INTRODUCTION. ] 1 JOHN. [en. xix.   
   
 John: here beginneth the Acts of the Apostles.” But first, this proves   
 too mueh, secing that all three Epistles of St. John are included, and   
 surely Hug does not suppose the second and third Epistles to have been   
 also sequels to the Gospel: and secondly, this very circumstance, the   
 inclusion of all three Epistles, shews the reason of the arrangement,   
 viz., to place together the writings of the same Apostle.   
 6. The writing then is to be regarded as an Epistle, as it usually has   
 been; and no closer external relation to the Gospel must be sought   
 for.   
 But, this being premised, a very interesting question follows. The   
 two writings are internally related, in a remarkable manner. Do the   
 phznomena of this relation point out the Gospel, or the Epistle, as   
 having been first written ?   
 7. And to this question there can I think be but one answer. The   
 Epistle again and again assumes, on the part of its readers, an acquaint-   
 ance with the facts of the Gospel narrative. Liicke well remarks, that   
 “as a rule, the shorter, more concentrated expression of one and the   
 same writer, especially when ideas peculiar to him are concerned, is the   
 later, while the more explicit one, which first unfolds and puts in shape   
 the idea, is the earlier one.” And he finds examples of this in the   
 abbreviated formule of ch. i, 1, 2, as compared with John i. 1 ff. ; iv. 2,   
 compared with John i. 14.   
 8. Other considerations connected with this part of our subject will   
 be found treated in the next section.   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
 SECTION Iv.   
 TIME AND PLACE OF WRITING.   
   
   
   
 1. On both of these, opinions have been much divided: no sure indi-   
 cations being furnished by the Epistle itself. If however we have heen   
 right in assigning to it a date subsequent to that of the Gospel, we shall   
 bring that date, by what has been said in the Introduction to Vol. I.   
 ch, v. § iv. (where fifteen years, A.D. 70—85, are shewn to have marked   
 the probable limits of the time of the writing of the Gospel), within a   
 time not earlier than perhaps about the middle of the eighth decade of   
 the first century: and extending as late as the traditional age of the   
 Apostle himself.   
 2. Some have imagined that the Epistle betrays marks of the extreme   
 old age of the writer. But such inferences are very fallacious, Certainly   
 the repeated use of “little children,” more frequently than any other   
 term of endearing address, seems to point to an aged writer: but even   
 this is insecure.   
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