§1]J ITS GENUINENES: if NTRODUCTION.   
 definite external occasion, and the generality of the contents and purpose.   
 But it may be replied, it is surely too much to expect that an Apostle   
 shonld be confined to writing to those churches with whieh he has been   
 externally connected, and in which an assignable eanse for his writing   
 has arisen: and besides, it will be found below, in treating on the occasion   
 and object of the Epistle, that these, though of a gencral nature, are   
 perfectly and satisfactorily assignable. ‘   
 2) The want of a marked individual character both in composition and   
 in theology. But on the one hand this is not conceded zn toto, and on   
 the other it is manifestly unreasonable to require that in one man’s   
 writing it should be so plainly notable as in that of another: in St. Peter,   
 as in St. Paul and St. John.   
 3) The want of close connexion and evolution of thought. But, it may   
 be answered, the purpose and character of the Epistle itself forbids us   
 to require such a connexion; and we may notice that even in St, Paul’s   
 Epistles Schwegler professes not to be able to find it,   
 4) The impossibility that Peter, labouring in the far East, could   
 have become acquainted with the later Epistles of St. Paul so soon   
 (assuming their genuineness) after their composition. But, it is replied,   
 there is no trace in our Epistle of acquaintance with the latest, viz. that   
 to Titus and 2 Timothy. ‘The only possible difficulty is the apparent (?)   
 acquaintance with 1 ‘Timothy: but this may have come to St. Peter   
 through John Mark.   
 5) The impossibility, on the assumption of the Epistle being written   
 in Babylon (sce below, § iv. on the time and place of writing), of   
 bringing together the Neronian persecution which is alluded to in it,   
 and the death of St. Peter by martyrdom during that very persecution.   
 But it is a pure assumption that the persecution alluded to in tho   
 Epistle is that under Nero; and another, that the Apostle suffered   
 martyrdom under Nero at that time.   
 18. It is also not without interest, to discuss the reasons which   
 Schwegler adduces for believing the Epistle to be a production of the   
 post-apostolie age under Trajan, ‘They are, 1) the tranquil unimpas-   
 sioned tone of the Epistle, contrasted with the effect on the Christians   
 of the Neronian perseeution: 2) the circumstance that under the   
 Neronian persecution the Christians were involved in a charge of a   
 definite crime, viz. the setting fire to the city, whereas in our Epistle   
 they suffer “as Christians,” on account of the general suspicion of a bad   
 life (as evil doers); 8) the improbability that the Neronian persecntion   
 extended beyond Rome: 4) the assumption in the Epistle of regular   
 legal processes, whereas the persecution under Nero was more of a   
 {umultuary act; 5) the state of Christianity in Asia Minor as depicted   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
 ® Sce on this below, § vi. par. 9.   
 233 q2