§ vi] MATTER, AND STYLE. {inrropuction.   
   
   
 external probability, as well as spiritual aualogy, is against the idea   
 that St. Paul would so have expressed himself. But there still is no   
 reason, why the nearness or presence of that season may not have sug-   
 gested to him the whole train of thought there occwrring,—especially   
 when we know independently that he was writing during the former   
 part of the year.   
 4, It is almost certain then that the Epistle was written before Pente-   
 cost, A.D. 57: and probable, that somewhat about Easter was the exact   
 time.   
 5. The Apostle had at this time already sent off Timothy and Erastus   
 to Macedonia (compare Acts xix. 22, and 1 Cor. iv. 17), the latter   
 (1 Cor. ib.) with the intention of his proceeding on to Corinth, if possible   
 (1 Cor. xvi. 10), and preparing the way for his own apostolic visit (iv.   
 17). Possibly also his mission had reference to the collection for the   
 saints at Jerusalem (sce 2 Cor. viii., and xii. 18); but the language   
 used is ambiguous, and we cannot pronounce positively that Timothy.   
 reached Corinth on this journey. (See below, ch. iv. § 2, 4.)   
 6. The Epistle is addressed in the name of Sosthenes our brother, as   
 well as in that of the Apostle. It is hardly possible that this Sosthenes   
 should be the same as tho person of that name mentioned Acts xviii.   
 17\*: sce note there. The conjectures respecting him I have given on,   
 1 Cor. i.1. He bears no part in the Epistle itself, any more than   
 Timothy in 2 Cor.: the Apostle, after mentioning him, immediately   
 proceeds, “J thank my God.”   
 7. It is uncertain, who were the bearers of the Epistle: but perhaps   
 the common subscription is right in assigning that office to Stephanas,   
 Fortunatus, and Achaicus. For they are mentioned as being present   
 with the Apostle (1 Cor. xvi. 17) from Corinth : and as an injunction is   
 given (ib. 18) that they should be honourably regarded by the Corin-   
 thians, it is highly probable that they were intending to return.   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
 SECTION VIL.   
 MATTER, AND STYLE.   
   
   
 1. As might have been expected from the occasion of writing, the   
 matter of this Epistle is very various. It is admirably characterized by   
 Mr. Conybeare, in Conybeare and Howson’s Life and Epistles of St. Paul,   
 yol. ii. p. 28 (2nd edn.) :   
 ~ "This letter is, in its contents, the most diversified of all St. Paul’s   
 Epistles :-gnd in proportion to the varicty of its topics, is the depth of   
 its interest for ourselves. For by it we are introduced as it were behind   
 4 Unless indeed, a3 Mr. Birks supposes, Hora Apostolic, p. 215 f., was converted.   
 subsequently to that occurrence.   
   
   
   
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