§v.J LANGUAGE, AND STYLE. [inTRoDUCTION.   
   
   
 position, thereby execeding the intention of the sentence, and distorting   
 the context by elevating into importance clauses of comparative in-   
 difference. :   
 (9g) The frequency and peculiarity of his parenthetical passages. The   
 difficulty presented by this characteristic is, in few words, that of dis-   
 entangling with precision such clauses and passages. The danger is   
 twofold: 1. lest we too hastily assume an irregular construction, not   
 pereciving the parenthetical interruption: 2. lest we err on the other   
 hand, which has more commonly been the ease, in assuming the existence   
 of parenthetical clauses where none exist. St. Paul’s parentheses are   
 generally well marked to the careful observer ; and it must be remem-   
 bered that the instances of unfinished sentences and irregular construe-   
 tion are at least as frequent: so that we are not, for the sake of clearing   
 up a construction, to throw in parentheses, as is often done, to the   
 detriment of the sense.   
 The peculiarity of his parentheses consists in this, that owing to the   
 fervency and rapidity of his composition he frequently deserts, in a   
 clause apparently intended to be parenthetical, the construction of the   
 main sentence, and instead of resuming it again, proceeds with the   
 parenthesis as if it were the main sentence.   
 Instances of almost all these characteristic difficulties will be found in   
 chap. v. of this Epistle, where, so to speak, they reach their culminating   
 point. .   
 5. Two cautions are necessary, on accouut of the lax renderings   
 of our authorized version, by which the details of the argument of this   
 and other Epistles have been so disguised, that it is almost impossible   
 for the mere English student of that version intelligently to apprehend   
 them.   
 (a) The emphatic position of words is of the highest importance.   
 Pages might be filled with an account of misrenderings of versions and   
 Commentators from disregard to the rules of emphasis. The student   
 will continually find such instances alleged and criticized in these notes ;   
 and will be surprised that so momentous a matter should have been   
 generally overlooked.   
 (b) The distinction between the past and perfect tenses is in our   
 authorized version very commonly disregarded, and thereby the point   
 of the sentence altogether missed. Instances are continually occurring   
 in the Epistles: and it has been my endeavour in the notes to draw the   
 reader’s attention to them with a view to their correction.   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
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