§ m1.) ITS RELATION, &e. [intropvction.   
   
   
 nished by aneient tradition, can only be fond in the case of St. John,   
 by believing the readers to have been members of the churches at and   
 round Ephesus, where ho lived and taught.   
 7. The character of the Epistle is too general to admit a comparison   
 between it and the Ephesian Epistle in the Apocalypse, which some have   
 endeavoured to institute. Our Epistle contains absolutely no materials   
 on which such a comparison can proceed.   
   
   
   
   
 SECTION II.   
 ITS RELATION TO THE GOSPEL OF ST. JONN. ~   
   
   
   
 1, As introductory to this enquiry, it will be well to give an account   
 of opinions respecting the epistolary form of this canonical book.   
 2. This was always taken for granted, secing that definite readers and   
 their circumstances are continually present, and that the first and second   
 persons plural are constantly used ‘,—until Michaclis\* maintained that   
 it is rather a treatise, or a book, than a letter; and only so far a letter,   
 as any treatise may be addressed to certain readers, e.g. the Acts   
 to Theophilus. Accordingly, he holds this to be a second part of the   
 Gospel.   
 3. As Liicke remarks, it is of great importance whether we consider   
 the writing as an Epistle or not. Our decision on this point affects   
 both our estimate of it, and our exposition. Surely, however, the   
 question is not difficult to decide. We may fairly reply to tho   
 hypothesis which supposes the Epistle to be a second part of the   
 Gospel, that the Gospel is complete in itself and requires no such   
 supplement ; see John xx. 30, 31, where the practical object also of the   
 Gospel is too plainly asserted, for us to suppose this to be its practical   
 sequel.   
 4. To view it again as a preface aud introduction to the Gospel, as   
 Hug, seems not to be borne out by the spirit of either writing. The   
 Gospel requires no such introduction: the Epistle furnishes none such.   
 They do not in a word stand in any external relation to one another,   
 such as is imagined by every one of these hypotheses.   
 5. Hug fancied he found a trace of the Epistle having once been   
 appended to the Gospel, in the Latin version attached to Beza’s great   
 MS. now at Cambridge. There, on the back of the leaf on which the   
 Acts of the Apostles begin, the copyist has written the last column   
 of 3 John, with this subscription: “Here end the three Epistles of   
   
   
   
   
   
   
 ® Compare ch. ii. 7, 13, 14, 18, 28; iii. 18, iv. 1, 7, 11, be.   
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