§ u.] OCCASION AND OBJECT. [syrropuction.   
   
   
 connected with him, he might well state this (again with a but) re-   
 specting Trophimus, though the fact of his remaining at Miletus might   
 be well known to Timothy, and his own profession of sickness as the   
 reason.   
 6. There is a very slight hint indeed given in ch. iv. 11, which may   
 point the same way. Timothy was to take up Mark and bring him to   
 Rome.. The last notice we have had of Mark, was a recommendation of   
 him to the Colossian Church (Col. iv. 10), aud that ina strain, which   
 may import that he was to be a resident labourer in the Gospel among   
 them. If Mark was at Colossw, he might be easily sent for from   
 Ephesus to accompany Timothy.   
   
   
   
   
 SECTION II.   
 OCCASION AND OBJECT.   
   
   
   
 1. It only remains to enquire respecting this Epistle, what special   
 circumstances occasioned it, and what objects are discernible in it.   
 2. The immediately moving occasion seems to have been one personal   
 to the Apostle himself. He was anxious that Timothy should come   
 to him at Rome, bringing with him Mark, as soon as possible (ch. i. 4;   
 iy. 9, 11, 21).   
 8. But he was uncertain how it might be with himself: whether he   
 should live to see his child in the faith, or be “offered up” before his   
 arrival. He sends to him therefore, not merely a message to come, but   
 a letter full of fatherly exhortations and instructions, applicable to his   
 present circumstances. And these seem not to have been unneeded.   
 Many of his former friends had forsaken him (ch.i.15; iv. 10), and the   
 courage and perseverance of Timothy himself appeared to be giving   
 way (sce above, Introd. to 1 Tim. § i. 9). The letter therefore is   
 calculated in some measure to supply what his own mouth would,   
 if he were permitted to speak to him face to face, still more fervently   
 urge on him. And thus we possess an Epistle calculated for all ages   
 of the Church: in which while the maxims cited and encouragements   
 given apply to all Christians, and especially ministers of Christ, in their   
 duties and difFsulties,—the affecting circumstances, in which the writer   
 himself is pla: :d, carry home to every heart his earnest and impassioned   
 eloquence.   
 4. For further notices, I again refer to Dr. Davidson, vol. iii. pp. 48   
 75.   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
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