INTRODUCTION. | 2 CORINTHIANS. [ex. m.   
   
   
 tioned in this Epistle as having gone to them, is easily accounted for by   
 the circumstance that he is associated with the Apostle in the writing of   
 the Epistle.   
 Meyer believes that tidings had been brought by him from Corinth of   
 an unfavourable kind respecting the effect of the first Epistle ; and that   
 the state of the Apostle’s mind described in 2 Cor. ii. 12, vii. 5, is to be   
 traced to the reception of these tidings, not merely to the anxiety of   
 suspense,   
 5. The second question regards the mission of Titus to Corinth, which   
 took place subsequently to our first Epistle, and on the return from   
 which he brought to thé Apostle the further tidings of the effect of that   
 letter, referred to 2 Cor. vii.6. The most natural supposition is that he   
 was sent to ascertain this matter: and this is the view of De Wette   
 and others. Bleek, however, with whom agree Credner, Olshausen, and   
 Neander, makes a totally different hypothesis, which is thus expressed by   
 the latter: ‘‘ Timothy had brought to the Apostle painful tidings which   
 excited his anxiety, especially respecting the agitation caused by one   
 individual, who insolently set himself against Paul and endeavoured   
 to oppose his apostolic authority.” (This latter view he defends by   
 explaining 2 Cor. ii. 5, vii. 12, not of the incestuous person of 1 Cor. v.,   
 but of some adversary of the Apostle.) ‘On this account Paul sent   
 Timothy to Corinth with a letter (now lost) in which he expressed him-   
 self very strongly on these circumstances ; so that after Titus had set out,   
 his heart, full as it was of paternal love towards the Corinthian Church,   
 was distressed with fear lest he had written somewhat too harslfly,   
 and been too severe upon them.” This ingenious conjecture, while   
 it might serve to clear up some expressions in 2 Cor. it. 1—4, which   
 seem too strong for the first Epistle, can perhaps hardly be admitted in   
 the absence of any allusion whatever of a clearer character. All we can   
 say is, it may have been so: and after all that has been written on the   
 visits of Timothy and Titus, we shall hardly arrive nearer the truth than   
 a happy conjecture.   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
 SECTION III.   
 MATTER, AND STYLE.   
   
   
 1. In no other Epistle are these so various, and so rapidly shifting   
 from one character to another. Consolation and rebuke, gentleness and   
 severity, earnestness and irony, succeed one another at very short inter-   
 vals and without notice. Meyer remarks: ‘The excitement and inter-   
 change of the affections, and probably also the haste, under which Paul   
 wrote this Epistle, certainly render the expressions often obscure and the   
 constructions difficult: but serve only to exalt our admiration of the   
   
   
 great oratorical delicacy, art, and power, with which this outpouring of   
 28