INTRODUCTION. ] 1 PETER. (en. xvi.   
   
 anticipatory fruits here and there, wherever’ circumstances were   
 favourable.   
 5. And with this agree the personal notices in our Epistle, and infer-   
 ences to be gathered from it. We must conclude from passages in it   
 that St. Peter was acquainted with the Epistles of St. Paul; not only   
 with his earlier ones, but with those written during his first Roman   
 imprisonment’. If now St. Paul was set free from that imprison-   
 ment in the year 63 (sce Introduction to the Pastoral Epistles, § ii.   
 24), this Epistle cannot well have been written before the end of   
 that year.   
 6. Another personal notice also agrees with this date. By ch. v. 13   
 we find that Mark was, at the time of its writing, with the Apostle in   
 Babylon, which I here by anticipation assume to be the well-known city   
 in Chaldea. Now from Coloss. iv. 10, we learn that Mark was at the   
 time of writing that Epistle (61—63) with St. Paul in Rome, but in-   
 tending to journey into Asia Minor: and from 2 Tim, iv. 11 (67 or 68),   
 we find that he was in Asia Minor, and was to be brought with Timo-   
 thens to Rome. Now one of two contingencies is possible. Mark may   
 either have spent some of the interval between these two notices with   
 St. Peter in Babylon, or have betaken himself to that Apostle after the   
 death of St. Paul.   
 7. Of these two alternatives, it is urged by the advocates of the usual   
 view taken of our Epistle that the latter is the more probable. This   
 Epistle is addressed to churches mostly founded by St. Paul: is it pro-   
 bable that St. Peter would have thus addressed them during the great   
 Apostle’s lifetime ? When we consider St. Paul’s own rule, of not   
 encroaching on other men’s labours (Rom. xy. 20), and put together   
 with it the fact of the compact made between the two Apostles as   
 related in Gal. ii. 9, it seems difficult to imagine that such an Epistle   
 should have been written before St. Paul was withdrawn from his   
 labours ; which latter took place only at his death. That event, and   
 the strengthening of the influences adverse to St. Paul’s doctrine conse-   
 quent on it, might well agree with the testimony to that doctrine which   
 we find in this Epistle, and especially in eh. vy. 12.   
 8, According to this view, we must place the Epistle late in the   
 second apostolic period. We have seen in the Introduction to the   
 Pastoral Epistles, that it is not easy to assign a date for the death of St.   
 Paul before the last year of Nero, i.e. 67 to 68. If we suffer ourselves   
 to be guided by these considerations, we should say, that in the latter   
 part of that year, or the beginning of the next, our Epistle may have   
 been written.   
 9. But these considerations, forcible as they seem, bring us into a   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
 5 Sce this shewn below, § vi. par. 2 note,   
 244