**THE EXPOSITION OF HOLY SCRIPTURE BY ALEXANDER MACLAREN**

**MARK-045**. **AN UNANSWERED QUESTION by ALEXANDER MACLAREN**

*"What was it that ye disputed among yourselves by the way?"*

*Mark 9:33*

**I.** The variations of feeling common to the disciples and to us all: one moment exceeding sorrowful,the next fighting for precedence.

**II.** Christ's divine insight into His servantsfaults. This question was put because He knew what the wrangle had been about. The disputants did not answer, but He knew without an answer, as His immediately following warnings show. How blessed to think that Psalm cxxxix. applies to Him--There is not a word in my tongue, but lo, O Lord! Thou knowest it altogether,

**III.** The compassion of Christ seeking to cure the sins He sees. His question is not to rebuke, but to heal; so His perfect knowledge is blended with perfect love.

**IV.** The test of evil. They were ashamed to tell Him the cause of their dispute.

**V.** The method of cure. The presence of Christ is the end of strife and of sin in general.