§n.J ITS SOURCES. [2yrropvertion.   
   
   
 stant companion. From him therefore the incidents might be derived,   
 where the writer himself was not present. I shall before the end of this   
 section enquire how far the appearances warrant our supposing that his   
 testimony has furnished such portions.   
 2. I proceed to enqnire into the probable sources of the first part of   
 our history. And here something will depend on onr answer to another   
 question,— When is it probable that Luke was engaged in drawing up   
 the book? Ishall endeavour to support in another section my firm   
 conviction that its publication took place at the end of the two years   
 mentioned in ch. xxviii. 30, 31. It may be convenient for me at present   
 to assume that to have been the case, but my argument docs not   
 altogether depend on that assumption. I proceed on the hardly   
 deniable inference, that of the last voyage and shipwreck a regular   
 journal was kept by Luke—probably set down during the winter   
 months at Malta. It must then be evident, that at this time the pur-   
 pose of writing a second treatise was ripened in his mind. Bnt how   
 tong had this purpose been in his mind? Am I altogether beside the   
 mark in supposing, that it was with this purpose among others that he   
 became one of Paul’s company on the return to Asia in ch, xx. 4, 5?   
 Whether (see Introduction to Luke, § iv. 2, 3) the Gospel was written   
 for the most part during the interval between Luke being left at Philippi’   
 in ch. xvi. and his being taken up at the same place in ch. xx., or after-   
 wards in Palestine,—on either supposition it is not improbable that the   
 writing of the Acts was at this time already designed,—either as a   
 seqnel to the Gospel already finished, or simultaneously with the Gospel,   
 as its. future sequel.   
 3. Itis very possible that the design may have grown under his   
 hands, or more properly speaking have heen by little and little sug-   
 gested by the direction of the Spirit of God. Je may haye intended, on   
 leaving Philippi with Paul (ch. xx. 4, 5), only to draw up a memoir of   
 his own travels in company with that Apostle, to serve as a record of his   
 acts and sayings in founding the churches in Europe and Asia. However   
 this may have been, we find him recording minntely every circumstance   
 of this voyage, which I take to have been the first written portion of tho   
 book. At any time during that or subsequent travels, or during the   
 two years at Rome, he may have filled in those parts of the narrative   
 which occurred during his absence from Paul,—by the oral dictation of   
 the Apostle.   
 4. Let us now suppose St Paul already in custody at Cxsarea. The   
 narrative has been brought down to that time. The circumstances of   
 his apprehension,—his defence before the Jews,—their conspiracy,—his   
 reséue from them and transmission to Felix,—all this has been duly   
 and minutely recorded,—even the letter of Claudius Lysias having been   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
 obtained, probably by acquaintance with some one about Felix. An   
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