§ um.) TIME AND PLACE OF WRITING. [rnrropuction.   
   
 Philippians had heard of his imprisonment,—had raised and sent their   
 contribution to him by Epaphroditus,—had heard of Epaphroditus’s   
 sickness,—of the effect of which news on them he (Epaphroditus) had   
 had time to hear, ch. ii. 26, and was now recovered, and on his way back   
 to them. These oeeurrenees would imply four casual journeys from   
 Rome to Philippi. Again (eh. ii. 19, 23) he is expeeting a speedy   
 decisign of his cause, which would hardly be while he was dwelling as   
 in Aets xxviii. 30.   
 5, And besides all this, there is a spirit of anxiety and sadness   
 throughout this Epistle, which hardly agrees with the two years of the   
 imprisonment in the Acts, nor with the charaeter of those other Epistles.   
 His sufferings are evidently not the chain and the soldier only. Epa-   
 phroditus’s death would have brought on him “sorrow upon sorrow :”   
 there was then a “sorrow” before. He is now in a confliet—in one   
 not, as usual, between the flesh and the spirit, not concerning the long-   
 looked for trial of his case, but one of whieh the Philippians had heard   
 (ch. i. 29, 30), and in whieh they shared by being perseeuted too:   
 some change in his ecireumstances, some intensification of his imprison-   
 ment, which had taken place before this time.   
 6. And if we examine history, we can hardly fail to discover what   
 this was, and whenee arising. In February, 61, St. Paul arrived in   
 Rome (see Chron. Table in Introd. to Acts, Vol. I.). In 62, Burrus   
 (who was pretorian prefect at the time of Paul’s arrival) died, and   
 a very different spirit came over Nero’s government: who in the   
 same year divorced Octavia, married Poppwa, a Jewish proselytess,   
 and exalted Tigellinus, the principal promoter of that marriage, to   
 the joint pretorian prefecture. From that time, Nero began to incline   
 to worse advisers: Seneea lost his power: Tigellinus became more   
 powerful every day: a state of things which would manifestly dete-   
 riorate the condition of the Apostle, and have the effeet of hastening   
 on his trial. It will not be unreasonable to suppose that, some little   
 time after the death of Burrus (Feb., 63, would complete the “two whole   
 years” of Aets xxviii. 30), he was removed from his own house into the   
 pretorium, or barrack of the pretorian guards attached to the palace,   
 and put into stricter custody, with threatening of immediate peril of his   
 life. Here it would be very natural that some of those among the   
 pretorians who had had the custody of him before, should become agents   
 in giving the publicity to “his bonds,” which he mentions ech. i. 13.   
 And such a hypothesis suits eminently well all the cireumstances of our   
 Epistle.   
 7. According to this, we must date it shortly after Feb., 63: when   
 now the change was fresh, and the danger imminent. Say for its date   
 then, the summer of 63.   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
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