§1.J ITS AUTHORSHIP. [intropuctioy.   
 M   
 Tanuseript. In that MS., all the fourteen Epistles of St. Paul form one   
 continued whole, mmbered throughout by sections. But the Epistle to   
 the Hebrews, which stands after 2 Thess., docs not correspond, in the   
 numeration of its sections, with its present place in the order. It evi-   
 dently once followed the Epistle to the Galatians, that Epistle ending   
 with the 59th scetion,—Heb. beginning with § 60,—and Eph. (the   
 latter part of Heb. being deficient) with § 70. This would seem to   
 shew that the MS. from which this was copicd, or at all events which   
 was at some previous time copied for its text, had I[eb. after Gal.; which   
 would indicate a still stronger persuasion that it was St. Paul’s. In   
 the Sahidic version only does it appear in that place which it would   
 naturally hold according to its importance: i.e. between 2 Cor. and   
 Gal. But from the fact of no existing Greck MS. having it in this   
 place, we must ascribe the phenomenon to the caprice of the framer of   
 that version,   
 56. Returning to the Western church, we find that it was some time   
 after the beginning of the third century before the Epistle was generally   
 recognized as St. Paul’s ; and that even when this became the ease, it   
 was not eqnally used and cited with the rest of his Epistles.   
 About the middle of the third century flourished in the church of Rome   
 Noyatran, the author of the celebrated schism which went by his name.   
 We have works of his full of Scripture citations, and on subjects which   
 would have been admirably elucidated by this Epistle. Yet nowhere has   
 he quoted or alluded to it, That he would not have had any feeling   
 adverse to it is pretty clear ; for no passage in the New Test. could give   
 such apparent countenance to his severer view concerning the non-   
 readmission of the “lapsed,” as Heb. vi. 4—G. Yet he never cited it   
 for his purpose.   
 57. Contemporary with Novatian, we have, in the West African church,   
 Crpriay, Bishop of Carthage (died 258). In all his writings, he never   
 cites, or even alludes to, our Epistle ; which he would certainly have done   
 for the same reason as Novatian would have done it, had he recognized it   
 as the work of St. Paul; the whole of whose Epistles he cites, with the   
 exception of that to Philemon. In all probability, Tertullian’s view was   
 also his, that it was written by Barnabas.   
 58. A little later we have a witness from another part of the Latin   
 chureh ; Vicrortsvs, Bishop of Pettau on the Drave, in Pannonia (died   
 about 303). Ile asserts, in the most explicit manner, that St. Paul   
 wrote only to seven churches; and he enumerates the churches : viz.   
 the Roman, Corinthian, Galatian, Ephesian, Philippian, Colossian, Thes-   
 salonian,   
 We may add to this, that the Epistle to the I[ebrews is never qnoted   
 in his Commentary on the Apocalypse.   
 59. About the middle of the fourth century. we find the practice   
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