15—18. ST. JOHN. 641   
 Te saith   
 Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I Ylove thee.   
   
 unto him, 2 eed my ® sheep. 17 He saith unto him the   
 third time, Simon [" sow] of \* Jonas, ¥ lovest thou me?   
 Peter was grieved beeause he said unto him the third   
 time, Y Lovest thon me? And he said unto him, Lord,   
 \* thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I ¥ love «eh,!t.%4,25:   
 thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my \* sheep. 18! Verily, 1ep.xii.38   
   
 ts 8, 4   
 verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou   
 girdedst thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldest; but   
   
 2 render, Keep. & see note.   
   
   
 first questions contain the former word, first converts; the shepherding or ruling   
 while Peter’s answers have the latter and the sheep, the subsequent government of   
 warmer one :—whereas, the third time the the Chureh, as shewn forth in the early   
 question and answer both have the warmer of the Acts: the feeding of the sheep (dimi-   
 word (philein). This does not look like nutive, the choicest, the loved of flock),   
 accident. Peter in his two answers uses a the furnishing the now maturer Church of   
 less exalted word, and one implying a Christ with the wholesome food of the   
 consciousness of his own weakness, but a doctrine contained in his Epistles. The   
 persuasion and deep feeling of personal notice of these distinctions, which only the   
 ‘fhen in the third question, Lord adopts cold and undiscerning will attempt to   
 the word of Peter’s answer, the closer to deny, may serve to shew the English   
 press the meaning of it home to him. reader, how entirely inadequate even the   
 The answer, thou knowest, the two first best version must be to represent the   
 times, seems to refer to Lord’s personal sense of Holy Scripture. For our lan-   
 knowledge of Peter’s heart—in His having guage is quite unable to express its minute   
 given him that name, ch. i. 43, Matt. beauties and differences. But those must   
 xvi. 17; Luke xxii. 31, and the announce- strangely miss the whole sense, who   
 ment of his denial of Him. The last time, dream of an exclusive primatial power here   
 he widens this assertion ‘Thou knowest granted or confirmed to this Apostle. A   
 me,’ into ‘Thou knowest all things,’ being sufficient refutation of this silly if it   
 grieved at the repetition of a question needed any other than the fact, that Peter   
 which brought this Omniscience so pain- was grieved at the question leading to the   
 fully to his mind. Feed my lambs] commission, is found in the “   
 This, and the following answers of the (so in the original) of 1 Pet. v. where he   
 Lord, can hardly be regarded as the re- refers apparently to this very charge; see   
 instating of Peter in his apostolic office, note on Matt. xvi. 17 ff. 17. Peter   
 for there is no record of his ever having was grieved] not merely on account of the   
 lost it: but as a further and higher setting repetition of the question, but because of   
 forth of it than that first one, Matt. iv. 18 its being asked the third time, answering   
 ff.—both as belonging to all of them on to the number of his own denials of Christ.   
 the present occasion, and as tending to thou knowest all things] See above.   
 comfort Peter’s own mind after his fall, 18.] The end of his pastoral office   
 and reassure him of his holding the same announced to him:—a proof of the know-   
 place among the Apostles as before, owing ledge of all things which he had just con-   
 to the gracious forgiveness of his Lord. fessed to be in his Lord;—a contrast to   
 Our Lord’s three injunctions differ the denial of which he had just been re-   
 in their mode of expression. ‘The first is, minded ;—a proof to be hereatter given of   
 Feed my lambs. ‘The second, Keep, tend, the here recognized genuineness of that   
 or shepherd (the same word is used in love which As in ver. 7, professing. his   
 Acts xx. 28: 1 Pet. v.2) my sheep. The When thou wast him: but This may be said   
 third, Feed my sheep, but with this dif- merely in contrast to when thou shalt be   
 ference, that the word sheep is the dimi- old. Or it perhaps includes his life up to   
 nutive, expressive of affection. Perhaps the time prophesied of. thou girdedst   
 the feeding of the lambs was the furnishing   
 the apostolic testimony of the Resurrection,   
 and facts of the Lord’s life earth, to the