wtTRopuction.] ‘THE EPISTLE TO THE EPHESIANS. [cm v.   
   
 works of third-rate or fourth-rate men: and just for this reason—that   
 he has never come to it with any view of learning from it, but with the   
 averted eyes of a prejudiced man. Take, as a contrast, the two laborious   
 volumes of Stier. Here, I would not deny, we have the opposite course   
 carried into extreme: but with all Stier’s faults of too minute classifi-   
 eation,—of wearisome length in exegesis,—of unwillingness to lose, and   
 attempts to combine, every divergent sense of the same passage,—we   
 have the precious and most necessary endowment of spiritual discern-   
 ment,—acquaintance with the analogy of the faith. And in consequence,   
 the acquisition to the Church of Christ from his minute dissection of   
 this Epistle has been most valuable; and sets future students, with re-   
 gard to it, on higher spiritual ground than they ever occupied before.   
 5. It is not to be wondered at, where the subject is one of a kind   
 peculiar to itself, and treated of in a method and style unusually sub-   
 lime, that the unusual, or only once occurring words, should be in this   
 Epistle more in number than common, as well as the ideas and images   
 peculiar to it. I would again impress on the student, as against De   
 Wette and others, that all such phenomena, instead of telling against   
 its genuineness, are in its favour, and that strongly. Any skilful forger   
 would not perhaps make his work a mere cento from existing undoubted   
 expressions of St. Paul, but at all events would write on new matter in   
 the Apostle’s well-known phraseology, avoiding all words and ideas   
 which were in his writings entirely without example.   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
 SECTION VI.   
 ITS RELATION TO THE EPISTLE TO THE COLOSSIANS.   
   
   
   
 1. I reserve the full discussion of this subject to the chapter on the   
 Epistle to the Colossians. It would be premature, until the student is   
 in full possession of the object and occasion of that Epistle, to insti-   
 tute our comparison between the two.   
 2. It may suffice at present to say what may be just enough, as   
 regards the distinctive character of the Epistle to the Ephesians. And   
 this may be done by remarking, that we have here, in the midst of words   
 and images common to the two, an entire absence of ali controversial   
 allusion, and of all assertion as against maintainers of doctrinal error.   
 The Christian state, and its realization in the Church, is the one subject,   
 and is not disturbed by any looking to the deviations from that state on   
 either hand, nor guarded, except from that fundamental and directly   
 subversive error of impure and unholy practice.   
   
   
   
   
   
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