§v.J ITS LANGUAGE, AND STYLE. [irropuction.   
   
   
 turn press upon and crush the words used, and of even those again, the   
 former act similarly on the latter.”   
 2. These characteristics contribute to make our Epistle by far the   
 most difficult of all the writings of St. Paul. Elsewhere, as in the   
 Epistles to the Romans, Galatians, and Colossians, the difficulties lie   
 for the most part at or near the surface: a certain degree of study will   
 master, not indeed the mysteries of redemption which are treated of, but   
 the contextual coherence, and the course of the argument: or if not so,   
 will at least serve to point out to every reader where the hard texts lie,   
 and to bring out into relief each point with which he has to deal:   
 whereas here the difficulties lie altogether beneath the surface; are not   
 discernible by the cursory reader, who finds all very straightforward   
 and simple. All on the surface is smooth, and flows on unquestioned by   
 the untheological reader : but when we begin to enquire, why thought   
 succeeds to thought, and one cumbrous parenthesis to another,—depths   
 under depths disclose themselves, wonderful systems of parallel allusion,   
 frequent and complicated underplots; every word, the more we search,   
 approves itself as set in its exact logical place; we sce every phrase   
 contributing, by its own similar organization and articulation, to the   
 carrying out of the organic whole. But this result is not won without   
 much labour of thought,—without repeated and minute laying together   
 of portions and expressions,—without bestowing on single words and   
 phrases, and their succession and arrangement, as much study as would   
 suffice for whole sections of the more exoteric Epistles.   
 3. The student of the Epistle to the Ephesians must not expect to go   
 over his ground rapidly ; must not be disappointed, if the week’s end   
 find him still on the same paragraph, or even on the same verse, weigh-   
 ing and judging,—penetrating gradually, by the power of the mind of   
 the Spirit, through one outer surface after another,—gathering in his   
 hand one and another ramifying thread, till at last he grasps the main   
 cord whence they all diverged, and where they all unite,—and stands   
 rejoicing in his prize, deeper rooted in the faith, and with a firmer hold   
 on the truth as it is in Christ. :   
 4. And as the wonderful effect of the Spirit of inspiration on the   
 mind of man is nowhere in Scripture more evident than in this Epistle,   
 so, to discern those things of the Spirit, is the spiritual mind here more   
 than any where required. We may shew this by reference to De Wette,   
 one of the ablest of Commentators. I have mentioned above, § i. 6,   
 that he approaches this Epistle with an unfortunate and unworthy pre-   
 judgment of its spuriousness. He never thinks of applying to it that   
 humble and laborious endeavour which rendered his commentary on the   
 Romans among the most valuable in existence. It is not too much to   
 say, that on this account he has missed almost every point in the   
 Epistle: that his Handbuch, in this part of it, is hardly better than   
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