iytRopucTION.] THE GENERAL EPISTLE OF JAMES. [cn, xv1.   
   
 sickness, and as to mutual confession of sin, to extol the efficacy of   
 prayer (v. 1318), and ends with pronouncing the blessedness of turning   
 a sinner from the error of his way.   
 9. The character of the Epistle is thus a mixed one: consolatory and   
 hortatory for the believing brethren; earnest, minatory, and polemical,   
 against those who disgraced their Christian profession by practical error.   
 Even in ch. ii. 14—26, where alone the Writer seems to be combating   
 doctrinal error, all his contention is rather in the realm of practice: he   
 is more anxious to shew that justification cannot be brought about by a   
 kind of faith which is destitute of the practical fruits of a Christian life,   
 than to trace the ultimate ground, theologically speaking, of justification   
 in the sight of God. .   
 10. As regards the style and diction of our Epistle, Huther has well   
 described it as being “not only fresh and vivid, the immediate out-   
 flowing of a deep and earnest spirit, but at the same time sententious,   
 and rich in graphic figure. Gnome follows after gnome, and the dis-   
 course hastens from one similitude to another: so that the diction often   
 passes into the poetieal, and in some parts is like that of the Old Test.   
 prophets. We do not find logical connexion, like that in St. Paul: but   
 the thonghts arrange themselves in single groups, which are strongly   
 marked off from one another. We every where see that the author   
 has his object clearly in sight, and puts it forth with graphic concreto-   
 ness. Strong feelings, as Kern remarks, produce strong diction: and   
 the style acquires emphasis and majesty by the climax of thoughts and   
 words ever regularly and rhetorically arrived at, and by the constantly   
 occurring antithesis.”   
 11. The introduction and putting forth of the thoughts also is pecu-   
 liar. “The Writer ever goes at once into the midst of his subject ; and   
 with the first sentence which begins a section,—usually an interrogative   
 or imperative one,—says out at once fully and entirely that which he has   
 in his heart: so that in almost every case the first words of each section   
 might serve as a title for it. The farther development of the thought   
 then is regressive, explaining and grounding the preceding sentence, and   
 concludes with a comprehensive sentence, recapitulating that with which   
 he began.”   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
 12. The Greek of our Epistle is peculiar. It is comparatively free   
 from Iebraisms; the words are weighty and expressive: the construc-   
 tions for the most part those found in the purer Greek. It does not   
 sound, in reading, like the rest of the New Test. There is only a slight   
 link or two, connecting the speech of James in Acts xy. with it, which   
 serves somewhat to identify its language with that. Such is “ Hear, my   
 beloved brethren,” ch. ii. 5, compared with “Brethren, hear me,” Acts xv.   
 13. We trace his hand also in the only two places where in a Christian   
 Epistle the ordinary Greek greeting occurs, Acts xv, Jamesi. 1. The   
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