XX. 1. ST. MATTHEW. 137   
   
 dom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder,   
 which went out early in the morning to hire labourers into   
   
 by the For to the conclusion chap. xix., again and again made. They are the   
 and arose out of the question of Peter quarters of the natural day, when the   
 in ver. 27, shall we have therefore? aliquot parte the day’s wages could be   
 (1) Its salient is, the Kingdom earned, and therefore labourers be   
 of God is of grace, not of that they waiting. The last of these is for   
 who were called first, have laboured as and belongs more ex-   
 longest, have no more claim upon God ressly to the instruction the parable.   
 tham those who were called last but that 6 e hire bears an important in   
 to all, His covenant shall be the interpretation. I cannot with Stier   
 filled in its integrity. (2) Ite primary (whose comment on this le I think   
 lication is the Apostles, who had much inferior to remarks) sup-   
 saked the question. They were not to be pose it to “the promise of this   
 of such a spirit, to imagine, with the attached to godliness. His anxiety to   
 murmurers in ver. 11, that they should cape from the danger of eternal being   
 have something super-eminent (because matter of wages, has here misled him.   
 they were called first, had laboured But there is such danger in the inter-   
 longest) above those who in their own pretation of the which I believe   
 time were er , lee called (eee be the true one. The hire is the   
 1 Cor. xv.8—11). (8) secondary ap- of the uniformly ted by   
 plications are to all to whom such our Lord and His Apostles as 2 ‘reward,’   
 ‘@ comparison, first and last will Matt. v. 12: Luke vi. 85; xiv. John   
 apply :—nationally, to the who were iv. 86: 1 Cor. iii. 14: 2 John 8: Heb.   
 first called, with a definite covenant, x. 85; xi. 6 al., indeed of free   
 and the Heathens who came in after- grace: but still, forensically   
 wards, and on a covenant, though really answering to, and re; ted by, ‘   
 made (see Jer. xxxi. 38: Zech. viii. as claimed under ’s covenant man   
 Heb. viii. yet not so open and pro- in Christ. (The freeness and sovereignty   
 minent :—individually, to those call of God’s gift of grace pointedly set   
 has been in early life, who have spent fore us in ver. 14, is my will to give   
 their days in God’s active service, &c.) This hire I believe to be eternal   
 those who have been summoned later ; life, or, in other words, Gop HimsrLF   
 and to various other classes and persons (John xvii. 3). And this, rightly   
 between whom comparison, not only of stood, will keep us from the error of   
 time, but of advantages, talents, any supposing, that the parable involves de-   
 other distinguishing characteristic, be claration that who are saved will in   
 made: that none of the first these can an absolute equality. This ie, and will   
 boast themselves over the nor look be to each man, as he is prepared to re-   
 for higher place and greater reward, ceive it. To the envious and murmurers,   
 much as there is one “gift” of God it will be as fruit that to ashes   
 according to the covenant of grace. And in the mouth: by their own unchristian   
 the “first” of these are see that they spirit they will the things that   
 do not by pride and self-righteousness have wrought” (2 John 8), and their re-   
 come the “last,” or rejected, ward will be null: in other words, they   
 nationally were the Jews; for among the will, as the spiritual verity   
 many that are called, are few chosen not enter into that life which they were   
 —many who will fail the reward in the called. God’s covenant is to them   
 end. (4) In to this leading’ —they have received their denarius—but   
 idea and warning of the Parable must the from the essential of the “hire”   
 circumstances brought before us be in- are disqualified enjoying its for   
 terpreted. The day and its hours are as Gregory the Great remarks, kin;   
 any fixed time, as the duration the dom of heaven none who murmurs, in-   
 world, or our Lord’s life earth, or the herits: none who inherits, murmur.”   
 life of man, exclusively: the natural To those who have known and loved God,   
 period of earthly work as applied to the it will to each, as has advanced in   
 various meanings of which the parable is the spiritual joy unspeakable and fall   
 capable. The various times of hiring are of glory. 1, early in the morning)   
 not to be pressed as each having an ex- See Jer. xxxv. and other places.