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 CHAPTER III.   
 OF THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK.   
   
   
 SECTION I.   
   
 ITS AUTHORSHIP.   
   
 1. As in the case of the two other Gospels, we are dependent entirely   
 on traditional sources for the name of the author. It has been univer-   
 sally believed to be Marcus: and further, that he was the same person   
 who, in Acts xii. 12, 25; xv. 37, is spoken of as John whose surname was   
 Mark: in xiii. 5, 13, as John: in xv. 39, as Mark: also in Col. iv. 10:   
 2 Tim. iv. 11: Philem. 24. The few particulars gleaned respecting him   
 from Scripture are, that his mother’s name was Mary (Acts xii. 12); and   
 that she was sister to the Apostle Barnabas (Col. iv. 10); that she dwelt   
 in Jerusalem (Acts, ibid.) ; that he was converted to Christianity by the   
 Apostle Peter (1 Pet. v. 13); that he became the minister and com-   
 panion of Paul and Barnabas, in their first missionary journey (Acts xii.   
 25); and was the cause of the variance and separation of these Apostles   
 on their second (Acts xv. 37—40),—Barnabas wishing to take him   
 again with them, but Paul refusing, because he had departed from them   
 before the completion of the former journey (Acts xiii. 13). He then   
 became the companion of Barnabas in his journey to Cyprus (Acts xv.   
 39). We find him however again with Paul (Col. iv. 10), and an allusion   
 apparently made in the words there to some previous stain on his cha-   
 racter, which was then removed; see also Philem. 24: 2 Tim. iv. 11.   
 Lastly, we find him with Peter (1 Pet. v. 13). From Scripture we know   
 no more concerning him. But an unanimous tradition of the ancient   
 Christian writers represents him as the “interpreter” of Peter : i.e. the   
 secretary or amanuensis, whose office it was to commit to writing the   
 orally-delivered instructions and narrations of the Apostle. See authori-   
 ties quoted in § ii., below.   
 2. Tradition brings him with Peter to Rome (but apparently only on   
 the authority of 1 Pet. v. 13); and thence to Alexandria. He is said   
 to have become first bishop of the Church in that city, and to have   
 suffered martyrdom there. All this, however, is exceedingly uncertain.   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
 SECTION II.   
 IT8 ORIGIN.   
 1. It was universally believed in the ancient Church, that Mark’s   
 Gospel was written under the influence, and almost by the dictation, of   
   
 Peter.   
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