INTRODUCTION. ] 1 CORINTHIANS. © (cx. 1.   
   
   
 the scenes of the apostolic Church, and its minutest features are revealed   
 to us under the light of daily life. We see the picture of a Christian   
 congregation as it met for worship in some upper chamber, such as the   
 house of Aquila or of Gaius could furnish. We see that these seasons   
 of pure devotion were not unalloyed by human vanity and excitement:   
 yet, on the other hand, we behold the heathen auditor pierced to the   
 heart by the inspired eloquence of the Christian prophets, the secrets of   
 his conscience laid bare to him, and himself constrained to fall down on   
 his face and worship God: we hear the fervent thanksgiving echoed   
 by the unanimous Amen: we see the administration of the Holy Com-   
 munion terminating the feast of love. Again, we become familiar with   
 the perplexities of domestic life, the corrupting proximity of heathen   
 immorality, the lingering superstition, the rash speculation, the lawless   
 perversion of Christian liberty: we witness the strife of theological   
 factions, the party names, the sectarian animosities. We perceive the   
 difficulty of the task imposed upon the Apostle, who must guard from   
 so many perils, and guide through so many difficulties, his children in   
 the faith, whom else he had begotten in vain : and we learn to appreciate   
 more fully the magnitude of that laborious responsibility under which ho   
 describes himself as almost ready to sink, ‘the care of all the churches.’   
 “But while we rejoice that so many details of the deepest historical   
 interest have been preserved to us by this Epistle, let us not forget to   
 thank God, who so inspired His Apostle, that in his answers to questions   
 of transitory interest he has laid down principles of eternal obligation.   
 Let us trace with gratitude the providence of Him, who ‘out of darkness   
 calls up light ;’ by whose mercy it was provided that the unchastity of   
 the Corinthians should occasion the sacred laws of moral purity to be   
 established for ever through the Christian world :—that their denial of   
 the resurrection should cause those words to be recorded whereon re-   
 poses, as upon a rock that cannot be shaken, our sure and certain hope   
 of immortality.”   
 2. In style, this Epistle ranks perhaps the foremost of all as to   
 sublimity and earnest and inipassioned eloquence. Of the former, the   
 description of the simplicity of the Gospel in ch. ii.,—the concluding   
 apostrophe of ch. iii. (ver. 16—end), the same in ch. vi. (ver. 9—end),   
 —the reminiscence of the shortness of the time, ch. vii. 29—31,—the   
 whole argument in ch. xv.,—are examples unsurpassed in Scripture   
 itself: and of the latter, ch. iv, 8—15, and the whole of ch. ix.: while   
 the panegyric of Love, in ch. xiii., stands, a pure and perfect gem, per-   
 haps the noblest assemblage of beautiful thoughts in beautiful lang: Yee   
 extant in this our world.—About the whole Epistle there is 3,¢haracter   
 of lofty and sustained solemnity,—an absence of tortuougness of con-   
 struction, and an apologetic plainness, which contrast Yemarkably with   
 the personal portions of the second Epistle. va   
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