§ rx.] ITS STYLE AND CHARACTER. [intropuction.   
   
 that in Matt. i. 18—25 is a more compendious, and wholly independent   
 account,   
   
   
 SECTION IX.   
   
 IT8 STYLE AND CHARACTER.   
   
 1. We might have expected from Luke’s name and profession, that he   
 was a man of education, and versed in the elegant use of the Greek,   
 which was then the polite language in the Roman empire. We accord-   
 ingly find that while we have very numerous Hebraisms in his Gospel,   
 we also have far more classical idioms, and a much freer use of Greek   
 compounds than in the others.   
 2. The composition of the sentences is more studied and elaborate   
 than in Matthew or Mark: the Evangelist appears more frequently in   
 the narrative, delivering his own estimate of men and things ;—e. g. ch. xvi.   
 14; vii. 29, 80; xix. 11 al. ;—he seems to love to recount instances of   
 our Lord’s tender compassion and mercy ;—and in the report of His   
 parables, e. g. in ch. xv., is particularly simple in diction, and calculated   
 to attract and retain the attention of his readers.   
 3. In narrative, this Evangelist is very various, according to the   
 copiousness or otherwise of the sources from which he drew. Some-   
 times he merely gives a hasty compendium: at others he is most minute   
 and circumstantial in detail, and equally graphic in description with   
 Mark: see as instances of this latter, ch. vii. 14; ix. 29. It has been   
 remarked (Olshausen) that Luke gives with extreme accuracy not so   
 much the discourses, as the observations and occasional sayings of our   
 Lord, with the replies of those who were present. This is especially the   
 case in his long and important narrative of the journey up to Jerusalem,   
 ch, ix. 51—xviii. 14.   
 4. On the question how far those doctrines especially enforced by the   
 great Apostle of the Gentiles are to be traced, as inculcated or brought   
 forward in this Gospel, see above in this chapter, § ii. 7.   
 5. In completeness, this Gospel must rank first among the four, The   
 Evangelist begins with the announcement of the birth of Christ’s Fore-   
 runner, and concludes with the particulars of the Ascension : thus em-   
 bracing the whole great procession of events by which our Redemption by   
 Christ was ushered in, accomplished, and sealed in heaven, And by   
 recording the allusion to the promise of the Father (ch. xxiv. 49), he has   
 introduced, so to speak, a note of passage to that other history, in   
 which the fulfilment of that promise, the great result of Redemption   
 was to be related. It may be remarked, that this completenese,—while   
 it shews the earnest diligence used by the sacred writer in searching   
 out, and making use of every information within his reach,—forms an   
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