§iv.] TIME AND PLACE OF WRITING, [isrropection.   
   
 greater difficulty than that of believing the Epistle to have been written   
 during St. Paul’s lifetime. ‘They leave no room for the   
 journey of St. Peter to, and martyrdom at, Rome: none for the writing   
 of the second Epistle, which clearly must not be rejected on sueh grounds   
 alone. We must therefore adopt the other alternative, and suppose the   
 writing to have taken place during a temporary withdrawal of the great   
 Apostle to some other and distant seene of missionary action between   
 the years 63 and 67.   
 10. Next as to the place, whence it was written. If words are to be   
 taken literally, this is pointed out with sufficient plainness in the   
 itself (ch. v. 13), whore we read, “She that is elected together with you   
 in Babylon saluteth you,” as being Banyton.   
 And there docs not appear to be any reason to depart from the prima   
 facie impression given by this notice, that St. Peter was at that time   
 dwelling and working at the renowned Babylon on the Euphrates,   
 11, It is trne, that from very carly times the name has suggested   
 other interpretations. Eusebius quotes with “they say,” and alleges for it   
 generally the authority of Papias and Clement of Alexandria, “that Peter   
 mentions Mark in his first Epistle, which they say he wrote in Rome   
 itself, and that he signifies this by calling that city, figuratively, Babylon.”   
 And so also Geumenius, assigning however a very insufficient reason :   
 “Te calls Rome Babylon on account of its eminent notoricty, which   
 Babylon also possessed for a long time.” And Jerome, in the same   
 words as Eusebius above; and elsewhere, commenting on Isa. xlvii., he   
 says that Babylon here is thought by some to mean Rome, as in the   
 Apocalypse of St. John, and in the Epistle of Peter. So also Isidore   
 of Seville. And this has been a very gencral opinion among not only   
 Roman-Catholie but also other Commentators.   
 12. But there scems to be no other defence for this interpretation than   
 that of prescription, And it is now pretty generally recognized among   
 Commentators that we are not to find an allegorical meaning in a proper   
 name thus simply used in the midst of simple and matter-of-fact sayings.   
 The personal notice too, conveyed in “she that is elected together with   
 you,” will hardly bear the violence which many have attempted to put   
 upon it, in supplying a church for the subject. No such word has been   
 mentioned: nor is the Epistle addressed to the churches of the dispersion,   
 but to the elect sojourners of the dispersion. And as those are individual   
 Christians, so it is but reasonable to believe that this is an individual   
 also, the term being strictly correlative with that other: and if an   
 individual, then that “ sister-wife” whom, as we know from 1 Cor. ix. 5,   
 St. Peter carried about in his missionary journeys.   
 13. And this being so, I can sce no objection arising from   
 Babylon” being inserted. The Apostle, in ch. i. 1, had sen fit to   
 localize the Christians whom he was addressing : and he now sends   
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