intropuction.] THE EPISTLE TO THE ROMANS. (en. 1.   
   
 a smaller Epistle written by Paul in Corinth to some Asiatic church.   
 But these notions, as Tholuck remarks, remain the exclusive property of   
 their originators.   
 3. Still more discrepancy of opinion has existed respecting the doxo-   
 logy at the end of the Epistle. I have adverted to this matter in the   
 notes at that place: and a fuller statement may be found in Dr. Davidson’s   
 Introduction to the New Testament, ii. 188 ff.   
   
   
   
   
   
 SECTION I.   
 FOR WHAT READERS IT WAS WRITTEN.   
   
   
   
 1. The Epistle itself plainly declares (ch. i. 7) that it was addressed to   
 the saints who were at Rome.   
 With regard to the Church at Rome, some interesting questions   
 present themselves.   
 2. By WuomM WAS IT FOUNDED? Tiere our enquiries are enwrapped   
 in uncertainty. But some few landmarks stand forth to guide us, and   
 may at least prevent us from adopting a wrong conclusion, however   
 unable we may still be to find the right one.   
 (a) It was certainly not founded by an Apostle. For in that case, the   
 fact of St. Paul addressing it by letter, and expressing his intention of   
 visiting it personally, would be inconsistent with his own declared reso-   
 lution in ch. xv. 20, of not working where another had previously laid   
 the foundation.   
 (8) This same resolution may guide us to an approximation at least   
 to the object of our search, Had the Roman church been founded by   
 the individual exertions of any preacher of the word, or had it owed its   
 existence to the confluence of the converts of any other preacher than St.   
 Paul, he would hardly have expressed himself as he has done in this   
 Epistle. Wo may fairly infer from ch. xy. 20, that he had, proximately,   
 laid the foundation of the Roman church: that is to say, it was origi-   
 nated by those to whom he had preached, who had been attracted to   
 the metropolis of the world by various canses,—who had there laboured   
 in the ministry with success, and gathered round them an important   
 Christian community.   
 Of this community, though not his own immediate offspring in the   
 faith, Paul takes charge as being the Apostle of the Gentiles. He   
 longs to impart to them some spiritual gift (ch. i. 11): he excuses hig   
 having written more boldly unto them in some measure (ch. xy. 15),   
 by the dignity of that office, in which, as a priest, he was to offer the   
 Gentiles, an acceptable and sanctified offering to God.   
 (c) The character given in ch. i. 8 of the Roman Christians, that   
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