V. 1—5. THE ACTS. . 677   
   
 Cyprus, 31 \*having land, sold it, and brought the money, ser.s4.35.   
 and laid it at the apostles’ feet.   
   
 V. 1 But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira   
 his wife, sold a possession, \*and kept back part of the   
 price, his wife also being privy to it, \*and brought a certain acn.iv.:7.   
   
 part, and laid it at the apostles’ feet. 5> But Peter said, » Sum-xxx.2.   
 Ananias, why hath ° Satan filled thine heart to lie to the 21. Becles.   
 Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? ¢ Luke axii.3,   
   
 4 Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it   
 was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou   
 conceived this thing in thine heart ? thou hast not lied unto   
   
 men, but unto God. 5 And Ananias hearing “these words 4.101.   
 fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on   
   
 xxv. 82 ff.; Num. xxxv. 1—8; Dent. xii. ix. 37; John xii. 44. But here it seems to   
 12; xviii. 8, of the country of be so, and to imply, ‘Thine attempt to   
 Cyprus] For the state of © at this deceive was not to deceive us, men; but to   
 time, see notes on ch. xi. 19; 4—7, deceive the Holy Ghost,—God, abiding in   
 Cnapv. V. 1—li.] THE HISTORY OF His church, and in us its appointed super-   
 ANANIAS AND Sappurra. ‘This incident, intendents.’ This verse is of weighty doc-   
 though naturally connected with the end trinal import, as proving the Deity of the   
 of the last chapter, forms an important Holy Spirit; unless it be held, that the   
 independent narrative. 1.) Ananias Holy Spirit whom (ver. 3) Ananias at-   
 signifies in The cloud of God, or tempted to deceive, and God to whom he   
 The mercy of God. Sapphira is pro- lied, are different. Bengel says, “ This is   
 bably a Greek name for the precious stone the meaning: Ananias lied to God and His   
 sapphire.—The crime of these two is well Spirit, not to men and Peter. Dare if thou   
 deseribed by Meyer: ‘By the sale of their canst, O Socinian, to say, he licd not to   
 field, the bringing in of the money, the Holy Ghost and to Peter, but to God.”   
 they in fact professed to give the whole 5.] The deaths of Ananias and Sap-   
 price as a gitt of brotherly love to the phira were beyond question supernaturally   
 common stock: but their aim was to get tuflicted by Peter, speaking in the power   
 for themselves the credit of holy love and of the Holy Spirit. This is the only honest   
 zeal by one portion of the price, whereas interpretation of the incident. Many,   
 they had seliishly kept back the other por- however, and among them even Neander,   
 tion for themselves. They wished to serve attempt to account for them on natural   
 two masters, but to appear to serve only grounds,—from their horror at detection,   
 One? 3.] The question implies the and at the solemn words of Peter. But,   
 power of resistance to Satan, and is equiva- in addition to all other objections against   
 lent to, Why hast thou allowed Satan to this (see on ver. 9.),—it would make man   
 fill, &e.? 4.] Whiles it remained, did and wife of the same temperament, which   
 it not remain (so literally) own ? i.e. would be very unlikely. We surely need   
 was it not in thine absolute power? and not require any justification for this ju-   
 when sold, was it not (i. the price of it) dicial sentence of the Apostle, filling he   
 in thine own power, to do with it what did at this time the highest place in the   
 seemed good to thee ? why hast thou church, and acting under the immediate   
 conceived this thing in thine heart? lite- prompting of the Holy Spirit. If such,   
 rally, put this thing in thine heart, Dan. however, be sought, we may remember that   
 i. 8; Mal. ii. 2. Satan suggested the lic, this was the first attempt made by Satan   
 which Ananias ought to have repelled ; to obtain by hypoerisy, a footing among   
 instead of that, he put it in his heart,— Christ’s flock: and that however, for wise   
 placed it there where the springs of action reasons, this may since then have been   
 are, and it passed out into an act. permitted, it was absolutely necessary in   
 thou hast not lied unto men, but unto the infancy of the church, that such   
 God] This mode of expression, not... . attempt should be at once, and with se-   
 but... . is not always an absolute and verity, defeated. Bengel remarks: “ That   
 exclusive negation and assertion, see Mark severity of punishment wage was inflicted