§ v.] LANGUAGE, AND STYLE. [sytRopucrion.   
   
 winter of a.p. 57—58. The Epistle accordingly was sent in the spring   
 of A.D. 58, the fourth of the reign of Nero.   
   
   
   
 SECTION V.   
 LANGUAGE, AND STYLE.   
   
   
   
 1. It might perhaps have been expected, that an Epistle to Romaus   
 would have been written in Latin. But Greek had become so far the   
 general language of the world, that there is no ground for surprise in the   
 Apostle having employed it. Not to cite passages in the classics which   
 point to the universal adoption of Greek habits and language at Rome,   
 we have the similar instances of Ignatius, Dionysius of Corinth, and   
 Trenzus, all of whom wrote to the Roman Christians in Greek. Clement,   
 bishop of Rome, wrote in Greek. Justin Martyr addressed his apologies   
 to the Roman Emperors in Greek. And if it be objected, that the   
 greater number of the Christian converts would belong to the lower   
 classes, we may answer, that a great proportion of these were native   
 Grecks.   
 2. In speaking of the style of the Epistle, the following general   
 remarks on the style of the Apostle Paul, taken from Tholuck’s Intro-   
 duction to his Commentary on the Epistle to the Romans, p. 26 ff, are   
 of considerable interest: “As in general we can best apprehend and   
 estimate the style of a writer in connexion with his character, so is it   
 with the Apostle Paul. The attributes which especially characterize the   
 originality of Paul as an Author, are Power, Fulness, and Warmth. If   
 to these attributes is added Perspicuity of unfolding thought, we have   
 all united, which ennobles an orator. But fulness of ideas and warmth   
 of feelings often bring with them a certain informality of expression :   
 the very wealth of the productive power does not always leave time to   
 educate the thoughts which are born into the light,—to arrange and   
 select the feelings. Together with the excellences above mentioned,   
 something of this defect is found in the style of the great Apostle of the   
 Gentiles: a want of correspondence in the members of sentences, a   
 departure from close sequence, a boldness and freshness and simplicity   
 of style, proving more by the nature of things than by art, persuading   
 more by the feclings than by the rules of logic. The high claims of   
 St. Paul to the reputation of eloquence were acknowledged by remote   
 Christian antiquity. Nay, we have in all probability an honourable   
 testimony to the same effect from one of the most celebrated critics   
 of heathen Rome,—that namely of the fragment of Longinus, where he   
 ranks Paul with the first orators of ancient times, adding however the   
 remark, that he appears more to persuade than to demonstrate. From   
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