§ in] FOR WHAT READERS, &e. [)yrropuction.   
   
   
 our Lord which became current at Jerusalem from his own testimony   
 and that of the other Apostles. Accordingly we find him in his Gospel   
 assuming as known, certain facts contained in that cycle. See ch. vii. 41,   
 and note,—ch. xi. 1,—also ch. i, 40, where Simon Peter is referred to   
 as one known, before the giving of the latter name is related.   
 12. I can hardly however suppose, that John wrote with any fixed   
 design of filling up by a supplementary Gospel the deficiencies of tha   
 generally-received oral account. Sometimes, e. g. ch. vi. 1—14, xviii.,   
 xix., he goes over the same ground with it: and in no part can it by the   
 most ingenious application of the supplementary theory be shewn, that   
 he in any respect produces or aims at the effect of a work designed   
 to fill up and elucidate those which have gone before. This point will   
 be dwelt on more at length in the next section.   
 13. I have no hesitation, therefore, in receiving as the true account   
 of the source of this Gospel, that generally given and believed ;—viz.   
 that we have it from the authority of the Apostle himself as an eye   
 and ear-witness.   
   
   
   
   
   
   
 SECTION IIL   
 FOR WHAT READERS AND WITH WHAT OBJECT IT WAS WRITTEN.   
   
   
 1. This Gospel presupposes readers already Christians, and was   
 written to build them up and confirm them in the faith. (See ch. xix.   
 35; Xx. 315 It is, as Liiecke remarks, neither complete enough, nor   
 elementary enough, for the jirst founding of a belief in Christ in the   
 mind. This must have been, even as early as the apostolic times,   
 the work of no written Gospel (see Luke i. 1—4), but of the oral   
 preaching of the word. “These (things) are written that ye may believe   
 that Jesus Christ is the Son of God: and that believing ye may have life   
 in His name.”   
 2, Being written then for Christian readers, the main and ultimate   
 purpose as regards them is sufficiently declared in ch, xx. 31.   
 3. This purpose however, as it would be common to all the sacred   
 writings of the New Testament more or less, in no way accounts for the   
 peculiar cast of the Gospel, or the portions of the Christian’s faith which   
 are most prominently brought out in it. These will require closer   
 examination. .   
 4. It will at once appear, that some especial occasion must havo   
 induced John to write so pointedly as he has done on certain doctrines,   
 —and to adopt, in doing so, a nomenclature unknown to the rest of the   
 New Testament writers. Some state of opinion in the Church must   
 have rendered it necessary for the Apostle to state strongly and clearly   
 the truth about which error was prevalent, or questions had been raised :   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
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