INTRODUCTION. } 2&8 JOHN. [cn. xx.   
   
 (elders) :” he says that if he met with any one who had conversed with   
 “the presbyters” (“elders”), he enquired about “the sayings of the   
 presbyters” (“elders”), Here it is certain that the term “presbyter”   
 must not be taken officially, but of priority in time and dignity : it   
 bears that meaning from which its official sense was derived, not that   
 official sense itself.   
 16. And this leads us to the other meaning, that of the old age of the   
 Writer®. St. Paul in Philem. 9, calls himself “Paul the aged” (pres-   
 bytés) in this sense : and “ presbyteros” is but another form of the   
 same word, though a form carrying a different possible meaning.   
 17. It is impossible to decide for which of these reasons the Apostle   
 might choose thus to designate himself, or whether any other existed   
 of which we are not aware. But we may safely say that inasmuch   
 as St. Peter (1 Pet. v.1), writing to the presbyters, calls himself their   
 fellow-presbyter, there was no reason why St. John might not thus have   
 designated himself. And we may hence lay down that the occurrence   
 of such a word, as pointing out the Writer of these Epistles, is no   
 reason against their having been written by that Apostle.   
 18. On the whole then we infer, from the testimony of the ancient   
 Fathers, and from the absence of sufficient reason for understanding the   
 title “presbyter” of any other person than the Apostle himself, that   
 these two smaller Epistles were written by St. John the Apostle and   
 Evangelist.   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
 SECTION II.   
 FOR WHAT READERS WRITTEN.   
   
   
   
 1, The third Epistle leaves no doubt on this question. It is addressed   
 to one Gaius (Caius). Whether this Caius is identical with Gaius of   
 Macedonia (Acts xix. 29), with Gaius of Corinth (1 Cor. i. 14; Rom.   
 xvi. 23), or with Gaius of Derbe (Acts xx. 4), it is impossible to say.   
 The name was one of the commonest: and it is possible, as Liicke   
 remarks, that the persons of St. John’s period of apostolic work in   
 Asia may have been altogether different from those of St. Paul’s period.   
 A Caius is mentioned in the Apostolic Constitutions as bishop of Perga-   
 mus: and Mill and Whiston believe this person to be addressed in our   
 Epistle.   
 2. It is not so plain to whom the second Epistle was written. The   
   
   
   
   
 ® This is taken by Piscator, Erasm.-Schmid, Hermann, G. C. Lange, Wolf, Rosen-   
 miller, Benson, Carpzov, Augusti, and others. Some of the above, and Aretius and   
 Guericke, unite the two.   
 296