INTRODUCTION. ] 1 JOHN. (ou. xix.   
   
 loving, attracting tone of the language; hence the friendly character   
 and winning sound of the whole. For the Love which wrote the Epistle   
 is but the echo, out of the heart of a man, and that man an Apostle, of   
 that Love of God which is manifested to us in Christ, that it may lead   
 us to the everlasting Fount of Love, of joy and of life.   
 9. I may conelude this description, so admirably worked out by Diis-   
 terdieck, with the very beautiful words of Ewald, which he also cites :   
 speaking of the “ unrufiled and heavenly repose” which is the spirit of   
 the Epistle, he says, “It appears to be the tone, not so much of a father   
 talking with his beloved children, as of a glorified saint, speaking to   
 mankind from a‘higher world. Never in any writing has the doctrine   
 of heavenly Love, of a love working in stillness, a love ever unwearied,   
 never exhausted, so thoroughly proved and approved itself, as in this   
 Epistle,”   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
 SECTION VII.   
 OCCASION AND OBJECT.   
   
   
   
 1. The Apostle himself has given us an account of the object of his   
 Epistle: “These things write we, that our joy may be full,” ch. i. 4:   
 and again at the close, v. 13: “ These things have I written unto you,   
 that ye may know that ye have eternal life, even to you that believe on   
 the name of the Son of God.” Tn almost the same words does he sum   
 up the main purpose of his Gospel, John xx. 31. He assumes readers   
 who believe on the Son of God: he writes to them to certify them   
 of the truth and reality of the things in which they believe, and   
 to advance them in the carrying out of their practical consequences,   
 in order that they may gain from them confidence, peace, joy, life   
 eternal.   
 2. This, and no polemical aim, is to be assignod as the main object of   
 the Epistle. As subservient to this main object, comes in the warning   
 against those persons who, by denying that Jesus Christ was come in   
 the flesh, imperilled all these blessed consequences, by seducing men   
 from the faith on which they rested.   
 3. The fact of these false teachers having come forward in the church   
 was most probably the occasion which suggested the writing of tho   
 Epistle. Such seems to be the reference, hinted at in the background   
 by the repeated “ because” in ch. ii, 12—14, The previous instruction,   
 settlement, and achievements in the faith of the various classes of his   
 readers, furnished him with a reason for writing to eath of them:   
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