19—25. ST. JOHN. 643   
   
 went this saying abroad among the brethren, that that   
 disciple & should not die: yet Jesus said not unto him,   
 h He shall not die ; but, If I will that he tarry till-I come,   
   
 what is that to thee? This is the disciple which testi-   
 fieth of these things, and wrote these things: ¥ hb. xix.   
 and P we st 3in ss   
 ‘know that his testimony is true. 234i And there are also ach.xx.s0.   
 many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they   
   
 & render, was not to die. h render, that he was not to die.   
 i vender, Moreover there are.   
   
 follow thou Me, directs his view along the complex known as the ‘cosine oF   
 that course of duty and suffering, which THR Lorp,’ ending, as it shall, with His   
 was appointed for him by his divine Master. glorious and personal Advent. This the   
 In the original, both how and Me are in beloved Apostle alone lived to see, ac-   
 emphatic positions: “ His appointed lot cording to ancient and undoubted tradi-   
 is no element in thy onward course: it is tion. 23.) the brethren is an ex-   
 Me that thow must follow.” On the pression of later date than any usually oc-   
 words, if I will that he tarry till I come eurring in the Gospels. It is however   
 ...., three opinions have been held (for frequent in the Acts: e.g. ix. 80: xi. 1,   
 that which refers the words to John’s 12: xii. 17: xv. 1, &e. The followiug   
 -remaining where he then was, on the shore, words are to me a proof that this chapter   
 till the Lord returned from His colloquy was written during St. John’s lifetime. If:   
 with Peter, is not worth more than eursory written by another person after St. John’s   
 -mention): (1) that of Augustine and death, we should certainly, in the refuta-   
 others (it being allowed on all hands, that tion of this error, haye read, that St. John   
 to tarry means to remain in this life: sce was dead and buried, as we do read of   
 abideth (the same word in the original), David in Acts ii. 29. This notion of   
 eh. xii. 34), ‘If I will that he remain till St. John’s not having died, was prevalent in   
 1 fetch him,’ i. e. by a natural death. the early Church,—so that Augustine him-   
 Bunt this is frigid, besides inapplicable self seems almost to credit the story of the   
 here. Peter’s death, although by the hands earth of St. John’s tomb heaving with his   
 of another, was just as much the Lord’s breath. ‘The English sect of the “seek-   
 ‘coming for him, as John’s, and there ers,” under Cromwell, expected the re-   
 would thus be no contrast. (2) That appearance of the Apostle as the forerunner   
 “that ‘coming of the Lord’ is meant, of the coming of Christ.’ Tholuck. The   
 which is so often in the three Gospels simple recapitulation of the words of the   
 alluded to (see especially notes on Matt. Lord shews that their sense remained dark   
 .), viz. the establishment in full the to the writer, who ventured on no ex-   
 dispensation of the Kingdom by the de- planation of them ; merely setting his own   
 struction of the nation and temple of the side of the apostolic duty over against   
 Jews, This is the view of some mentioned that of Peter, who probably had already   
 by Theophylact, of Bengel, and others,— by following his Master through the Cross,   
 and is upheld by the similar place, Matt. glorified God, whereas the beloved disciple   
 xvi. 28. (3) That the Lord here puts a was, whatever that meant, to tarry till   
 ease only,—‘Even should I will that he He came.   
 remain upon earth till My last coming— 24, 25.) IDENTIFICATION OF THE AU-   
 what would that be to thee?’ This view THOR, AND CONOLUSION. See remarks   
 is upheld by Trench; but I think must below. 24.) The words these things   
 be rejected on maturer consideration of certainly refer to the whole Gospel, not   
 the character of the words of our Lord, merely to the Appendix—and are quite in   
 in whose mouth such a mere hypothetical St. John’s style:—see ch, xii. 41; xx. 31.   
 saying would be strangely incongruous, 25.) The purpose of this verse   
 especially in these last solemn days of seems to he to assert and vindicate the   
 His presence on earth. The second fragmentary character of the Gospel, con-   
 view seems then to remain, and I adopt sidered merely as au historical narrative :   
 it with some qualification. At the de- —for that the doings of the Lord were so   
 struction of Jerusalem began that mighty many,—His life so rich in matter of re-   
 series of events of which the Apocalypse cord,—that.in a popular hyperbole, we can   
 is the prophetic record, and which is in hardly imagine the world containing them