iytTRopuction.] THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES. (cn. vr.   
   
 intention similar to that announced in the words “having traced down all   
 things accurately from the beginning” (Luke i. 3), is here evidently   
 shewn.   
 5. But now Providence interposes, and lays aside the great Apostle   
 for two years. During all this time Luke appears to have been not far   
 from his neighbourhood, watching the turn of events, ready to accom-   
 pany him to Rome, according to the divine announcement of ch. xxiii.   
 ll. But “they also serve, who only stand and wait.” What so   
 natural, as that he should avail himself of this important interval to   
 obtain, from Cesarea and Jerusalem, and perhaps from other parts of   
 Palestine, information by which he might complete his hitherto frag-   
 mentary notices ? That accurate following up of every thing, or rather   
 tracing down of every thing from its source,—what time so appropriate   
 for it as this, when among the brethren in Judea he might find many   
 eye-witnesses and ministers of the word, and might avail himself of the   
 memoirs, which of all places would be most likely to abound there where   
 the events themselves had happened ? During this interval therefore I   
 suppose Luke to have been employed in collecting materials, perhaps   
 for his Gospel, but certainly for the first part of the Acts.   
 6. His main source of information would be the church at Jerusalem.   
 There, from James, or from some apostolic men who had been on the   
 spot from the first, he would learn the second and fuller account of the   
 Ascension,—the weighty events of the day of Pentecost, the following   
 acts and discourses. In the fulness of the outpouring of the Holy   
 Ghost on the apostles and elders at this time, which raised them above   
 ordinary men in power of spirit and utterance, it would be merely an   
 inference from analogy, that their remembrance of the words uttered at   
 remarkable crises of the apostolic history should be something sur-   
 passing mere human recollection: that these hallowed words of the   
 Spirit’s own prompting should have abode with the church for its com-   
 fort and instruction, and finally have been committed to writing for all   
 subsequent ages.   
 7. But if analogy would from previous considerations suggest this, the   
 phenomena of our history confirm it. The references (which have been   
 on that account a singularly interesting labour) will shew to the attentive   
 student in those speeches, quite enough peculiarities to identify them as   
 the sentiments and diction of the great Apostle of the circumcision, while   
 at the same time there is enough of Luke’s own style and expression to   
 shew that the whole material has been carefully worked over and grecized   
 by his hand.   
 8. It has been much disputed whether Luke used written documents   
 in constructing this part of the Acts. It may have been so. Detailed   
 memoirs of some of the most important events may have been drawn up.   
 If so, ch. ii. would in all probability be such a memoir. The letters,   
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