INTRODUCTION. ] MARE’S GOSPEL. (cH. m1.   
   
 should have perished so early that no ancient writer should have made   
 mention of the fact. For Latin was the language of a considerable and   
 increasing body of Christians,—unlike Hebrew, which was little known,   
 and belonged (but even this is doubtful) to a section of converts few   
 in number :—yet ancient testimony is unanimous to Matthew's having   
 written in Hebrew,—while we have not one witness to Mark having   
 written in Latin.   
   
   
   
 SECTION VI.   
   
 GENUINENESS OF THE GOSPEL.   
   
 1. This has never been called in question, till very recently, by some   
 of the German critics on, as it appears to me, wholly insufficient grounds.   
 They allege that the testimony of Papias (see above, § ii.1, a) does not   
 apply to the contents of our present Gospel, but that some later hand   
 has worked up and embellished the original simple and unarranged   
 notices of Mark, which have perished.   
 2. But neither do the words of Papias imply any such inference as   
 that Mark’s notices must have been simple and unarranged ; nor, if they   
 did, are they of any considerable authority in the matter. It is enough   
 that from the very earliest time the Gospel has been known as that of   
 Mark ; confirmed as this evidence is by the circumstance, that this name   
 belongs to no great and distinguished founder of the Church, to whom it   
 might naturally be ascribed, but to one, the ascription to can hardly   
 be accounted for, except by its foundation in matter of fact.   
 3. On the genuineness of the remarkable fragment at the end of the   
 Gospel, see notes there.   
   
   
   
   
   
 SECTION VIII.   
   
 ITS STYLE AND CHARACTER.   
   
 1. Of the three first Gospels, that of Mark is the most distinct and   
 peculiar in style. By far the greater part of those graphic touches which   
 describe the look and gesture of our Lord, the arrangement or appearance   
 of those around Him, the feelings with which He contemplated the   
 persons whom He addressed, are contained in this Gospel. While the   
 matters related are fewer than in either Matthew or Luke, Mark, in by   
 far the greater number of common narrations, is the most copious, and.   
 rich in lively and interesting detail.   
 2. In one part only does Mark appear as an abridger of previously   
 well-known facts ; viz., ch. i. where,—his object being to detail   
 the official life of our Lord,—he hastens through the previous great   
 38]