389—50. ST. MATTHEW. 108   
   
 45 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant   
 man seeking goodly pearls: “ who, when he had found   
   
 \*one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had,   
 and bought it.   
 47 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net,   
 that was cast into the sea, and » gathered of every kind : bb x10.   
 48 which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat   
 down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad   
 away. % So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels   
 shall come forth, and ‘sever ‘the wicked from among the ecb. zx.2.   
 just, © and shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there   
   
   
   
   
 field his own. 45, 46.) SrxtH Pa- form. Trench instances Nathanael and   
 RABLE. THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE. the Samaritan woman as examples of the   
 In this parable our Lord sets before us, finders without seeking :—Augustine, as   
 that although in ordinary cases of related in his Confessions might add   
 «the trath as it is Jesus,’ buying of St. Paul, see Phil. 7), of the diligent   
 the field is the necessary to be- seeker and finder. Compare with this   
 coming duly and properly of it; le Prov. ii. 8—9, and to see what   
 there are cases, those of a nobler ind of buying is sof meant, Isa. ly.   
 ‘ind, such condition is not neces- ch, xxv. 9, 10. Also see iii.   
 sary. We and spiritually a seeker of, 41—652.) Sevenra PARABLE. THE   
 one whose business it is,—om the search DRAW-NET. Peculiar to Matthew.   
 for goodly pearls; i.e. a man who intel- 47.) The net spoken of is drag, or draw-   
 lectually net, drawn over the bottom of the water,   
 truth of the highest kind. “He whom and Permitting nothing to it. The   
 this pursuit occupies is a merchantman ; leading idea of parable is the   
 je. one trained, as well as devoted, to separation of the holy and unholy in the   
 business. The search is therefore Church, with a view to the selection of   
 minate, discriminate, unremitting. This the former for the master’s We may   
 case then corresponds to such Christians notice that the fishermen are kept out   
 only as from youth have been trained up view and never mentioned: the compari-   
 in the way which they should go. In son not extending to them. A net is cast   
 these alone can be the settled habits, into the sea gathers of every (of   
 effectual self-direction, convergence to Jish: not of things, as mud, weeds, &c.,   
 one point all the and tendencies as some suppose); when this is full, it   
 of the soul, which are indicated by the is drawn to shore, and the collected   
 illustration.” (Knox’s Remains, i. 460.) into vessels, the bad ( e legally   
 But as the same writer on to observe, clean, those of season, those or   
 even here there is a discovery, i- tmoaimed) are cast This net is the   
 cular time. The has been seeking, Church gathering from the (a common   
 and finding, goodly Is; what is true, Scripture similitude nations: see Rev.   
 honest, i pure, ely, and of good xvii. 15: viii.7: Ps. 7) of the   
 report: but last he finds one pearl of all kinds (see Rev. vii. and when it   
 great price—the efficacious principle is full, is drawn to the bank (the   
 inward and spiritual We hear of no of the ocean, as exd (literally,   
 emotion, no great joy of as before ; mation] is the limit the world, [literally,   
 but the same decision conduct: he sells age]), and the angels (not same as t]   
 all and buys it. He chooses vital fishers; for in the parable of the tares   
 tianity, whatever cost, for his portion. the servants and reapers are clearly   
 But here is no . The pearl is tinguished) shall gather out the wicked   
 pare—by itself. It is found, not unex- from among the just, cast them into   
 pectedly in the course of outward ordi- everlasting punishment. It is plain   
 nances, with which therefore it would the comparison must not be strained be-   
 become to the finder inseparably bound yond its limits, our Lord shews us that   
 up,—but by diligent search, and the earthly here gives a faint outline   
 immediate, in its highest and purest of the heavenly. Compare the mere “cast