29—833. ST. MATTHEW. 57   
   
 the [@ herd of] swine: and, behold, the whole herd of swine   
 ran violently down a steep place into the sea, and perished   
 in the waters. 88 And they that kept them fled, and went   
 their ways into the city, and told every thing, and what   
 4 omitted by owr earliest MSS.   
   
   
 robably supposed, that some of these visible; a view which at every step in-   
 Feemonines faa have arrived at their volves difficulties more serious than   
 dreadful state h various progressive those from which it attempts to escape.   
 of guilt sensual abandonment. But (II.) a difficulty here found in   
 ‘Lavish sin, and especially in the latter of the narrative, which   
 which is the superinducing, as it would the devils enter the swine, and their   
 often, a weakness have nervous system, destruction (1) Of the reason of   
 happy ones to the fearful incursions this permission, surely are not com-   
 the powers of darkness.’ (Trench on the petent judges. Of this however we are   
 Miracles, p.160.) (5) frequently urged sure, that this granting of request   
 objection, How comes it that this malady of the evil spirits in any way the   
 is not now among us? admits of an eas cure of the man, caused them to resign   
 answer, even if the be granted. their hold on him more easily, mitigated   
 The period of our Lord’s being on earth the paroxyem of their going forth (see   
 was certainly than any other in the Mark ix. 26), would have been motive   
 history of the world under the dominion enough. Or still more probably, it may   
 of evil. The foundations of man’s moral have been necessary, for the permanent   
 -being were broken up, and the ‘hour and healing of the man, that he should have   
 power of darkness’ prevailing. Trench an outward evidence and testimony that   
 excellently remarks, ‘It was exactly the the hellish powers which held him in   
 crisis for soul-maladies as theee, in bondage had quitted (Trench, p.   
 which the spiritual bodily should be (2) The destruction the swine is for   
 thus strangely interlinked, it is no- & moment to be thought of in matter,   
 thing wonderful that they should have as if that were an act repugnant to the   
 abounded at that time; for the predo- merciful character our Lord’s miracles.   
 minance of certain spiritual maladies It finds its in the cursing of the   
 certain epochs of world’s history fig-tree (ch. 18—22); and we may   
 were specially for their generation, well think that, if has appointed so   
 with their gradual decline and disappear- many animals daily to be slaughtered   
 ance in others less congenial them, is the sustenance of men’s bodies, He may   
 a fact iteelf no manner of ques- also be to destroy animal life   
 tion’ (pp. 162, 168). Besides, as the He sees fit the liberation instruction   
 same writer goes on to observe, can of their Besides, if the   
 be no doubt that the coming of the Son far greater of the possession men by   
 of God in the flesh, and the continual evil spirits, all the misery thereupon   
 testimony of Jeeus borne by Church in attendant, was permitted in God’s in-   
 her preaching and ordinances, broken ecrutable purposes, much more this   
 and kept down, in some measure, the lesser Whether there may have been   
 + manifestations of the er of special reasons in case, such as the   
 mn. (See Luke x. 18.) But (6) the contempt of the Mosaic by the keepers   
 assumption contained in the objection of the swine, have no means of judg-   
 above must not be thus unreservedly ing: but it is at least (3) The   
 granted. We cannot tell in how many fact itself raises a question in   
 cases of insanity malady may not even minds, which, though we cannot wholly   
 now be traced to direct damoniacal pos- answer, we may yet approximate to the   
 session. And, finally, the above view, solution of. low can we imagine the   
 which I am persuaded is the only one bestial nature of the reception of   
 honestly consistent any kind of belief dwmoniac influence? If what has been   
 in the truth of the Gospel narratives, cited above be true, and the unchecked   
 offend none but those who deny the exist- indulgence of sensual afforded an   
 ence of the world of altogether, and inlet for the powers evil to the   
 who are continually to narrow the human demoniac, then we have their in-   
 limits of our belief in that which is in- fluence to that part man’s nature