iTRopucTION.] THE EPISTLE TO THE EPHESIANS. [cu. v.   
   
   
 those to the Galatians and Romans, or that to the Galatians between   
 the second to the Thessalonians and the first to the Corinthians,   
 6. I own that these considerations seem to me weighty ones, and   
 have caused me to modify the decided preference which I once gave to   
 the earlier date. Stili, I do not feel Mr. Lightfoot’s article to have   
 settled the question. It might be, that the elementary truths brought   
 out amidst deep emotion, sketched, so to speak, in great rough lines in   
 the fervent Epistle to the Galatians, dwelt long on St. Paul’s mind   
 (even though other subjects of interest regarding other churches in-   
 tervened), and at length worked themselves out, under the teaching and   
 leading of the Spirit, into that grand theological argument which he   
 afterwards addressed, without any special moving occasion, but as his   
 master-exposition of Christian doctrine, to the church of the metropolis   
 of the world.   
 7. I think then that it must always remain a question between   
 these two periods. In favour of the former of them it may be said   
 that, considering the expression “so soon” in ch. i. 6, we can hardly   
 let so long a time elapse as the second would pass over,—and that   
 probability is in favour of strong emotion haying, in the prompting   
 of God’s Spirit, first brought out that statement of Christian truth and   
 freedom, which after-deliberation expanded, and polished, and system-   
 atized, in the Epistle to the Romans: and in favour of the latter may   
 be alleged the interesting considerations respecting the grouping of St.   
 Paul’s Epistles, and the parallels between 2 Corinthians, Galatians, and   
 Romans, which Professor Lightfoot has adduced.   
 8. Of course my objection to the date implied in the common sub-   
 scription, “it was written from Rome,” adopted by Theodoret, and   
 others, is even stronger than that stated above. Those who wish to   
 see the matter discussed at more length, may refer to Davidson, Introd.   
 ii. p. 292 ff, and to Mr. Lightfoot’s Edition of the Epistle, pp. 35—55.   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
 CHAPTER V.   
   
   
 THE EPISTLE TO THE EPHESIANS.   
   
 SECTION I.   
 ITS AUTHORSHIP.   
   
   
 1, Tre ancient testimonies to the Apostle Paul having been the   
 author of this Epistle, are the following:   
 (a) Ireneus:   
 “As saith the blessed Paul in the Epistle to the Ephesians, we   
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