INTRODUCTION. ] JOHN’S GOSPEL. [cu. v.   
   
   
 sequence, was John himself,—we have his acquaintance with our Lord   
 dating from the very beginning of His ministry. And to this agree the   
 contents of chapters ii. iii. v., containing particulars of the Ministry   
 at Jerusalem and in Galilee which happened previous to the commence-   
 ment of the official record of the other Evangelists. It seems that John   
 accompanied our Lerd to Jerusalem,—with perhaps those of the Apos-   
 tles already called,—and witnessed those incidents which he has related   
 in that part of his Gospel.   
 5. In tho intervals of our Lord’s first circuits and journeys, the   
 Apostles seem to have returned to their families and oceupations. Thus   
 in Luke v. 1—11, we find the sons of Zebedee, as well as Simon Peter,   
 again engaged in fishing, and solemnly and finally summoned by Jesus   
 to follow Him; an incident which, as Liicke acknowledges, would be   
 inexplicable even by the miracle, unless there had been a previous   
 acquaintance on their part with our Lord.   
 6. From that time John belonged to that chosen number known as   
 ‘tho Twelve,’ who were nearest to the Person of Jesus during His   
 ministry. And of that number, he seems to have been the most person-   
 ally beloved by our Lord. For the assumption that he is the author of   
 our Gospel, also identifies him with ¢ the disciple whom Jesus loved,’ so   
 often mentioned in it. (See ch. xiii. 23; xix. 26; xx. 2; xxi. 7, 20, 24.)   
 He, together with his brother James, and Peter, was witness of the   
 raising of Jairus’s daughter, Mark v. 37: also of the transfiguration,   
 Matt. xvii. 1 ff; and of the agony in Gethsemane: he lay on the bosom   
 of Jesus at the last supper; and was recognized by Peter as being the   
 innermost in His personal confidence, John xiii. 23. To him was com-   
 mitted the charge of the mother of Jesus, by Himself when dying on   
 the Cross, John xix. 26, 27. .   
 7. And to this especial love of the Redeemer John appears to have   
 corresponded in devoted affection and faithfulness. He fled, it is true,   
 with the rest, at the dark hour of the capture of Jesus: but we find   
 him, together with Peter, soon rallying again,—and from that time,   
 John xviii. 15, 16, even to the end, xix. 25 ff., an eye-witness of the   
 sufferings of his divine Master. In John xxi. we find the same per-   
 sonal distinction bestowed on the beloved disciple by our Lord after   
 His resurrection.   
 8. In the Acts of the Apostles, John comes before us but very seldom,   
 and always in connexion with and thrown into the background by Peter.   
 Seo Acts iii. 1 #f.; viii, 14—25. The history leaves him at Jerusalem :   
 where however he appears not to have been on Paul’s first visit to Jeru-   
 salem, Gal. i, 18 ff., A.p, 388—40 (see chronological table in Introduction   
 to Acts), for he states that he saw none of the Apostles save Peter   
 and James. On his second visit, Acts xi. 29, 30, about a.p. 43 (see as   
 above), we have no intimation whether Joha was there or not. If tho   
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