*well known* and *spoken of* by the Apostles.  
Thus many Commentators.—But, as Tholuck remarks, had this latter been the  
meaning, we should have expected some  
expression like *in all the Churches* (2 Cor.  
vill. 18). I may besides remark, that for  
St. Paul to speak of any persons as *celebrated among the Apostles* in sense (2),  
would imply that he had more frequent,  
intercourse with the other Apostles, than  
we know that he had; and would besides  
be improbable on any supposition. The  
whole question seems to have sprung up  
in modern times from the idea that *the  
Apostles* must mean *the Twelve only*. If  
the wider sense found in Acts xiv. 4, 14;  
2 Cor. viii. 23; 1 Thess. ii. 6 (compare i. 1),  
be taken, there need be no doubt concern-  
ing the meaning. **which also**] refers  
to Andronicus and Junia, not to the Apostles.

**8** ff.] **beloved in the Lord,** i.e.  
**beloved in the bonds of Christian fellowship. fellow labourer in** (the work  
of) **Christ**.—Origen and others have confounded Apelles with the well-known Apollos, but apparently without reason.

**10.**] **approved** (by trial) **in** (the work of)  
**Christ**.—It does not follow that either  
Aristobulus or Narcissus were *themselves  
Christians*. Only those of their *families*  
are here saluted who were **in the Lord**:  
for **we** must understand this also in the  
**case** of Aristobulus’ household: see above.  
{11} Grotius, Neander, and others, have taken  
Narcissus for the well-known freediman  
of Claudius. But this can hardly be, for  
he was executed in the very beginning of  
Nero’s reign, i.e. about 55 A.D., whereas  
(see Introduction, § iv. 4, and Chronol.  
Table) this Epistle cannot have well been  
written before 58 A.D. Perhaps the family  
of this Narcissus may have continued to  
be thus known after his death.

**13.**] Rufus may have been the son of Simon of  
Cyrene, mentioned Mark xv, 21: but the  
name was very common, **the elect,**—not to be softened to merely *excellent*, a  
sense unknown to our Apostle ;—**elect**,  
i.e. one of the eleet of the Lord. **and**  
mine the Apostle adds from affectionate  
regard towards the mother of Rufus:  
‘my mother,’ in my reverence and affection for her. Jowett compares our Lord’s  
words to St. John, John xix. 27.

**14.**] These Christians of whom we have  
only the names, seem to be persons of less  
repute than the former. Hermasis thought  
by Origen to be the author of the book  
called “The Shepherd of Hermas.” But  
this latter is generally supposed to have  
been the brother of Pius, bishop of Rome,  
about 150 A.D. **The brethren which are  
with them**, of ver. 14, and **all the saints  
which are with them**, of ver. 15, have  
been taken to point to some separate  
associations of Christians, perhaps assemblies