rytropuction.] THE EPISTLE TO THE ROMANS. [on. 1.   
   
   
   
 SECTION Iv.   
 AT WHAT TIME AND PLACE IT WAS WRITTEN.   
   
   
   
 1. This is more plainly pointed out in our Epistle than in most of   
 the others, The Apostle was about to set out for Jerusalem with a   
 contribution from the churches of Macedonia and Achaia (ch. xv. 25 ff.).   
 ‘To make this contribution he had exhorted the Corinthian church, 1 Cor.   
 xvi. 1 ff, and hinted the possibility of his carrying it to Jerusalem in   
 person, after wintering with them. And again in 2 Cor. viii. ix. he   
 recurs to the subject, blames the tardiness of the Corinthians in pre-   
 paring the contribution, and (ch. xiii, 1) describes himself as coming to   
 them immediately. Comparing these notices with Acts xx. 1 ff, wo   
 find that Paul left Ephesus (after Pentecost, see notes there) for   
 Macedonia, wintered at Corinth, and thence went to Jerusalem accom-   
 panied by several brethren, bearing (ch. xxiv. 17) alms to his nation   
 and offerings.   
 2. Thus far it would appear that it was written close upon, or duriag,   
 his journey to bear alms to Jerusalem. But the very place is pointed   
 out by evidence which can hardly be misapplied. We have a special   
 commendation of Phebe, a deaconess of the church at Cenchree, to the   
 kindness and attention of the Roman Christians : such a commendation   
 as could hardly have been sent, had she not been, as generally believed,   
 the bearer of the letter. Again, greetings are sent (ch. xvi. 23) from   
 Gaius, evidently a resident, for he is called ‘the host of myself and of   
 the whole church.” But on comparing 1 Cor. i. 14, we find Paul telling   
 the Corinthians that he baptized among them one Gaius. ‘These persons   
 can hardly but be one and the same. Again, Erastus is mentioned as   
 steward of the city. Therefore, as Tholuck remarks, of some city well   
 known to the Romans, and one in which he must have been some time   
 resident, so to speak of it. I may add, that after the mention of   
 Cenchrex, “the city” can be no other than Corinth: just as, if the   
 Pirzus had been mentioned, “ the city” would necessarily mean Athens.   
 (An Erastus is said to have remained at Corinth, 2 Tim. iv. 20, but the   
 identity is too uncertain for the notice to be more than a possible   
 corroboration.)   
 8. From the above evidence it is placed almost beyond question that   
 the Epistle was written from Corinth, at the close of the three months’   
 residence there of Acts xx. 3,—the “ wintering” of 1 Cor. xvi. 6, when   
 Paul was just about to depart (ch, xv. 25) for Jerusalem on his errand   
 of charity.   
 4. By consulting the chronological table appended to the Introduction   
 to the Acts, vol. i. part 2, it will be seen that I place this visit in tho   
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