; John ii. 22.

³ John xvi. 13-14.

⁴ Matt. x. 16-20.