XII. 1—9. ST. LUKE. 381   
   
 a fig tree planted in his vineyard ; and he came and sought   
 fruit thereon, and found none. 7 Then said he unto the   
 dresser of the vineyard, Behold, these three years I come   
 seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down;   
 ® why cumbereth it the ground? 8 And he answering said   
 unto him, ! Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig   
   
   
 about it, and dung it: %and if it ™bear fruit, [2 well] :   
 °and if not, [P then after that] thou shalt cut it down.   
 X render, why moreover. 1] better, Sir.   
 ™ read, bear fruit hereafter. 2 not expressed in the original.   
 © read, but. ~ P omit. :   
 (for this is implied) spare it this year   
 terpreted with hardly enough reference also, until it been manured ; if that   
 to its own peculiar context,-or to the fail, the Intercessor has no more   
 bolic of Scripture in otber lea to —it is to be cut down.   
 places. Ordinarily the owner of the low who ww this Intercessor? First look   
 yard is explained to be the Eternal at the matter of fact. Who were the vine-   
 Father: the dresser and intercessor, @ressers of God’s vineyard? They were   
 Son of God : the fig-tree, whole Jewish many. Moses, the Prophets, the Baptist,   
 people: the vineyard, the world. But it the Himself, the Apostles Teach-   
 may be objected to this, the owner ers after Him. But what one Personality   
 comes to seek the fruit, can be pro- might be set forth as pervading these,   
 perly said only of Him who “came unto ‘striving with man’ in them all—as being   
 His own”—who is everr Matthew “ the the vine-dresser? Clearly it to me,   
 heir” —and by implication there, pos- the Holy Spirit God. In the   
 sessor of the vineyard “whey he shall just allus to, . vi. we can hardly   
 come’? (for that He universally it recognize the ea Lae! pad   
 Tepresents as His coming). The other present. ble ; especially the days   
 objections will come out in the direct Uf Noab ere compared by the Lord iewae   
 exposition of the Parable, I take to to His own coming to vengeance. e in-   
 eit tow nte link which binds it to the tercessory office the Spirit (“the Advo-   
 for ing is Exce; ere oe e3 and it cate,” see on Jobn xiv. 16), with   
 is addressed mbar i individuals than to man and for man, and resigning that   
 the whole nation—though of course to the blessed conflict met with inveterate   
 whole nation as made up of individuals. obduracy, is often set before in Scrip-   
 The vine: is not the which would ture. See the whole history Saul ; Zech.   
 be wholly inconsistent with sym- vii. 12—14: Prov. i. 23—82: Isa, lxiii.   
 bolism (for Matt. xiii. the comparison 10: Neh. ix. Rom. viii. 27.   
 is to “the kingdom of heaven”—the 7. three years] I have little that   
 Gospel dispensation, in which the field— an allusion is to the three 2   
 not the vineyard—is the whole world); of our Lord’s ministry. The objection   
 but, as in v.7, the house of and this, that the cutting ought then to   
 the men of Judah (see notes Matt. xxi. have taken place at the end of this year,   
 33 ff). e fig-tree in the vine- does not apply; for all left indefinjte   
 yard—among the yines—(a usual thing) the request and the implied answer. In   
 denotes an individual application, the individual application, thousands   
 each man’s tl ht upon one tree—an did bear fruit this year ; and of those   
 that one, Aimself; just the guest who did not, shall say the Spirit   
 out the wedding-garment in Matt. xxii. ceased pleading with them, and the final   
 He who had the tree planted in vine- sentence went sh P why moreover   
 yard (—‘ All things that the Father hath, cumbereth it the ground 1] i. Why, be-   
 are Mine’—John xvi. 15), came seekii sides bearing no fruit, is a verish-   
 fruit, and found it not: see Matt. 18 ing the soil—rendering the neighbouring   
 and note. (The vine-dresser, see below.) ground useless ? 8.) ie. till I dig   
 He commands it to be cut down, as les about the root, cast in manure,   
 encumbering the soil (exhausting it, as is done to o -trees in the south of   
 rendering it inactive); three years has Italy, and to hope in England. 9.   
 He been coming and seeking fruit in After frit there is a breaking off, an   
 tree, and he findeth none. Then, at the woll is to be supplied: but not without