728 HEBREWS. XII.   
   
 AUTHORIZED VERSION REVISED. AUTHORIZED VERSION.   
 weig nt, and sin, which doth natu-| every weight, and the sin   
 biceriz2s rally enwrap us, run ° with en- which doth so easily beset   
 [sand let us run with   
 1   
 ce Rom, ch. x.26,   
   
 probable, as Delitzsch well observes, that: nesses of the prowess of those who contend;   
 the Writer should have used the word but, and much more, beeanse they witn   
 “witnesses” so closely upon \* Lorne witness concerning God and His goodness and ju   
 to,” ch. xi, 39, without any reference to tiee, and all as with one mouth declare   
 that idea. See also ib. vy. 2, 4, 5, S that God is, and is a rewarder of those   
 that we can hardly help giving to ‘w' who seck Him: that with Him, as the   
 nesses’ a sense not confined to their” loo Chief Lord of the games, there is laid up   
 ing on upon us, but extending to their a prize for earnest contenders : that He is   
 ethical condition of witnesses for the faith. true in His promises; that even after   
 But we may notice, that Delitzsch in con- death He can render those happy who   
 tending for this double sense, has in fact for His sake have given their lives, For,   
 a triple reference of the word to justi thirdly, they are specially to be under-   
 they are Borne witness to, they have stood in this place hy the name, who by   
 testimony, ch. xi, 5: and by this they their blood, witness to the faithfulness and   
 become witnesses : and they earry out that goodness of God. Whence they are par   
 office in being witnesses “of our conflict excellence called martyrs, i.e. witne: b   
 here below. And now the propriety of the laying aside all superfluous weight (the   
 other words used at once appears." cloud, word means, any superfluous mass or bur   
 not only an immense multitude, and that den. It is used doubtless here with direct   
 number as it pressing us all around reference to athletes, who before running   
 as the spectators did the combatants. in trained themselves so as to get rid of all   
 the circns—but also fitly compared to a superfltous flesh: and also of weight   
 cloud from the fact of its being above us, aceessory from without, as well as of   
 they looking on from that heavenly bliss weight carried on the person. So that the   
 which they entered at Christ’s trimph. So word may be taken of every weight of eves   
 that the words must be taken as distinctly kind which may weigh down the rer.   
 so far implying community hetween the Thongh, on account of what follows, 1   
 chureh tritmphant and the church below, should imderstand it rather of weight of   
 that they who have entered into heavenly the person than weight on the person.   
 rest are conscious of what passes among Sce helow), and sin, which doth naturally   
 ourselves. Any interpretation short of thi enwrap (the word thus rendered is used   
 leaves the exhortation here tame and with- only here in all Greek literature, and is   
 out point. If they are merely quasi-wit- therefore somewhat difficult to interpret.   
 nesses, merely witnesses in a metaphor, the The sum of what I have said it in my   
 motive, as far as this clanse supplies one, Greek Test. is this, that it may best be   
 is gone. The best note on the whole idea understood “easily surrounding.” And so   
 and imagery is that Schlichting: “He the A. V., “ which doth so easily beset us :””   
 introduces us as it were into an immense and by far greater part of expositors,   
 theatre, where a vast crowd of spectators some with, some without the sense of   
 has assembled, which fills the benches active hostility. The word being thus   
 amd spaces, seeming like adensecloud poural taken, the various acceptations of the   
 around those contending in the middle. similitude intended are well summed up   
 Before the eyes of such a multitude, and hy Bleek : we must understand sin cither   
 so many spectators, he represents us us our inner propensity to sin, which clings   
 contending. Now as of old such a mul- fast to us, and not part from ns: or   
 titude of spectators added courage to the ns a ctmbersome garment girding us   
 combatants, and was a great stimulus to round and hindering us from running, or   
 use every effort for victory: so to us also, personified, as an adversary, who surrounds   
 so many witnesses, who also themselves ns on all sides, andl waylays to make us   
 iled in the same contlict, to his prey or generally, as something which   
 rity, and cause us to run with all lies about us and is ever ready to catch   
 our force the race which we have us: or which is ever from all sides stand-   
 And he calls them witnesses, not only in ing ju the way so as to and impede   
 a figure, allusive to the spectators of a our com But. the connexion with the   
 contest, as we have said, who are wit- verb, laying aside, which evidently De-