§ vi] CHARACTER AND STYLE. — [iyrropecrioy.   
   
 to the Lord, his practical picty and his active disposition, are all reflected   
 in it. How full is his heart of the hope of the revelation of the Lord !   
 With what earnestness does he exhort his readers to lift their eyes above   
 the suflerings of the present to this future glory, and in hope of it to   
 stand firm against all temptation! THe who in loving impatience cast   
 himself into the sea to meet the Lord, is also the man who most earnestly   
 testifies to the hope of His return:—he who dated his own faith from   
 the sufferings of his Master, is never weary in holding up the suffering   
 form of the Lord before the eyes of his readers to comfort and stimulate   
 them:—he before whom the death of a martyr is in assured expectation,   
 is the man who most thoroughly, and in the greatest variety of aspects,   
 sets forth the duty and the power, as well as the consolation, of suffering   
 for Christ. If we had not known from whom the Epistle comes, we   
 must have said, It must be a Rock of the church who thus writes: a   
 man whose own soul rests on the living Rock, and who here, with the   
 strength of his testimony, takes in hand to secure the souls of others,   
 and against the harassing storm of present tribulation to ground them   
 on the true Rock of ages.” The whole may be summed up by saying,   
 that the entire Epistle is the following out of our Lord’s command to   
 its Writer, “And thou, when thou art converted, strengthen thy   
 brethren ‘,”   
   
   
   
   
   
   
 It will be observed that I have throughout this chapter abstained   
 from introducing considerations and comparisons of the Sccond Epistle   
 of St. Peter. I have done this, because I wished to keep the first   
 Epistle clear of all the doubt and difficulty which surround the treat-   
 ment of the other, which I have reserved entire for the following   
 chapter.   
   
   
   
 4 I cannot forbear, as caring above all for the spiritual in God of the students of   
 His holy word, recommending to them most strongly the commentary of our own Arch-   
 bishop Leightop, as a devotional subsidiary to their eritical and exegetical studics of   
 this Epistle. 'To the mere scholar, it may not present much matter of interest ; but   
 to one who wishes that the mind of God’s Spirit, speaking in the Apostle, may live and   
 grow within his own breast, no writer on Scripture that I know furnishes a more   
 valuable help than Leighton.   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
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