that actually used by the speaker. The  
words and idioms of a mother tongue contain   
allusions and national peculiarities  
which never could have been in the mind  
of one speaking in a different language ;  
but the ear tolerates these, or easily separates  
them, if critically exercised.  
  
  
**it was known....**] See Luke xxiv. 18.  
  
**The field of blood**] In Matt. xxvii. 8, the  
name ‘the field of blood’ is referred to  
the fact of its having been *bought with the  
price of blood* : here, to the fact of *Judas*  
having there *met with a signal and bloody  
death*. On the whole, I believe the result  
to which I have above inclined will be found  
the best to suit the phænomena of the two  
passages,—viz. that, with regard to the  
*purchase of the field*, the more circumstantial  
account in Matthew is to be  
adopted ; with regard to the *death of Judas*,  
the more circumstantial account of Luke.  
The *clue which joins these has been lost to  
us*: and in this, only those will find any  
stumbling-block, whose faith in the veracity  
of the Evangelists is very weak indeed.  
  
The field originally belonged to a  
potter, and was probably a piece of land  
which had been exhausted of its clay fit for  
his purposes, and so was useless. Jerome  
relates that it was still shewn on the South  
side of Mount Sion, in which neighbourhood   
there is even now a bed of white clay.  
  
  
**20.**] **For**, the connexion being, ‘all  
this happened and became known,’ &c., ‘*in  
accordance with* the prophecy.’ &c. Ps.  
lxix. is eminently a Messianic psalm,—  
spoken in the first place of David and his  
kingdom and its enemies, and so, according  
to the universal canon of Old Testament  
interpretation, of Him in whom that kingdom   
found its true fulfilment, and of His  
enemies. And Judas being the first and  
most notable of these, the Apostle applies  
eminently to him the words which in the  
Psalm are spoken in the plural of all such  
enemies. The same is true of Ps. cix., and  
there *one* adversary is even more pointedly  
marked out. See also Ps. lv.   
  
**bishoprick**]   
not *necessarily* such, in technical  
accuracy: the word may signify any  
overseership, office, or charge. But, considering   
the usage of the word and its  
cognates, in this and the following books  
of the N. T., and in the church, I regard it  
as best to keep every where the literal  
rendering, leaving each passage to explain  
itself.   
  
**21.**] **Wherefore**, since all this  
has happened to Judas, and since it is the  
divine will that another should take the  
charge which was his.   
  
**all the time**]  
This definition of the necessary   
qualification   
of an apostle exactly agrees with our  
Lord’s saying in John xv. 27: “ *And ye  
also are witnesses, because ye have been  
with me from the beginning*.” See Introduction,   
ch. i., § 3, paragraph 5.   
  
**22.**]  
**the baptism of John** is mentioned as a  
well-known date, including of course the  
opening event of our Lord’s ministry, *His  
own* baptism by John. That John continued   
to baptize for some time after that,  
can be no possible objection to the assignment   
of ‘ John’s baptism’ generally, as the  
date of the commencement of the apostolic  
testimony. We may notice, that from this  
point, *the baptism of John*, the testimony  
of the Evangelists themselves in their  
Gospels properly begins, Matt. iii. 1, Mark  
i. 1, Luke iii, 1, John i. 6.   
  
**a witness  
.... of his resurrection**] This one event  
was the passage-point between the Lord's  
life of humiliation and His life of glory,—  
the completion of His work below and beginning   
of His work above. And to ‘ give  
witness with power’ of the Resurrection  
(ch. iv. 33), would be to discourse of it *as  
being all this*: in order to which, the whole  
ministry of Jesus must be within the cycle  
of the Apostle’s experience.—It is remarkable   
that Peter here lays down *experience  
of matters of fact*, not eminence in any  
subjective grace or quality, as the