ST. MATTHEW.   
 IIl.   
   
 his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff   
 with unquenchable fire.   
 pob. tL 13 Then cometh Jesus ? from Galilee to Jordan unto John,   
 to be baptized of him. 14 But John forbad him, saying, I   
 ” have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?   
 15 And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so   
 now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness.   
   
   
   
 nace: but Israel alone be preserved.” here the triple of water, fire,   
 his floor] the contents the barn- lood, two parts of which were now ac-   
 floor. Thus in Job xxxix. 12, “he will complished, and of the third which He   
 bring home thy seed, and gather thy himself speaks, Luke xii. and the be-   
 barn” (literally). perhaps owing to loved Apostle, John v. 8.—His baptism,   
 es Mes (shall te end tothe as it was our Lord’s closing act of obe-   
 other), the floor which was an dience under the Law, in His hitherto   
 hard-trodden space ¥ the middle of the solemn $1 life of legal anointing His   
 field. See “The Land and the Book,” p. higher official of mediatorial was His   
 638 ff where there is an illustration. tion which was now opening upon Him.   
 “Very little is now made of the fan, See Rom. i. 3, 4. We must not forget   
 but I have seen it employed to purge the that the working out of righteous-   
 floor of the refuse which the owner ness in our by the entire and spotless   
 throws away as useless,” p. 640. keeping of God’s law (Deut. vi. 25),   
 chaff] Not only the chaff, but also the in the main, accomplished during the   
 straw: see reff. ‘all is not wheat.’ thirty years to our Lord’s   
 18—17.] Jzsus HIMSELF BAPTIZED BY miniatry. 14. forbad) Rather, tried   
 wim. Mark i. 9—11: Luke iii. 22. to hinder: the word implies the active   
 It does not appear exactly when the bap- and earnest preventing, the gesture,   
 tiem of our Lord took place. If the or hand, or voice. There is only an ap-   
 parative age of the Baptist is into parent inconsistency between the   
 account, we should suppose it have been of John in this sense, and the assertion   
 about six months after this latter made by him in John i, 88, ‘I him   
 - hie But this is no sure guide. not.’ t us regard the matter in this   
 The place was Bethany (the older read- light :—John begins his ministry by a   
 ing), beyond Jordan; John. i. 28. commission from God, who also admo-   
 18. to be baptized] Why should our Lord, nishes him, that whose Forerunner he   
 who was without sin, have come to a was, would be in time revealed him by   
 baptism of repentance? Because He was a special sign. Jesus comes to be bap-   
 made sin for us: for which reason also tized by him. From the nature of his   
 He suffered the curse the law. It be- relationship our Lord, he could not   
 came Him, being in the likeness sin know those events which had accompanied   
 flesh, go through those appointed rites his birth, his subsequent life of   
 and purifications which belonged to that and unblamable purity and sanctity. My   
 flesh. There is no more strangeness in impression from the words of this verse   
 His having been baptized by John, than certainly that he regarded Him as the   
 in His keeping the Passovers. The one Messiah. Still, belief that   
 rite, as the other, to sinners— fall entire assurance which the occuar-   
 and among the transgressors He was rence of the predicted sign gave him,   
 numbered. The prophetic words in xl. which the word knew implies, and which   
 12, spoken in the of our Lord, indi- would justify in announcing Him to   
 cate, in midst of sinlessness, most his disciples the Lamb of God.   
 profound apprehension of the sins that 15. now] The exact meaning is difficult.   
 nature which He took upon him. I cannot It cannot well be which the A, V. at   
 suppose the baptism to have been sought first gives, that something was to   
 by our Lord merely ¢o honour John, or as dane sow, inconsistent the actual and   
 knowing that it would be occasion of a hereafter-to-be-manifested of the   
 divine recognition his Measiahsbip, two persons, Rather—‘ though what has   
 thus pre-ordained by God: but bond fide, heen said (ver, ig true, the time is   
 as bearing the infirmities carrying the