§ in] ITS OCCASION, OBJECT, &. [intRopuctions   
   
 copies of the Epistle became spread over the world,—all imported from   
 Ephesus, it was called ‘the Epistle from Ephesus,’ and so the uame of   
 Ephesus came into the text:—for this would, besides being very far-   
 fetched and improbable, not account for the consensus throughout the   
 church, in the Asiatic portion of which, at least, traces of the accurate   
 addresses would be preserved. 5) Another objection, running counter to   
 1) but not therefore inconsistent with it, is that if it had been encyclical,   
 some notice at least would have been found of special local (or rather   
 regional) circumstances, as in those to the Corinthians and Galatians.   
 The absence of such notice might easily be accounted for, if it were   
 indeed written to the Ephesians alone: but not, if to various Asiatic   
 churches, some of which were so far from having the Ephesians’ intimacy   
 with the Apostle, that they had never even seen him. ‘There could be   
 no reason for his addressing in common the churches of Laodicea, Hiera-   
 polis, Philadelphia, and others (I take the names from Conybeare and   
 Howson, ii. 489), except the existence of some common special dangers,   
 and need of some common special exhortation, of neither of which do we   
 find any hint.   
 20. I infer then, in accordance with the prevalent belief of the Church   
 in all ages, that this Epistle was VERITABLY ADDRESSED TO THE SAINTS   
 iy Epuesus, and TO NO OTHER CHURCH.   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
 SECTION III.   
 ITS OCCASION, OBJECT, AND CONTENTS.   
   
   
   
 1. The contents of the Epistle afford no indication of its having   
 sprung out of any special circumstances of the Ephesian church.   
 Tychicus and Onesimus were being sent to Colosse. The former was   
 charged with a weighty Epistle to the church there, arising out of pecu-   
 liar dangers which beset them; the latter, with a private apostolic letter   
 of recommendation to his former master, also a resident at Colosse.   
 Under these circumstances, the yearning heart of St. Paul went forth to   
 his Ephesians. He thought of them as a church in Christ of his own   
 planting—as the mystic Body of Christ, growing onwards for an habi-   
 tation of God through the Spirit. And, full of such thoughts, he wrote   
 this Epistle to them at the same time with, or immediately subsequent   
 to, his penning of that to the Colossians (on their relation, see below,   
 § vi., and principally, Introd. to Col. § iv. p. 39 ff).   
 2. This being so, the object of the Epistle is a general one—to set   
 forth the ground, the course, the aim and end, of. the CHURCH OF THE   
 FAITHFUL IN Curist. He speaks to the Ephesians as a type or sample   
 of the Church universal. He writes to them not as an ecclesiastical   
 45