§ vin.] ITS STYLE AND CHARACTER. [intropuction.   
   
 events,—the ministry of John, the baptism and temptation of Christ.   
 Rut even in the abrupt transitions of this section, there is wonderful   
 gtaphic power, presenting us with a series of life-like pictures, cal-   
 culated to impress the reader strongly with the reality and dignity of   
 the events related.   
 8. Throughout the Gospel, even where the narratives are the most   
 copious, the same isolated character of each, the same abrupt transition   
 from one to another, is observable. There is no attempt to bind on one   
 section to another, or to give any sequences of events. But occasionally   
 the very precision of the separate narratives of itself furnishes accurate   
 and valuable chronological data :—e. g. the important one in ch. iv. 35,   
 by which it becomes evident that the whole former part of Matthew’s   
 Gospel is out of chronological order.   
 4. Mark relates but few “discourses. His object being to set forth   
 Jesus as the Son or Gop (see ch. i. 1), he principally dwells on the   
 events of His official life. But the same characteristics mark his report   
 of our Lord’s discourses, where he relates them, as we have observed in   
 the rest of his narrative. While the sequence and connexion of the   
 longer discourses was that which the Holy Spirit peculiarly brought to   
 the mind of Matthew, the Apostle from whom Mark’s record is derived   
 seems to have been deeply penetrated and impressed by the solemn   
 iterations of cadence and expression, and to have borne away the very   
 words themselves and tone of the Lord’s sayings. See especially, as   
 illustrating this, the wonderfully sublime reply, ch. ix. 39—50.   
 5. According to the view adopted and vindicated in the notes on ch.   
 xvi. 9—20, the Gospel terminates abruptly with the words “for they   
 were afraid,” ver. 8. That this was not intentionally done, but was a   
 defect,—is apparent, by the addition, in apostolic times, of the authentic   
 and most important fragment which now concludes the narrative.   
 6. I regard the existence of the Gospel of Mark asa gracious and   
 valuable proof of the accommodation by the divine Spirit of the records   
 of the life of our Lord to the future necessities of the Church. While   
 it contains little matter of fact which is not related in Matthew and   
 Luke, and thus, generally speaking, forms only a confirmation of their   
 more complete histories, it is so far from being a barren duplicate of   
 that part of them which is contained in it, that it comes home to every   
 reader with all the freshness of an individual mind, full of the Holy   
 Ghost, intently fixed on the great object of the Christian’s love and   
 worship, reverently and affectionately following and recording His posi-   
 tions, and looks, and gestures, and giving us the very echo of the tones   
 with which He spoke. And thus the believing .student feels, while   
 treating of and studying this Gospel, as indeed he does of each in its   
 turn, that,—without venturing to compare with one another in value   
 those rich and abiding gifts of the Holy Spirit to the Church,—the   
 39)