CHAPTER. | OF THE ‘PRESENT WORK. [intropvction.   
   
 passage, commonly printed in all our Bibles, read in our churches as   
 God’s Word, which undeniably forms no portion of His Word at all,   
 1 John v. 7: there are more, which rest upon far weaker evidence than   
 do other forms of the Word, which ought long ago to have been substi-   
 tuted for them. Can we be held blameless, with the knowledge of   
 these things before us, for not having set this matter right ?   
 20. It has been my desire for many years, that I might contribute,   
 however scantily and imperfectly, towards furnishing the English reader   
 with some means of intelligently dealing with and appreciating these   
 important facts respecting the text of the New Testament. My wish   
 has at length taken shape in this Edition, the first part of which is now   
 offered to the Public. I would wish it to be understood that I put it   
 forth as an experiment, liable to be corrected and improved, if necessary,   
 both in form and in detail. It was my original intention to give an   
 amended version of the sacred text: and I still think that for the com-   
 pleteness and full usefulness of the work, such a version would be neces-   
 gary. After all possible marginal corrections of inadequate renderings,   
 there are many improvements in minute expression and arrangement,   
 tending to clear up the meaning, which must necessarily be passed over   
 where the Authorized Version is printed as the text.   
 21. It has been my endeavour, in the notes, to give as much informa-   
 tion as I could respecting the general currents of opinion and interpre-   
 tation, without burdening the reader with long catalogues of names.   
 The introduction of some names has been unavoidable. The German   
 Commentaries of Olshausen and. Meyer, for instance, are so valuable,   
 and 60 rich in original material, that I have often cited them. The latter   
 of these writers, though unhappily not to be trusted where there is any   
 room for the introduction of rationalistic opinions, is, in accurate inter-   
 pretation of the words and constructions of the sacred text, by far the   
 best of all commentators. Another work has been found very valuable :   
 the Reden Jesu (Discourses of Jesus) of the late venerable Rudolf Stier.   
 Stier was a Christian scholar of the orthodox Evangelical party,—of a   
 simple and fervid spirit,—apt sometimes to find fanciful allusions and   
 connexions, but full of the power of spiritual discernment ; and his great   
 work above mentioned has certainly been among the most valuable of   
 modern contributions to the understanding of our Lord’s words.   
 22. The reader will find in my Commentary no sympathy whatever   
 with the rationalistic school. Believing in the Eternal Godhead and   
 Perfect Humanity of our Blessed Lord, and in the agency of the Almighty   
 Spirit in Him, and through Him in His Apostles and servants, I regard   
 His divine miracles as proofs of His mission, and of His authority over   
 nature, as being the Creator of nature. The faith of the centurion (Luke   
 vii. 8), 80 wonderful in him, is that of all Catholic Christians :; that tho   
 powers of Nature serve the Son of God, as servants their master.   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
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