§v.] TIME AND PLACE OF WRITING. [inrropuctioy.   
   
   
   
 SECTION V.   
 TIME AND PLACE OF WRITING.   
   
   
   
 1. We have no date in the Epistle itself, which may enable us to   
 determine the time when it was written. This can ouly be gathered   
 from indirect sources. And consequently, the most various dates have   
 been assigned to it: some, as Marcion in old times, and Michaelis and   
 others in modern, placing it first among St. Paul’s Epistles: and others   
 last. The following considerations will narrow our field of uncertainty   
 on the point :   
 2. If the reasoning in the note on the Chronological Table, Vol. I.   
 Introd. pp. 96, 97, be correct,—the visit to Jerusalem mentioned Gal. ii.   
 1 ff. is identical with that in Acts xv. 1 ff. It will thence follow that   
 the Epistle cannot have been written before that visit: i.e. (see Chron.   
 Table as above) not before a.p. 50.   
 3. I have maintained, in the note on Gal. iv. 16, that the words   
 there used most naturally refer to the Apostle’s second visit to the   
 churches of Galatia, when, Acts xviii. 28, he went through “ the country   
 of Galatia, confirming all the disciples.” If so, this Epistle cannot date   
 before that visit: i.e. (Chron. Table as above) not before the autumn of   
 the year 54.   
 4. The first period then which seems probable, is the Apostle’s stay   
 at Ephesus in Acts xix., from autumn 54, till Pentecost 57. And this   
 period is so considerable, that, having regard to the “ so soon” of ch.i. 6,   
 it must be regarded as quite possible that our Epistle may have been   
 written during it.   
 5. The next period during which it might have been written is, his   
 stay at Corinth, Acts xx. 2, 3, where he spent the winter of the year   
 57-8, and whence he wrote the Epistle to the Romans. This is the   
 opinion of Conybeare and Howson (vol. ii. p. 162, edn. 2). They   
 support their view entirely by the similarity of this Epistle and that to   
 the Romans. “TIt is,” they say (p. 165, note), “exactly that resem-   
 blance which would exist between two Epistles written nearly at the   
 same time, while the same line of argument was occupying the writer’s   
 mind, and the same phrases and illustrations were on his tongue.” It   
 has also been maintained with much skill and learning by Professor   
 Lightfoot, in an article in the Journal, of Sacred and Classical   
 Philology for Jan. 1857: which article is reproduced in the In-   
 troduction to his Edition of the Epistle, 1865. He traces the sequence   
 of the lines of thought in the greater Epistles, and finds internal:   
 evidence enough to make him decide strongly that it is very im-   
 probable, that the two Epistles to the Corinthians intervened between   
 Vou. I1.—33 ° ¢