cH. XIx.] 1 JOHN. [inrropucrion.   
   
 but of which, as apostolic and inspired writings, there never was, when   
 once they became known, any general doubt ; and which, as the sacred   
 Canon became fixed, acquired, and have since maiutained, their due and   
 providential place among the books of the New Testament.   
   
   
   
   
 SECTION V.   
 TIME AND PLACE OF WRITING.   
   
   
   
 1. These can only be set down conjecturally, in accordance with views   
 and considerations previously advanced, Assuming the genuineness of   
 the Epistle, St. Peter wrote it in his old age, when he was expecting   
 his death‘. This, agreeably to what was said on the first Epistle, would   
 be somewhere about the year 68 .D., and the place of writing would be   
 Rome, or somewhere on the journey thither from the East.   
 2. But all this is far too uncertain, and too much beset with chrono-   
 logical difficulties, to be regarded as any thing more than a hypothetical   
 corollary, contingent on our accepting the tradition of St. Peter’s Roman   
 martyrdom.   
 8. Several matters, which have formed the subject of sections in our   
 other chapters, such as the character and style of the Epistle, have been   
 already incidentally discussed.   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
 CHAPTER XIX.   
 1 JOHN.   
   
   
   
   
 SECTION I.   
 ITS AUTHORSHIP.   
   
   
 1, Tue internal testimony furnished by this Epistle to. its Author   
 being the same with the Author of the fourth Gospel is, it may well   
 bo thought, incontrovertible. To maintain a diversity of Authorship   
 would betray the very perverseness and exaggeration of that school of   
 criticism which refuses to believe, be evidence never so strong.   
   
   
   
 4 This inference is not made from the word “shortly,” in ch. i. (sce note there),   
 but from the general spirit of that passage.   
 273