§ vi.J LANGUAGE AND STYLE. \_ [intropuction.   
   
 Epistle itself with all its teaching, exhortation, and warning. This last   
 testimony that Jesus is the Son of God is threefold: the water of   
 baptism, the blood of reconciliation, the Spirit of sanctification (v. 6—8).   
 These, in threefold unity, form God’s own witness for His Son (v. 9).   
 Only in faith on the Son of God (v. 10) do we receive and possess this   
 witness of God, the true substance of which is eternal life, bestowed on   
 us in Christ through water, blood, and the Spirit. So that he that hath   
 the Son hath life.   
 22, And thus we have reached the true goal of all the Apostle’s ex-   
 hortation: the words, “these things have I written” (v. 13), answering   
 to the “these things write we” of i. 4. And it is this—that our   
 fellowship with the Father, and with one another, rests on our fellow-   
 ship with the Lord Jesus Christ the Son of God; on which also depends   
 our confidence, our hope, our joy, seeing that we have eternal life in faith   
 in the Son of God. As in ch. iii, 22, so here again he illustrates this   
 confidence by its exercise with regard to the answer of our prayers. And   
 of this he takes occasion to adduce one particular example, viz. interces-   
 sion for a sinning brother; and to place it in its true moral light, viz.,   
 as then availing when the sin in question has not excluded him totally   
 from the family of life and from holy fellowship with God. Then follow   
 a fow solemn sentenees, gathering up the whole instruction of the Epistle :   
 -the living contrast between the sinner and the child of God: between   
 the family of God and the world: the consciousness on the part of God’s   
 children of their standing and dignity in Christ, the true God and life   
 eternal. And he ends by summing up in one word all his warnings   
 against falsehood in doctrine and practice, “ Little children, keep your-   
 selves from idols.”   
 23, Such is a free rendering of the account given by Diisterdicek of   
 his division of the Epistle: which, for the reason stated above, I have   
 inserted here almost at length. The points wherein I have differed   
 from it will be easily recognized in the Commentary.   
 24. It has this decided advantage over the others, that it not only   
 arranges, but accounts for the arrangement given: and without any   
 straining of the material of the Epistle to suit a preconecived view,   
 brings to light its innor structure and parallelisms in a way whieh   
 leaves on the mind a view of it as an intelligently constructed and inter-   
 dependent whole.   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
 SECTION VI.   
 LANGUAGE AND STYLE.   
   
   
   
 1, The questions of language and style, which in other scetions of tho   
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