644 ST. JOHN. XXI. 25.   
   
 ramos wit should be written every one, ‘I suppose that even the   
 world itself could not contain the books that should be   
   
 written. [¥ Amen.]   
   
 ¥ omit.   
   
 all, if singly written down; thus setting tural than this. | External evidence com-   
 forth the superfluity and cumbrousness of pletely tallies this view. The chapter   
 any thing like a perfect detail, in the is contained in all the principal MSS.;   
 strongest terms,—and in terms which cer- and there is no greater variety of reading   
 tainly look as if fault had been found with than usual. In these respects it differs   
 this Gospel for want of completeness, by remarkably from John vii. 53—viii. 11,   
 some objectors. and indeed from even Mark xvi. 9—20,   
 The reader will have perceived in the Internal evidence of style and diction is   
 foregoing comment on the chapter a mani- nearly balanced. It certainly contains   
 fest leaning to the belief it was written several words and constructions not met   
 by St. John himself. Of this I am fully with elsewhere in John (see these noticed in   
 convinced. In every part of it, hand is my Greek Test.); but, on the other hand,   
 plain and unmistakeable: in every part of the whole cast of it is his;—the coupling   
 it, his character and spirit is in particles are ;—the train of thought, and   
 a way which none but the most biassed can manner of narration. And all allowance   
 fail to recognize. I believe it to have been should be made for the double alteration   
 added by him, some years probably after the of style of writing which would be likely   
 completion of the Gospel ; partly perhaps to to be brought about, by lapse of time,   
 record the important miracle of the second - and by the very nature but standing by it-   
 draught of fishes, so full of spiritual in- self. The last two verses, part of a whole   
 struction, and the interesting account of tents, we might expect to have more of   
 the sayings of the Lord to Peter ;—but the epistolary form; and accordingly we   
 principally to meet the error which was find them singularly in style resembling   
 becoming prevalent concerning himself. the Epistles of John.   
 In order to do this, he gives a complete On the whole, I am persuaded that in   
 account, with all minute details,—even to this chapter we have a fragment, both   
 the number of the fish caught,—of the cir- authentic and genuine, added, for reasons   
 cumstances preceding the conversation,— apparent on the face of it, by the Apostle   
 and the very words of the Lord Himself: himself, bearing evidence of his hand, but   
 not pretending to put a meaning on those in a ‘second manner,’—a later style   
 words, but merely asserting that they an- bably in the decline of life.   
 nounced no such thing as that he should   
 not die. Surely nothing can be more na-