INTRODUCTION. } 1 PETER. [on. xvi.   
   
 14. At the time of the Reformation, the doubts which once prevailed   
 concerning the Epistle, were again revived. Erasmus, Cardinal Cajetan,   
 Luther, Grotius, Wetstein, shared more or less in these doubts: and their   
 example has been followed by several of the modern Commentators,   
 e.g. Schleiermacher, De Wette, Reuss, Baur, Schwegler, Ritschl. The   
 opinions of all these and their grounds will be found fairly set forth in   
 Davidson’s Introduction to the New Test., vol. iii. pp. 3889-345.   
 15. On the whole, on any intelligible principles of canonical reception   
 of early writings, we cannot refuse this Epistle a place in the canon.   
 That that place was given it from the first in some part of the church ;   
 that, in spite of many adverse circumstances, it gradually won that place   
 in other parts; that when thoroughly considered, it is so consistent with   
 and worthy of his character and standing whose name it bears ; that it is   
 marked off by so strong a line of distinction from the writings and epistles   
 which have not attained a place in the canon: all these are considerations   
 which, though they do not in this, any more than in other cases, amount   
 to demonstration, yet furnish when combined a proof hardly to be re-   
 sisted, that the place where we now find it in the New Test. canon is that   
 which it ought to have, and which God in His Providence has guided   
 His Chureh to assign to it.   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
 CHAPTER XVII.   
   
   
 THE FIRST EPISTLE GENERAL OF PETER.   
 SECTION I.   
 ITS GENUINENESS.   
   
   
   
   
 1. Tue First Epistle of St. Peter was universally acknowledged by   
 the ancient church as a part of the Christian Scriptures. The earliest   
 testimony in its favour is found in the Second Epistle of Peter (iii. 1), a   
 document which, even if we were to concede its spuriousness as an   
 Apostolic Epistle, yet cannot be removed far in date from the age of the   
 Apostles.   
 2. The second witness is Potycarr: of whom Eusebius writes, “ Poly-   
 carp, in the above-mentioned still current work of his to the Philippians,   
 uses certain testimonies from the former Epistle of Peter.” These tes-   
 timonies are too numerous to be cited at length. In ch, ii., he cites   
 1 Pet. , 21; iii, 9; in ch. v., | Pet. ii, 11; in ch. vi, 1 Pet. iv. 7;   
 in ch, viii., 1 Pet. ii. 21—24; in ch. x., 1 Pet. ii. 17,12. Eusebius also   
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