

tive of him who was commissioned by God himself: "Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business!" When he began his public ministry, and we find his forerunner doing him homage, can we perceive the smallest impropriety in Jesus accepting this testimony to his mission, although John was a prophet and more than a prophet. Nay, the exclamation of the Baptist, "Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world," is in perfect keeping, when addressed to him who had power to heal the sick and to cast out devils with a word. In the submission of Jesus to the ministry of the Baptist, we also discover the same dignity as when he receives the respect which was due to His character. When John says that he had need to be baptized of Jesus, our Lord does not deny the truth of his opinion, but says, "suffer it to be so now, for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness;" thus he submits to the ordinance, but never forgets for a moment that he was Lord of him who was to administer the sacred rite.

In all his intercourse with the people he displayed the same superiority of character. "He speaketh with authority and not as the Scribes" was the remark of the multitude themselves. He was the first being upon earth who could speak with authority in his own name, and heaven bear witness to the truth of what he said. The prophets prefaced their declarations with saying "thus saith the Lord," but the language of the Son is, "verily, verily, I say unto you." Mild and affable wherever he went, but whether with the disciples or in the presence of his bitterest enemies, there was something in the deportment of our Lord who overawed all who approached him. What must have been the dignity of that individual who, without tumult, could drive from the courts of the temple the thous-