INTRODUCTION. ] 2 CORINTHIANS. [or mr.   
   
   
 8. The integrity of this Epistle has not however been unquestioned :   
 but it is not worth while to trouble the English reader with the fanciful   
 theories on which it has been supposed by some German writers to con-   
 sist of two or more smaller Epistles   
   
   
   
 SECTION IL. .   
 CIRCUMSTANCES, PLACE, AND TIME OF WRITING.   
   
   
   
 1. At the time of writing this Epistle, Paul had recently left Asia   
 (2 Cor. i. 8): in doing so had come by Troas (ii. 12): and thence had   
 sailed to Macedonia (ibid.; compare Acts xx. 1, 2), where he still was   
 (ch. viii. 1; ix. 2, where notice especially the present, ‘I am boasting,”   
 —ix.4). In Asia he had undergone some great peril of his life (2 Cor.   
 i. 8, 9), which (sce note there) can hardly be referred to the tumult at   
 Ephesus (Acts xix. 23, 41)\*,—but from the nature of his expressions   
 was probably a grievous sickness, not unaccompanicd with deep and   
 wearing anxiety. At Troas, he had expected to meet Titus (2 Cor. ii.   
 13), with intelligence respecting the effect produced at Corinth by the   
 first Epistle. In this he was disappointed (ii. 13), but the meeting   
 took place in Macedonia (vii. 5, 6), where the expected tidings were   
 announced to him (vii. 7—16). They were for the most part favour-   
 able, but not altogether. All who were well disposed had been humbled   
 by his reproofs: but evidently his adversaries had been further em-   
 bittered. He wished to express to them the comfort which the news of   
 their submission had brought to him, and at the same time to defend his   
 apostolic efficiency and personal character against the impugners of both.   
 Under these circumstances, and with these objects, he wrote this Epistle,   
 and sent it before him to break the severity with which he contemplated   
 having to act against the rebellious (ch. xiii. 10), by winning them over   
 if possible before his arrival.   
 2. The place of writing is nowhere clearly pointed out. There is no   
 ground for supposing it to have been Philippi, as commonly imagined \*.   
 Nay, such a supposition is ofitselfimprobable. In ch. viii. 1 he announces   
 to the Corinthians the generosity which had been the result of God’s   
 grace given among the churches of Macedonia. It is hardly likely that   
 he would make such announcement, if he had hitherto been stationary at   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
 5 [cannot help being surprised that any one who has studied the character and history   
 of the Apostle should still refer passage to that tumult, The supposition lays to   
 charge a meanness of spirit and cowardice, which certainly never characterized and   
 to avow which would have been in the highest degree out of place in an Epistle, one   
 object of which was to vindicate his apostolic   
 6 The common subscription assigns Philippi: but whether from tradition, or mere   
 hasty inference, is quite uncertain,