§ v1.J CHRONOLOGY. [intropuction.   
   
   
 2. (a) The Marcionites (cent. iii.) and the Manichzans (cent. iv.)   
 rejected the Acts as contradicting some of their notions.   
 (8) Some modern critics in Germany, especially Baur, have made use   
 of the hypothesis, that the Acts is an apology for Paul (see above,   
 § iii. 4), to throw discredit on the book, and to bring down its publica-   
 tion to the second century. But with the hypothesis will also fall that   
 which is built on it; and from the reasoning of the preceding sections   
 it may be seen how utterly impracticable it would have been for an   
 imitator to draw up narratives and speeches which should present the   
 phenomena, in relation to the facts underlying them, which these do.   
 8, The text of the Acts, in some of the leading MSS., and of the later   
 mss, and versions, is varied by many interpolations of considerable length,   
 which may be seen in the digest of various readings in my Greek Test.   
 Of these, some are remarkable as bearing considerable appearance of   
 genuineness, e.g. that in ch, xii. 10, given there in the margin. Con-   
 siderable uncertainty hangs over the whole question respecting these   
 insertions. A critic of eminence, Bornemann, believes that the text of   
 the Acts originally contained them all, and has been abbreviated by the   
 hand of correctors ; and he has published an edition on this principle.   
 4, The great abundance of various readings in the Acts has been   
 observed by every critical reader. In no book of the N. T., with the   
 exception of the Apocalypse, is the text so full of variations as in this.   
 To this result several reasons may have contributed. In the many back-   
 ward references to the Gospel history, and anticipations of statements   
 and expressions occurring in the Epistles, temptations were found in-   
 ducing the corrector to try his hand at assimilating, and as he thought   
 reconciling, the various accounts. In places where ecclesiastical order or   
 usage was in question, insertions or omissions were made to suit the   
 habits and views of the church in after times. Where the narrative   
 simply related facts,—any act or word apparently unworthy of the   
 apostolic agent was modified for the sake of decorum. Where St. Paul   
 relates over again to different audiences the details of his miraculous   
 conversion, the one passage was pieced from the other, so as to produce   
 verbal accordance. ‘These circumstances render the critical arrangement   
 of the text in this book a task more than usually difficult.   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
 SECTION VI.   
 CHRONOLOGY.   
   
   
 1. The chronology of the Acts has been the subject of many learned   
 disquisitions both in ancient and modern times. It must suffice here   
 to furnish a table arranged according to years, in which the contemporary   
 91)