doubting thee, but not wishing to press on  
thee all the claim that I might justly urge.’  
And this may well be the right view.  
**thine own self**] Not thy goods  
merely. This shews that Philemon had  
been converted by St. Paul in person.

**20**.] Yea, as so often when we make  
requests, asserts our assent with the subject  
of the request: so Phil. iv. 3, and elsewhere,  
**Me** and **thee** are both emphatic—and  
the verb **have profit** (*onaimén*: see above  
on ver. 11) is an evident allusion to the  
name Onesimus. The sentiment itself is a  
reference to what had just been said, “*Thou  
owest thine own self to me*:”—this being  
so, let me have profit of thee: yet not  
in worldly gain, but in the Lord—in thine  
increase and richness in the graces of  
His Spirit. **refresh** (viz, by acceding  
to my request) **my heart** (as above—the  
seat of the affections) **in Christ** (as “*in  
the Lord*” above).

**21**.] serves to put Philemon in mind of the apostolic authority with which he writes: and hints delicately (perhaps: but this may be  
doubtful) at the manumission of Onesimus,  
which he has not yet requested.

**22**.] **But at the same time** (as thou fulfillest my request) **also**. ... We may,  
perhaps, take this direction as serving to  
secure the favourable reception of Onesimus: for the Apostle would himself come  
and see how his request had fared. “For  
great would be the favour and honour  
shewn by Paul’s visit, Paul after his  
accession of years, Paul after his bonds,”  
Chrysostom. Or it may be, as Ellicott,  
that Philemon was not to consider the  
Epistle as a mere petition for Onesimus,  
but as containing special messages on other  
matters to himself. **Your** and **you** refer  
to those named in vv. 1, 2.

**23—25.**] CONCLUSION. See on Col. iy. 10, 12, 14,  
where the same persons send greeting.  
*Jesus called Justus* (Col. iv. 11) does not  
appear here.

**25**.] On all matters  
regarding the date and circumstances of  
writing the Epistle, see the Introduction.