§v.J CONTENTS AND ARRANGEMENT. [intropuction.   
   
 Especially is the distinction mado between thoso who belong to God   
 and those who belong to the devil, by Love and Hate: and therefore   
 must we ever love in deed and in truth (ii. 29—iii. 18). The Apostle   
 adds a promiso of confidenco towards God and answer to prayer, and   
 exhorts them to add to love, faith in the Son of God (iii. 19—24):   
 which leads him to a second express warning against the false teachers   
 (iv. 1-6).   
 c) In this third Exhortation, the Apostle sets out with the simple   
 principle of Love, which, constituting the essenee of God Himself, and   
 being revealed in the mission of Christ, is the condition of all adoption   
 into God’s family and all confidence towards God (iv. 7—21). But a   
 co-ordinate condition is faith in the Son of God, as including in itself   
 Love, and the keeping of God's commandments, and the strength   
 requisite thereto. And the voucher for this faith is found in the   
 historical facts and testimonies of baptism, of the death of Christ, and   
 of the Holy Spirit, and in eternal life which He gives (vy. 1—13). At   
 the conelusion of the exhortation, we have the repeated promise of con-   
 fidence towards God and the hearing of prayer, in this case intercessory   
 prayer for a sinning brother, yet with a limitation, and a reminding that   
 strictly speaking, Christians may not sin: ending witha warning against   
 idolatry (v. 1421).   
 7. To this division Diisterdieck objects, that the terms exhortation,   
 reminding, &c., are of too superficial a kind to suffice for designating   
 the various portions of the Epistle, and that De Wette is in error   
 in supposing a new train of thought to be begun in ch. iv. 7—2I:   
 rather does the leading axiom of ch. ii. 29 proceed through that portion,   
 and in fact even farther than that.   
 8. His own division, which has been in the main followed in my   
 Commentary, is as follows. Regarding, as the others, ch. i, 1—4 as the   
 Introduction, in which the writer lays down the great object of apostolic   
 preaching, asserts of himself full apostolicity, and announces tho purpose   
 of his writing,—hoe makes two great divisions of the Epistle: the first,   
 i. 5—ii, 28, the second, ii. 29—v. 5: on which follows the conclusion,   
 vy. 6—21.   
 9. Each of these great divisions is ruled and pervaded by one master   
 thought, announced clearly in its outset; which we may call its theme.   
 ‘These themes are impressed on the readers both by positive and nega-   
 tive unfolding, and by polemical defence against erroncous teachers:   
 and, this being done, each principal portion is concluded with a cor-   
 responding promise. And both prineipal portions tend throughout to   
 throw light on the great subject of the whole, viz. Fettowsuip WITH   
 Gop tne FatHer anp THe Lorp Jesus Curis.   
 10. The theme of the first portion is given eh. i. 5, “ God is Light,   
 and in Him is no darkness.” Consequently, fellowship with Him, on   
 285