InTRODUCTION.] THE EPISTLE TO THE PHILIPPIANS. [cu. vi.   
   
   
   
 SECTION Iv.   
 LANGUAGE, AND STYLE.   
   
   
   
 1. The language of this Epistle is thoroughly Pauline. Baur has   
 indeed selected some phrases which he conceives to savour of the voca-   
 bulary of the later Gnosticism, but entirely without ground. Afi those   
 which he brings forward may easily be accounted for without any such   
 hypothesis: and, as has been already observed in Introd. to Ephesians,   
 peculiar expressions may just as well be held to have descended from   
 our Epistle to the Gnostics, as vice versa.   
 2. The mention of bishops and deacons in ch. i. 1, has surprised some.   
 I have explained in the note there, that it belongs probably to the late   
 date of our Epistle. But it need surprise no one, however that may be:   
 for the terms are found in an official sense, though not in formal con-   
 junction, in speeches made, and Epistles written long before this: e. g.   
 in Acts xx. 28; Rom. xvi. 1.   
 3. In style, this Epistle, like all those where St. Paul writes with   
 fervour, is discontinuous and abrupt, passing rapidly from one theme to   
 another \*; full of earnest exhortations \*, affectionate warnings \*, deep and   
 wonderful settings-forth of his individual spiritual condition and feel-   
 ings °, of the state of Christians ° and of the sinful world ',——of the loving   
 counsels of our Father respecting us\*, and the self-sacrifice and triumph   
 of our Redeemer ®. 0   
 4, No epistle is so warm in its expressions of affection’. ° Again and   
 again we have “beloved” and “brethren” recurring: and in one place,   
 ch. iv. 1, he seems as if he hardly could find words to pour out the ful-   
 ness of his love—‘ Afy brethren, dearly beloved and longed for, my joy   
 and my crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my beloved.” We see how such   
 a heart, penetrated to its depths by the Spirit of God, could love. We   
 ean see how that feeble frame, crushed to the very verge of death itself,   
 shaken with fightings and fears, burning at every man’s offence, and   
 weak with every man’s infirmity, had yet its sweet refreshments and   
 calm resting-places of affection. We can form some estimate,—if the   
 bliss of reposing on human spirits who loved him was so great,—how   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
 2 e.g., ch. ii, 19,—24, 25,—30, iii. 1,—2, 3, 4,14, 15, &e.   
 3 See ch. i. 27, iii. iv. 1 ff, 5, 8, 9.   
 4 See ch. ii. 3, 14 ff, iii, 17-19.   
 5 See ch. i. 21—26, ii. iii. iv. 12, 18.   
 6 See ch. ii. 15, iii. 20, 21,   
 7 See ch. iii. 19.   
 8 See ch. i. 6, 18, iv. 7, 19.   
 ® See ch. ii, 4—11.   
 1 Sce ch. i. 7, ii. 1, iv. 1.   
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