intropuction.] THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES. {en. vr.   
   
   
 who had gone to fetch Peter from Joppa,—at all events plenty who   
 could narrate the occurrences of that memorable day, and the words   
 which formed the great proom of the Gentile Gospel.   
 - 11. Connected with the Cisarean part of our history, is one minute   
 touch of truth and accuracy, which is interesting as pointing to careful   
 research and information of the most trustworthy kind. The awful   
 death of Herod Agrippa I. had happened on a great public occasion.   
 It appears that the celebration of a festival in honour of Cwsar had also   
 been selected as the time of andience for an embassy of the inhabitants   
 of Tyre and Sidon, and during this audience, after making an oration to   
 the embassy, Herod was struck by the hand of God. Now of this latter   
 particular, the Sidonian embassy, the Jewish historian knows nothing.   
 (See the passage quoted on ch. xii. 21.) But Luke, who had made   
 careful enquiries on the spot, who had spent a week at Tyre, ch. xxi.   
 4—7,—and Paul, who had friends at Sidon, ch. xxvii. 8, were better   
 acquainted with the facts of the occurrence than to overlook, as Josephus   
 did, the minute details in the general character of the festival.   
 12. One or two sections in the former part of the Acts require separate   
 consideration. .   
 (a) The apology of Stephen, from its length and peculiar characteris-   
 tics, naturally suggests an enquiry as to the source whence it may pro-   
 bably have been obtained by Luke. And here I should feel little hesi-   
 tation in ascribing a principal share in the report to him who was so   
 deeply implicated in Stephen’s martyrdom,—who shews by his own re-   
 ference (ch. xxii. 20) to the part taken by him on that occasion, how   
 indelibly it was fixed in his memory,—and who in more than one place   
 of his recorded speeches and writings, seems to reproduce the very   
 thoughts and expressions of Stephen. At the same time it would be   
 improbable that the church at Jerusalem should have preserved no   
 memorial of so important a speech as that of her first martyr before his   
 judges. So that, however we may be inclined to attribute much of its   
 particularity and copiousness to information derived from Paul, it must   
 be classed, as to its general form, among those contributions to the   
 history obtained by Luke at Jerusalem.   
 (6) The narrative of the conversion of Saul in ch. ix. can hardly fail   
 to have been derived from himself. I have shewn in the notes that   
 there are no diserepancies between this and the two other relations of   
 the same event, but such as may easily be accounted for by the   
 peculiar circumstances under which each is given, and the necessarily   
 varying expressions of narratives which were afterwards not reduced   
 into harmony with each other, but written faithfully down as de-   
 livered.   
 13. Agrecable with the above suppositions is the fact, that the former   
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