ST. JOHN. VI.   
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 a great company \*come unto him, he saith unto Philip,   
 Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat? 6 And   
 this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he   
 | bwould do. 7 Philip answered him, Two hundred penny-   
 worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one   
 of them may take a little. 8 One of his disciples, Andrew,   
 Simon Peter’s brother, saith unto him, 9 There is a lad   
 here, which hath five barley loaves, and two [° smad/]   
 fishes: \*but what are they among so many? 10 And   
 Jesus said, Make the 4men sit down. Now there was   
   
 2 Kings iv.   
 43.   
 » render, was about to do.   
 @ render, coming. 4 render, people. See note,   
 © omit.   
   
 sage: “From which general variety in the quoted, shewing equal unreadiness to be-   
 verbal narrative amidst agreement in the lieve and understand. I would take the   
 facts and sense, it is evident enough that circumstance as simple matter of fact, im-   
 we are wholesomely instructed that nothing plying perhaps that Philip was nearest to   
 js to be looked for in the words of Scrip- our Lord at the moment. We must not   
 ture but the gencral purport of those who fall into the mistake of supposing that   
 spoke: to display which purpose should be Philip being of Bethsaida the city of An-   
 the watchful eare of all truthful drew and Peter (ch. i. throws any light   
 whether relating concerning man, or angel, on the question: for the Bethsaida near   
 or God Himself.” I repeat the remark so which our Lord now was, Luke ix. 10, was   
 often made in this Commentary,—that if another place: see notes there.   
 we were in possession of the facts as they Whence—‘ from what store ?’ Hence Phi-   
 happened, there is no doubt that the va- lip’s answer. 6.] he knew:—by this   
 rious forms of the literal would St. John must be understood not only to   
 fall into their places, the truthfulness rescue our Lord from the imputation of   
 of each historian wonld be apparent :—but asking counsel of Philip, but to refer the   
 as we cannot at present reconcile them in miraculous act, on His part, to His purpose   
 this way, the humble and believing Chris- of exhibiting Himself as the Son of Man   
 tian will not be tempted to handle the word the Life of the World in the flesh.   
 of God deceitfully, but. to admire the gra- 7.) See notes on Mark. 8.] Meyer   
 cious condescension which has given us the remarks, that the words one of His dis-   
 evidence of so many independent witnesses, ciples may seem strange, seeing that   
 whose very difference in detail makes their Philip also was this: but that it has its   
 accordance in the great central truths so value in the narrative, seeing that, Philip,   
 much the more weighty. On every point of having been asked in vain, one from among   
 importance here, the sacred historians the circle of the disciples answers, and is   
 are entirely and absolutely agreed. That afterwards specified as having been An-   
 every minor detail related hy them had its drew. In the three other Gospels,   
 ground in historical fact, fully believe the loaves and fishes appear as the dis-   
 it is the tracking it this ground in each ciples’ own ;—and we have thus a very   
 case, which 1s now beyond our power; and simple but very instructive instance of   
 here comes in the simplicity and reliance the way in which differences in detail   
 of faith: and the justification those who arose. They were their own,—but not   
 believe and receive each Gospel as they till they had bought them. 9.] barley   
 find it written. unto Philip] Why to loaves—this was the usual barley bread   
 Philip, does uot appear; perhaps some which formed the food of the lower orders.   
 reason lay in the words “this He said to 10.) much grass, in accordance with   
 prove him,” which is now lost to us. From the time of year, the latter end of spring,   
 his words in ch. xiv. 8, we cannot infer, as after the rainy season. the men}   
 has been done by Cyril of Alexandria and Before, when our Lord commanded, as in   
 others, that he was weaker in faith, or A. V., “make the men sit down,’ it was   
 tardier in spiritual apprehension, than the the gencral word, signifying both men and   
 rest. Of all the Apostles who appear in women indiscriminately. And I have there-   
 the sacred narrative, something might be fore substituted in the margin, people.