but very characteristic of the minute  
care with which the Evangelist will account  
for every circumstance which is essential  
to his purpose in the narrative.

**the multitude]** We are not to understand *the  
whole multitude who were fed*,—but that  
portion of them which had remained on  
the coast over the night. Many had probably dispersed to the villages about, or perhaps taken up their night quarters more  
inland.

**on the other side of the sea]**i.e. on the east coast. We are supposed  
to be at Capernaum.

The **other boats** had perhaps brought some of them thither:  
or *the spot nigh unto the place where they  
ate the bread*, &c., might have been some  
landing-place of merchandise.

**25.] on  
the other side of the sea** is *now the west*bank ;—we have been crossing the sea with  
the multitude.

**when?** as Stier remarks, includes “*how*?” in its meaning.  
Our Lord leaves the question unanswered,  
because it was not for *a sign to these people*that He had miraculously crossed the lake.

**26.]** The seeking Him, on the part  
of these people,—to Him, who saw the  
hearts,—was merely a low desire to profit  
by His wonderful works,—not a reasonable  
consequence of deduction from His miracles  
that He was the Saviour of the world.  
And from this low desire of mere satisfaction of their carnal appetite, He takes occasion in the following discourse to raise  
them to spiritual desire after HIMSELF THE BREAD OF LIFE.   
The discourse forms  
a parallel with that in ch. iv. 27.

**Work not for]** The A. V., ‘*Labour not  
for*,’ does not give the sense. They had  
not laboured in this case for the *meat that  
perisheth*, but it had been furnished miraculously. A better rendering would *be*, **Busy not yourselves about,—Do not weary  
yourselves for**,—which they were doing,  
by thus coming after our Lord: but best  
of all, **Work not for**, because in the original  
the root of the word is the same in verses  
27, 29, 30.

*“The meat whose nourishing power passes away,”* De Wette. Better  
literally, **which perisheth**, as in text :—  
the *useless* part of it, in being cast out ;—  
the *useful*, in becoming part of the body  
which perishes (see 1 Cor. vi. 13).

**but for that meat]** It is important to bear  
in mind that the “*working for*” spoken  
of above, which also applies to this, was  
not a ‘*labouring for*,’ or ‘*bringing about  
of*,’ but a following Christ in order to obtain. So the meaning will be, **but seek to obtain**, by following after Me....

**which endureth unto everlasting life]** See