§ 1] PLACE AND TIME OF WRITING. [iytropuction.   
   
   
 round the central subject two other general topics of solace and con-   
 firmation: comfort under their present troubles (ch. i.) : exhortation to   
 honesty and diligence, and avoidance of the idle and disorderly (ch. iii.),   
   
   
   
 SECTION I.   
 PLACE AND TIME OF WRITING.   
   
   
 1. In the address of the Epistle, we find the same three, Paul, Sil-   
 vanus, and Timothy, associated together, as in the first Epistle. This   
 circumstance would at once direct us to Corinth, where Silas and   
 Timothy rejoined St. Paul (Acts xviii. 5), and whence we do not read   
 that they accompanied him on his departure for Asia (ib. xviii. 18). And   
 as we believe the first Epistle to have been written from that city, it   
 will be most natural, considering the close sequence of this upon that   
 first, to place the writing of it at Corinth, somewhat later in this same   
 visit of a year and a half (Acts xviii. 11).   
 2. How long after the writing of the first Epistle in the winter of   
 A.D. 52 (see above, ch. v. § iii. 3) we are to fix the date of our present   
 one, must be settled merely by calculations of probability, and by the   
 indications furnished in the Epistle itself.   
 8. The former of these do not afford us much help. For we can   
 hardly assume with safety that the Apostle had received intelligence of   
 the effects of his first Epistle, seeing that we have found cause to inter-   
 pret ch, ii. 2 not of that Epistle, hut of false ones, circulated under the   
 Apostle’s name. All that we can assume is, that more intelligence had   
 arrived from Thessalonica : how soon after his writing to them, we can-   
 not say. Their present state, as we have seen above, was but a carry-   
 ing forward and exaggerating of that already begun when the former   
 letter was sent: so that a very short time would suffice to have ad-   
 vanced them from the one grade of undue excitement to the other.   
 4, Nor do any hints furnished by our Epistle give us much more   
 assistance. They are principally these. (a) In ch. i. 4, the Apostle   
 speaks of his boasting among the churches of God concerning the en-   
 durance and faith of the Thessalonians under persecutions. It would   
 seem from this, that the Achzan Churches (see 1 Cor. i. 2; 2 Cor.i 1;   
 Rom. xvi. 1) had by this time acquired number and consistence. This   
 however would furnish but a vague indication: it might point to any   
 date after the first six months of his stay at Corinth. (b) In ch. iii. 2,   
 he desires their prayers “ that we may be delivered from unreasonable and   
 wicked men.” Jt has been inferred from this, that the tumult which   
 occasioned his departure from Corinth was not far off: that the designs   
 of the unbelieving Jews were drawing to a head : and that consequently   
 our date must be fixed just before his departure. But this inference is   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
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