SPIRITUAL STUDIES IN ST. JOHN'S GOSPEL. VOLUME III. CHAPTERS LIII-LXXXI

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Spiritual Studies in St. John's Gospel. Volume III. Chapters LIII-LXXXI by Arthur Ritchie

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ARTHUR RITCHIE

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SPIRITUAL STUDIES IN ST. JOHN'S GOSPEL

VOLUME III.

LIII.

"Then Jesus said unto them, My time is not yet come: but your time is alway ready. The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil. Go ye up unto this feast: I go not up yet unto this feast; for my time is not yet full come."—St. John vii. 6-8.

Exposition.—Isaac Williams says: "The time for Christ's manifestation, which must be that of His rejection and cross, had not yet arrived; but when it had, He set His face openly to go up to Jerusalem: but those who wish for the things of the world, the world will always receive; so long as thou doest well unto thyself, men will speak good of thee. This is the difference between men and God: God doeth things in His own good time; when the fulness of time was come He sent forth His Son; but man's time is the present; and this is the source

of all evil; because man, in his impatience, waits not for the times of God. Thus St. Cyril: 'Such things as are subservient to the great dispensation as these of Christ, cannot be done at all times; but they who neglect them and seek inferior things, can at any time undertake them.' This writer takes it as the time for His manifestation; St. Chrysostom, as the time of His cross. 'But though you,' he says, 'are always with the Jews, they will not hurt you.' St. Augustine: 'My time is the time of my glory, when I come to judge; your time, the glory of the world, is alway ready. We who are the Lord's body, may say to the lovers of the world, when they insult over us, Your time is alway ready; our time is not yet come. For our life is hid with Christ in God. Christ, Who is our life, shall appear, then shall we appear with Him in glory. The world cannot hate you. For these are principles of the world, and the world will love its own. But me it hateth, for I bear witness concerning it, that its deeds are evil. This is the secret of the world's hatred, the words, the deeds, the presence, the very thoughts of the good are a witness that it will not endure, as Cain could not endure Abel.'"

Stier comments thus: "His answer is just as gentle as we might have expected it would be