614 ST. JOHN. XVIII.   
   
 am he, they went backward, and fell to the ground.   
 7Then asked he them again, Whom seek ye? And they   
   
 said, Jesus of Nazareth. 8 Jesus answered, I have told   
 you that I am he: if therefore ye seek me, let these go   
 their way: %that the saying might be fulfilled, which he   
 ecn.xvittt, spake, Of them which thou gavest me [have] I lost   
   
 10 Then Simon Peter having a sword drew it, and   
 none.   
 smote the high priest’s servant, and cut off his right ear.   
 The servant’s name was Malchus. 11 Then said Jesus   
 amatt.xx.22, unto Peter, Put up thy sword into the sheath: ¢ the cup   
 which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?   
   
   
 D omit.   
   
 but whether it were an act specially in- have been laying hands on the Apostles.   
 tended by our Lord, or a result of the This saying was snfficient to shew Peter   
 superhuman dignity of His person, and the and the rest what was the appointed   
 majestic calmness of His reply. I believe course for them ;—the command to let   
 the latter alternative to be the right one. them go addressed to the band, is a com-   
 Commentators cite instances of the mand for them to go, when interpreted   
 confusion of the enemies of innocent men by the Apostles. 9.] See ch. xvii.   
 before the calinness and dignity of their 12. An unquestionable proof, if any were   
 victims: how much more was this likely to wanted, that the words of ch. xvii. are   
 be the case when He in whom was no sin, no mere description of the mind of our   
 and who spake as never man spake, came Lord at the time, nor free arrangement of   
 forth to meet His implacable foes as the His words, but His very words themselves.   
 self-sacrificing Lamb of God. So that I On the application of the saying,   
 regard it rather as a miracle consequent we may remark that the words unques-   
 upon that which Christ said and did, and tionably had a much deeper meaning than   
 the state of mind in which His enemies any belonging to this occasion ; but that   
 were,—than as one, in the strict sense, the remarks so often made in this commen-   
 wrought by Him: bearing however always tary on the fulfilment of prophecies must   
 in mind, that to Him nothing was unexr- be borne in mind;—that to “fulfil” a   
 pected, or a mere result, but every thing prophecy is not to ewhaust its capability of   
 foreknown. With this view what follows being again and again fulfilled :—that the   
 is also consistent, rather than with the words of the Lord have many stages of   
 other. The distinction is an impor- unfolding ;—and that the temporal deliver-   
 tant one, as the view which we take of ance of the Apostles now, doubtless was   
 our Lord’s mind towards His captors must but a part in the great spiritual safe-keep-   
 enter, as an element, into our understand- ing which the Lord asserted by anticipation   
 ing of the whole of this scene, and indeed in these words. 10.] At this time   
 of the solemn occurrences which follow. took place the kiss of Jndas, in accordance   
 Snch incidents as this are not related by with the agreement entered into, und to   
 the Evangelists, and least of all St. John, assure the captors that the person thus   
 as mere astounding facts, but as grounds offering himself was indeed Jesus of Naza-   
 on which we are to enquire, and determine reth, and no substitute for him: see note   
 for ourselves, as to “glory, full of on Matt. ver. 49. The other view, that   
 and truth,” which was in Him, whom, not the kiss took place first, the incidents   
 having seen, we love. 8.] Bengel of our verses 4—9, is to me me quite in-   
 strikingly says of this reply of our Lord, conceivable, On Peter’s act, see Matt.   
 “He will say it once again hereafter.” ver. 51. The names of Peter and Malchus   
 And Augustine, “ What will He do when are only found here :—the fact that it was   
 He cometh to judge, who did this when the right ear, only here and in Luke.   
 He was to be judged? What will be The (external) ear, though severed, was ap-   
 His power when about to reign, who parently still hanging on the cheek ;—for   
 could do this when about to die?” our Lord is said in Luke xxii. 51, to have   
 Jet these go their way] The band of touched his ear in performing the healing.   
 soldiers, in their ignorance, appear to 11.] the sheath here is “his (its