§ mJ FOR WHAT READERS WRITTEN. [intropvcrioy.   
   
 exaggerated partisanship of Protestant writers, with whom the shortest   
 way to save a fuet or an interpretation from abuse has been, to demolish   
 it.   
 21. So that on the whole it sccms safest to suspend the judgment   
 with regard to the question of St. Peter's presence and martyrdom at   
 Rome. That he was not there before the date of the Epistle to the   
 Romans (about a.p. 58), we aro sure: that he was not there during any   
 part of St. Panl’s imprisonment there, we may with certainty infer ;   
 that the two apostles did not together fonnd the churches of Corinth   
 and Rome, we may venture safely to aflirm: that St. Peter ever was,   
 in any sense like that usually given to the word, Bishop of Rome, is   
 we believe an idea abhorrent from Scripture and from the facts of   
 primitive apostolic history. But that St. Peter travelled to Rome   
 during the persecution under Nero, and there suffered martyrdom with,   
 or nearly at the same time with, St. Paul, is a tradition whieh does not   
 interfere with any known facts of Scripture or early history, and one   
 whieh we have no means of disproving, as we have no interest in dis-   
 proving it.   
 22. It may be permitted us on this point, until the day when all shall   
 be known, to follow the cherished associations of all Christendom—to   
 trace still in the Mamertine prison and the Vatican the last days on   
 earth of him to whom was committed especially the feeding of the flock   
 of God: to “ witness beside the Appian way the scene of the most beau-   
 tiful of ecclesiastical legends\*, which records his last vision of his erncified   
 Lord: to overlook from the supposed spot of his death’ the city of the   
 seven hills: to believe that his last remains repose under the glory of   
 St. Peter’s dome’.”   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
 SECTION IIL   
 FOR WHAT READERS IT WAS WRITTEN.   
   
   
 1. The inscription of the letter itself has on this point an apparent   
 precision: “to the elect sojourners of the dispersion of Pontus, Galatia,   
   
 8 Stanley, Sermons and Essays on the Apostolie Age, p. 96. The legend referred to   
 is that related by Ambrose, that St. Peter not long before his death, being overcome by   
 the solicitations of the faithful to save himself, was flying from Rome, when he was   
 met by our Lord, and on asking, “Lord, whither goest thou?” received the answer,   
 “T go to be crucified afresh.” On this the Apostle returned and joyfully went to   
 martyrdom, The memory of this legend is yet preserved in Rome by the Church   
 called “Domine, quo vadis ?” on the Appian way.   
 9 “The eminence of S. Pietro in Montorio on the Janiculum.” Stanley, note ib.   
 1 «The remains of St. Peter, as is well known, are supposed to be buried imme-   
 diately under the great altar in the centre of the famous basilin which bears his   
 name.” Stanley, ib, See in the same work an interesting account of the Judaizing   
 party which gathered round the person of Peter, p. 96 ff.   
 239