18—17. ST. MATTHEW. 17   
 Then he suffered him. 16 And Jesus, when he was bap-   
   
   
 tized, went up opened unto out of the he saw ‘the Spirit the | ti.1,   
 W.17t   
 God descending like a dove P[, and] lighting upon him : °?§,'47.4=   
 17 and lo a \* voice from heaven, saying, \* This is my ‘beloved | & 18, 8.   
   
 Son, in whom I am well pleased.   
 P omitted by some of our earliest MSS.   
   
 mot come for that :—as yet, now, are we belong to the vain rationalistic to   
 is another relation (viz. Lord as the reduce down that which is The   
 of the law, John as a minister express assertion St. Luke, and the fact   
 it), t suffer it” “This ‘now’ is that all four Evangelists have used the   
 ken the Lord’s foreknow! same expression, which they would not   
 this relation subjection to John have doneif it were a medium of com-   
 verted.” Meyer. Stier remarks that now parison, are a sufficient of   
 their fulfilled situations would be in- this rationalizing I may add, blun-   
 of Ps. xi. 8. us) not for me, but dering) interpretat (8) Two   
 for me and thee. I cannot help thinking stances ma: noticed respecting the   
 that this word glances at the relationship ner of Jeccent of the Spirit it as   
 and previous owledged destinations of @ dove :—the Spirit as in our   
 the speakers. It has however a wider Lord was of the Saviour for This was not   
 sense, as spoken by Him who is now first a ‘abode and temporary descent of the   
 coming forth officially the of Man, Spirit, but a permanent though special   
 extending over all those whose baptism torial work (in the active official   
 plants them in his likeness, vi. begins. Immediately, the Spirit carries   
 Tighteousness} requirements of the law. Him away to the wilderness: the day of   
 See ch. vi. 1, where the sense is His return thence (possibly but see   
 as here. 16. baptised] On this ac- on John i. 29) John points out as the   
 count I would make the following Lamb of God: then follows the calling   
 (1) The appearance and voice to have Andrew, Peter, Philip, Nathanael, and   
 been manifested to our Lord and the the third day after the firet at   
 tist only. They may have been alone the the marriage in Cana. But we must not   
 time: or, not, we an insta: hes imagine any change in nature or person   
 EN i ears ing confined of our Lord to have place at his   
 to one person, while others present tiem. The anointing and crowning are but   
 unconscious of it. can hardly however, signs of the assumption of the   
 with some of the Fathers, say, that it which the king has by a right   
 was “a spiritual beholding,” — or that of, and higher these. (4) The whole   
 “the appearance was a vision, reality.” narrative is remarkable parallelism with   
 (2) The Holy Spirit not only in that of the ition. we have   
 the manner of a dove, but in bodily our Lord mupernaturally glorified the   
 (i Luke): which I cannot understand in presen two great prophetic   
 any but the literal as THE BODILY loses Elias, who speak His decease,   
 SHAPE OF A DOVE, seen by the Baptist. —on the journey to which He forthwith   
 There can be no objection to this, sets out (ch. 22, compared with xix.   
 straightforward interpretation the nar- 1); and accompanied by the same testi-   
 rative, which does not equally apply to mony of the voice from heaven, uttering   
 the Holy Spirit being visible all, which the same words, with the water, lo, the   
 John himself asserts Him to have been with the trath then symbolized. (5) In   
 (John i. 32—34), even more oxpresaly connexion with apocryphal additions, the   
 than is asserted here. Why the tor following are without interest: When   
 Spirit may not have assumed an organized Jesus had gone down to the water, flame   
 body bearing symbolical meaning, as well was lit up in the Jordan: and when He   
 as any other material form, not seem   
 clear. This was the ancient, and is the   
 only honest in tion. All the mo-   
 dern explanations of “like a dove,” as   
 importing fo) manner of coming down,   
 oL. I.