intRopuction.] THE GENERAL EPISTLE OF JAMES. [cn. xv1.   
   
   
   
 SECTION III.   
 THE PLACE AND TIME OF WRITING.   
   
   
 1. As regards the place of writing, if the general opinion as to the   
 author be assumed, there can be but one view. His fixed residence, and   
 centre of influence, was JERUSALEM. ‘There we find him, at every date   
 in the apostolic period. If he wrote the Epistle, it was written from the   
 holy city.   
 2. And with this the character of the Epistle very well agrees. Most   
 of the Judwo-Christians addressed in it would be in the habit of coming   
 up to Jerusalem from time to time to the feasts. There St. James,   
 though at a distance, might become well acquainted with their state and   
 temptations, and exercise superintendence over them.   
 3. It has been pointed out also', that the physical notices inserted in   
 the Epistle are very suitable to this supposition. The writer appears   
 to have written not far from the sea, ch. i. 6, iii. 4: it was a land blessed   
 with figs, oil, and wine, iii, 12. Wide as these notices may be, we have   
 others which seem to come nearer to Palestine. Salt and bitter springs   
 are familiar to him, iii. 11, 12: the land was exposed to drought, and   
 was under anxiety for fear of failure of crops for want of rain, v. 17, 18:   
 it was burnt up quickly bya hot wind (Kauséa, i. 11), which is a name   
 not only belonging to West Asia, but especially known in Palestine.   
 “ Another phenomenon,” says Ilug, “which was found where the   
 Writer was, decides for that locality: it is, the former and latter rain,   
 which he names, ch. v. 7, as they were known in Palestine.”   
 4, With regard to the date of the Epistle, opinions are more divided.   
 That it was written before the destruction of Jerusalem, will follow as   
 matter of course from what has already been said. But there are two   
 other termini, with reference to which it is important that its place   
 should be assigned. These are, 1) the publication of the doctrine of St.   
 Paul respecting justification by faith only: and 2) the Apostolic council   
 in Jerusalem of Acts xv.   
 5. A superficial view will suggest, that it cannot be till after the   
 doctrine of justification by faith had been spread abroad, that ch. ii. 14 ff.   
 can have been written, And this has been held even by some whose   
 treatment of the Epistle has been far from superficial\*. But I believe   
 that a thorough and unbiassed weighing of probabilities will lead us to   
 an opposite conclusion. It seems most improbable that, supposing   
 ch. ii. 14 ff. to have been written after St. Paul’s teaching on the point   
 was known, St. James should have made no allusion either to St. Paul   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
 1 By Hug, Einleitung, edn. 4, p. 488 £. 2 e.g. Wiesinger.   
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