§ ur] WITH WHAT OBJECT WRITTEN. [inrropuction.   
   
 2. The character of the people, as shewn in this Epistle, agrees   
 remarkably with that ascribed to the Gallic race by all writers\*. They   
 received the Apostle at his first visit with extreme joy, and shewed him   
 every kindness: but were soon shaken in their fidelity to him and the   
 Gospel, and were transferring their allegiance to false teachers.   
 8. The Galatian churches were founded by St. Paul at his first visit,   
 when he was detained among them by sickness (ch. iv. 13: see note,   
 and compare Acts xvi. 6), during his second missionary journey, about   
 A.D. 51 (see Chronol. Table in Introd. to Acts, Vol. II.). Though doubt-   
 less he began his preaching as usual among the Jews (Josephus vouches   
 for the fact of many Jews being resident in Ancyra), yet this Epistle   
 testifies to the majority of his readers being Gentiles, not yet cir-   
 eumcised, though nearly persuaded to it by Judaizing teachers. At   
 the same time we see by the frequent references to the Old Test. and the   
 adoption of the rabbinical method of interpretation by allegory (ch. iv.   
 21—81), that he had to do with churches which had been accustomed.   
 to Judaizing teaching, and familiarized with the Old Test. In the   
 manifold preparations for the Gospel which must have taken place   
 wherever Jews were numerous, through the agency of those who had at   
 Jerusalem heard and believed on Jesus, we need not wonder at any   
 amount of Judaistic influence apparent even in churches founded by   
 St. Paul himself: nor need any hypotheses respecting his preaching bo   
 invented to account for such a phenomenon.   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
 SECTION II.   
 WITH WHAT OBJECT IT WAS WRITTEN.   
   
   
 1. Judaizing teachers had followed, as well as preceded, the Apostle   
 in Galatia, and had treated slightingly his apostolic office and authority   
 (ch. i. 1, 11), giving out that circumcision was necessary (ch. v. 2; vi.   
 12). Their influence was increasing, and the churches were being drawn.   
 away by it (i. 6; iii. 1, 8; iv.9—11; v. 7—12). Against these teachers   
 he had already testified in person (i. 9; iv. 16, where see notes, and   
 ef. Acts xviii. 28),—and now that the evil was so rapidly and seriously   
 gaining ground, he writes this Epistle expressly to counteract it.   
 2. The object then of the Epistle was, (1) to defend his own apos-   
 tolie authority ; and (2) to expose the judaistic error by which they   
   
   
   
   
 8 So Casar, B. G. iv. 5: “Fearing the weakness of the Gauls, because they are fickle   
 in taking up plans, and ever fond of innovating, he thought no trust should be put in   
 them.” And Thierry, Hist. des Gaulois, Introd. : “un esprit franc, impétueux, onvert   
 & toutes les impressions, éminemment intelligent: mais, 4 cdté de cela, une mobilité   
 extréme, point de constance, . . . . beaucoup d’ostentation, enfin une désunion per-   
 pétuelle, fruit vanité.” Conybeare and Howson, i. 285, note.   
 31