§ 1.] TIME AND PLACE OF WRITING. [inrropucrion.   
   
   
 45. I therefore rest in the profession of the Epistles themselves, and   
 the universal belief of Christians, that they were VERITABLY WRITTEN   
 sy St. Paun’.   
   
   
   
 SECTION IL.   
 TIME AND PLACE OF WRITING.   
   
   
 1. A difficult problem yet remains: to assign, during the life of the   
 Apostle, a time for the writing, which will suit the phenomena of these   
 Epistles.   
 2. It will have been abundantly seen by what has preceded, that   
 I cannot consent to place them in any portion of St. Paul’s apostolic   
 labours recorded in the Acts. All the data with which they themselves   
 furnish us, are against such a supposition. And most of all is the state   
 of heresy and false teaching, as indicated by their common evidence.   
 No amount of ingenuity will suffice to persuade us, that there could   
 have been during the long sojourn of the Apostle at Ephesus in   
 Acts xix., such false teachers as those whose characters have been exa-   
 mined in the last section. No amount of ingenuity again will enable   
 us to conceive a state of the Church like that which these Epistles   
 disclose to us, at any time of that period, extending from the year 54 to   
 63, during which the other Epistles were written. Those who have   
 attempted to place the Pastoral Epistles, or any of them, in that period,   
 have been obliged to overlook all internal evidence, and satisfy them-   
 selves with fulfilling the requirements of external circumstances.   
 3. It will also be seen, that I cannot consent to separate these   
 Epistles widely from one another, so as to set one in the earlier, and   
 the others in the later years of the Apostle’s ministry. On every   
 account, they must stand together. Their style and diction, the motives   
 which they furnish, the state of the Church and of heresy which they   
 describe, are the same in all three: and to one and the same period must   
 we assign them.   
 4. This being so, they necessarily belong to the latest period of the   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
 7 Ihave preferred in this section giving those considerations which influence most   
 my own mind, to entering at full on all the bearings of subject. The reader   
 will find a very good and terse compendium of the objections and their answers in   
 Conybeare and Howson, vol. ii. 657—660, edn. 2: and a full and elaborate dis-   
 . cussion of both in Dr. Davidson’s Introduction to the New Test. vol. iii. 100—153.   
 That portion of Dr. Davidson’s work is very well and thoroughly done, in which he   
 shews the insuperable difficulties beset the hypothesis of a scholar of St. Paul   
 having forged the Epistles at the end of the first century, as De Wette supposes.   
 Huther’s and Wiesinger’s introductions also contain full and able discussions of the   
 whole question ; especially the latter.   
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