§ m.] WITH WHAT OBJECT WRITTEN. [iytropucrion.   
   
 except that, although founded on a recognition of Jesus the Christ, it   
 was of an inconsistent and unsubstantial kind, and such as would not   
 stand in the coming day of ficry trial (1 Cor. iii. 11 ff).   
 7. That some of these teachers may have described themselves as   
 peculiarly belonging to Christ is a priori very probable. St. Paul had   
 had no connexion with our Lord while He lived and taught on earth.   
 Ilis Christian life and apostolic calling began at so late a period, that   
 those who had seen the Lord on earth might claim a superiority over   
 him. And this is all that seems to be meant by the words, “and I of   
 Christ,” in 1 Cor. i. 12, especially if we compare them with 2 Cor. x. 7 ff.,   
 the only other passage where the expression is alluded to. There cer-   
 tainly persons are pointed out, who boasted themselves in some peculiar   
 connexion with Christ which, it was presumed, Paul had not ; and were   
 ignorant that the weapons of the apostolic warfare were not carnal, but   
 spiritual.   
 8. It would also be natural that some should avow themselves the   
 Sollowers of Paul himself, and set perhaps an undue value on him as   
 God’s appointed minister among them, forgetting that all ministers   
 were but God’s servants for their benefit.   
 9. It will be seen from the foregoing remarks, as well as from the   
 notes, that I do not believe these tendencies to have developed them-   
 selves into distinctly marked parties, either before the writing of our   
 Epistle or at any other time. In the Epistle of Clement of Rome,   
 written some years after, we find the same contentious spirit blamed,   
 but it appears that by that time its ground was altogether different:   
 we have no traces of the Paul-party, or Apollos-party, or Cephas-party,   
 or Christ-party: ecclesiastical insubordination and ambition were then   
 the faults of the Corinthian church,   
 10. Much ingenuity and labour has been spent in Germany on the in   
 supposed distinct parties at Corinth, and the most eminent theologians   
 have endeavoured, with very different results, to allot to each its definite   
 place in tenets and practice. Irefer the Euglish reader for a complete   
 account of the principal theories, to Dr. Davidson’s Introduction, vol. ii.   
 p. 224 ff., Conybeare and Howson’s Life of St. Paul, vol. i. chap. xiii.   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
 SECTION III.   
 WITH WHAT OBJECT IT WAS WRITTEN.   
   
   
   
 1. The object of writing this Epistle was twofold. The Apostle had   
 been applied to by the Corinthians to advise them on matters connected   
 with their practice in the relations of life (ch. vii. 1), and with their liberty   
 Vor. I.—17