INTRODUCTION. ] REVELATION. (on. xxi.   
   
 g. the new heavens and earth, and glories of the heavenly   
 Jerusalem, xxi, 1—xxii. 5,   
 IV. The conclusion, xxii, 6—21. Sce on all this the table at p. 363,   
 in which the contents are arranged with a view to prophetic   
 interpretation.   
   
   
   
   
 SECTION V.   
 SYSTEMS OF INTERPRETATION.   
   
   
   
 1. It would be as much beyond the limits as it is beside the purpose   
 of this Introduction, to give a detailed history of apocalyptic inter-   
 pretation. And it would be, after all, spending much labour over that   
 which has been well and sufficiently done already. For English readers,   
 the large portion of Mr. Elliott’s fourth volume of his Hore Apocalyp-   
 tiee which is devoted to the subject contains an ample account of   
 apocalyptic expositors from the first times to the present; and for those   
 who can read German, Liicke’s Einleitung will furnish more critical   
 though shorter notices of many among them’. To these works, and to   
 others like them’, I must refer my readers for any thing like a detailed   
 history of interpretations: contenting myself with giving a brief classi-   
 fication of the different great divisions of opinion, and with stating the   
 grounds and character of the interpretation adopted in the following   
 Commentary.   
 2. The schools of apocalyptic interpretation naturally divide them-   
 selves into three principal branches :   
 a, The Praterists, or those who hold that the whole or by far   
 the greater part of the prophecy has been fulfilled:   
 4, The Historical Interpreters, or those who hold that the pro-   
 phecy embraces the whole history of the church and its foes   
 from the time of its writing to the end of the world:   
 c. The Futurists, or those who maintain that the prophecy   
 relates entirely to events which are to take place at or near   
 to the coming of the Lord.   
 I shall make a few remarks on each of these schools.   
 3. a. The Preterist view found no favour, and was hardly so much as   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
 7 It is to be regretted that Liicke should have performed this portion of his work   
 so much in the spirit of a partisan, and not have contented himself with giving a   
 résumé ab extra in the spirit of fairness, Mr, Hlliott has done. But his notices and   
 remarks are very able and valuable.   
 8 e.g. Dr. Todd on the Apocalypse, pp. 269 ff.: Mr. Charles Maitland’s Apostolic   
 School of Prophetic Interpretation, &c. Mr. Elliott has continued his notices down   
 nearly to the present time in the appendix to his Warburtonian Lectures, pp. 510—566.   
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