§ uJ TIME AND PLACE OF WRITING. [iyrnopucrioy.   
   
 changes on the Church, aud on himself, since his last visit. Those   
 heresies which were then in the bud, had borne bitter fruit. He had, in   
 his own weak and shattered frame, borne about, for four or five moro   
 years of declining age, the dying of the Lord Jesus. Alienation from   
 himself had been spreading wider among the Churches, and was em-   
 bittering his life. Supposing this to have been in a.p. 66 or 67, and   
 the “young man Saul” to have been 8+ or 35 at his conversion, he would   
 not now be more than 64 or 65; but a premature old age would be every   
 way consistent with what we know of his physical and mental constitu-   
 tion. Four years before this he had affectionately pleaded his advancing   
 years in urging a request on his friend Philemon (Philem. 9).   
 28, From Ephesus, leaving Timothy there, he went into Macedonia   
 (1 Tim. i. 3). It has been generally assumed, that the first Epistle was   
 written from that country. It may have been so; but the words “I be-   
 sought thee to remain in Ephesus when I was going to Macedonia,” rather   
 convey to my mind the impression that he was not in Macedonia as he   
 was writing. He seems to speak of the whole occurrence as one past by,   
 and succeeded by other circumstances. If this impression be correct, it   
 is quite impossible to assign with any certainty the place of its being   
 written. Wherever it was, he seems to have been in some field of labour   
 where he was likely to be detained beyond his expectations (1 Tim. iii.   
 14, 15); and this circumstance united with others to induce him to   
 write a letter full of warning and exhortation aud direction to his son in   
 the faith, whom he had left to care for the Ephesian Church.   
 29. Agreeably with the necessity of bringing the three Epistles as near   
 as may be together, we must here place a visit to Crete in company with   
 ‘Titus, whom he left there to complete the organization of the Cretan   
 Churches. From the indications furnished by that Epistle, it is hardly   
 probable that those Churches were now founded for the first time. We   
 find in them the same development of heresy as.at Ephesus, though not   
 the same ecclesiastical organization (cf. Tit. i. 10, 11; 15, 16; iii. 9,   
 11, with i. 5). Nor is the former circumstance at all unaccountable,   
 even as combined with the latter. The heresy, being a noxious ex-   
 erescence on Judaism, was flourishing independently of Christianity,—or   
 at least required not a Christian Church for its place of sustenance.   
 When such Church began, it was at once infected by the error. So that   
 the Cretan Churches need not have been long in existence. From Tit. i. 5,   
 they seem to have sprung up dspersedly, and to have been on this occa-   
 sion included by the Apostle in his tour of visitation: who seeing how   
 much needed supplying and arranging, left Titus there for that purpose   
 (see further in Introd. to Titus, § ii.).   
 30. The Epistle to Titus, evidently written very soon after St. Paul   
 left Crete, will most naturally be dated from Asia Minor. Its own notices   
 agree with this, for we find that he was on his Way to winter at Nico-   
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