INTRODUCTION. | 2 THESSALONIANS. (lon. 1x.   
   
   
 this nothing can be more inconclusive. Why have we not as good a   
 right to say, that this interpretation is wrong, because it does not corre-   
 spond to the received date of the Epistle, as vice versi? To us (seo   
 below, § v.) the interpretation is full of absurdity, and therefore the   
 argument carries no conviction.   
 6. It is maintained again, that ch. iii. 17 is strongly against the   
 genuineness of our Epistle: for that there was no reason for guarding   
 against forgeries; and as for the words “in every Epistle,” the Apostle   
 had written but one. For an answer to this, see note on the place,   
 where both the reason for inserting this is adduced, and it is shewn, that   
 almost all of his Epistles either are expressly, or may be understood as   
 having been, thus authenticated.   
   
   
   
   
   
 SECTION IL.   
 FOR WHAT READERS, AND WITH WHAT OBJECT IT WAS WRITTEN.   
   
   
 1. The former particular has been already sufficiently explained in   
 the corresponding section of the Introduction to the first Epistle. But   
 inasmuch as the condition of the Thessalonian Church in the mean time   
 bears closely upon the object of the Epistle, I resume here the considera-   
 tion of their circumstances and state of mind.   
 2. We have seen that there were those among them, who were too   
 ready to take up and exaggerate the prevalence of the subject of Christ’s   
 coming among the topics of the Apostle’s teaching. These persons,   
 whether encouraged by the tone of the first Epistle or not, we cannot   
 tell (for we cannot see any reference to the first Epistle in ch. ii. 2, see   
 note there), were evidently teaching, as an expansion of St. Paul’s doc-   
 trine, or as under his authority, or even as enjoined in a letter from him   
 (ib. note), the actual presence of the day of the Lord. In consequence   
 of this, their minds had become unsettled: they wanted directing into   
 the love of God and the imitation of Christ’s patience (ch. iii. 5). Some   
 appear to have left off their daily employments, and to have been   
 taking advantage of the supposed reign of Christ to be walking dis-   
 orderly.   
 8. It was this state of things, which furnished the occasion for our   
 Epistle being written. Its object is to make it clear to them that tho   
 day of Christ, though a legitimate matter of expectation for every   
 Christian, and a constant stimulus for watchfulness, was not yet come:   
 that a course and development of events must first happen, which he   
 lays forth to them in the spirit of prophecy: shewing them that this   
 development has already begun, and that not until it has ripened will   
 the coming of the Lord take place.   
 4. This being the occasion of writing the Epistle, there are grouped   
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