

And nevertheless my faith and love are greater to-day than on the day when He gave me the name of Peter, and He Himself knows far better than I how much I do love Him."

"Lord," he answered anew, raising his head and fixing his eyes bathed in tears upon those of His Master, "Thou knowest that I love Thee."

And for the third time, Jesus put to him the same question.

Peter understood that three protestations of love springing from the depths of his heart were needed to efface those three denials already so many times washed away in his tears. Overcome with sorrow, he threw himself at the feet of Jesus, crying to Him from the depths of his soul,

"Lord, thou knowest all things; Thou knowest that I love Thee."

To the first two answers of His apostle, Jesus had said,

"Feed My lambs," but to the third affirmation of love and adoration, Peter heard his Master say, "Feed My sheep."

Thus was established the supremacy of Peter.

All the flock was thus confided to him throughout all time! It was he who should be the universal pastor, supreme head of the new kingdom founded by Jesus Christ. What a dignity! But what sacrifices, what sufferings! What persecutions this dignity would impose upon him!

"Amen, Amen, I say to thee, Peter, when thou wert young, thou didst follow thy own path and went

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