cu. vi.] THE EPISTLE TO THE PHILIPPIANS. [iyrropuction.   
   
   
   
 CHAPTER VI.   
   
   
 THE EPISTLE TO THE PHILIPPIANS,   
   
 SECTION L   
 ITS AUTHORSHIP, AND INTEGRITY.   
   
   
   
 1. Ir has been all but universally believed that this Epistle was   
 written by St. Paul. Indeed, considering its peculiarly Pauline psycho-   
 logical character, the total absence from it of all assignable motive for   
 falsification, the spontaneity and fervour of its effusions of fecling, he   
 must be a bold man who would call its authorship in question %   
 2. Yet this has been done, partially by Schrader, who supposed   
 ch. iii, 1—iv, 9 interpolated, as well as shorter passages elsewhere, con-   
 ceding however the Pauline authorship in the main: and entirely by   
 Baur, on his usual ground of:later Gnostic ideas being found in the   
 Epistle. To those who would see an instance of the very insanity of   
 hypereriticism, I recommend the study of these pages of Baur. They   
 are almost as good by way of burlesque, as the “ Historie Doubts   
 respecting Napoleon Buonaparte” of Archbishop Whately. Accord-   
 ing to him, all usual expressions prove its spuriousness, as being taken   
 from other Epistles : all unusual expressions prove the same, as being   
 from another than St. Paul. Poverty of thought, and want of point,   
 are charged against it in one page: in another, excess of point, and   
 undue vigour of expression. Certainly the genuineness of the Epistle   
 will never suffer in the great common-sense verdict of mankind, from   
 Baur’s attack. There is hardly an argument used by him, that may   
 not more naturally be reversed and turned against himself.   
 38. In external testimonies, our Epistle is rich.   
 (a) Polycarp, in his Epistle to the Philippians, testifies to the fact of   
 St. Paul having written to them, “Paul, who when absent wrote you   
 letters': into which if you look, ye will be able to be built up in the   
 faith given you.”   
 (2) And in the same Epistle, he writes, “I never knew or heard such   
 a thing in you, among whom laboured the blessed Paul; who are praised   
 in the beginning of his Epistle. For he boasts of you in all the   
 churches which alone at that time knew God.” Phil. i. 5 ff.   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
 ® Meyer quotes from Rilliet, Commentaire, Genéve, 1841: “Si parmi les écrits de   
 Paul il est vu, qui plus d’autres porte ’empreinte de la spoutanéité, et toute   
 apparence de falsification par Pintérét dune secte, ¢’est sans contredit   
 aux Philippiens.”   
 1 Not necessarily to be understood of more than one Epistle.   
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