inTROpUCTION.] THE EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS. [cu. xv.   
   
 in their age,—examine the Epistle simply and freely for and by itself,   
 and form our conelusion accordingly, as to its Author, readers, and   
 date : having respect indeed to ancient tradition, where we can find it,   
 but not, where it is so broken, and inconsistent with itself, bound by   
 any one of its assertions, or limited in our conclusions by its extent.   
 114. I now proceed to the latter and more important portion of our   
 enquiry : whether the internal phenomena of the Epistle itself point to   
 St. Paul as its Author and Writer,—or Author without being the   
 Writer,—and if they do not either of these, whom, as an Author, their   
 general character may be regarded as indicating.   
 115. But as this portion is most important, so has it been most   
 diligently and ingeniously followed out by disputants on both sides. And   
 it is not my intention to enter here on the often-fought battle of com-   
 parisons of ferms once occurring, and tabular statements of words and   
 phrases, The reader will find these given at great length and with   
 much fairness in Davidson, who holds the balance evenly between pre-   
 vious disputants. And if he wishes to go still further into so wide a   
 field of discussion, he may consult Mr. Forster’s large volume, which   
 is equally fertile in materials for both conclusions, often without the   
 writer being conscious that it is so\*.   
 116. The various items of evidence on this head can hardly be pre-   
 sented, in their fulness, to the mere English reader. He must in great   
 measure take for granted the results, as presented to the student of the   
 original Greck in the references throughout the Epistle in my Greek   
 Test. It there appears, as indeed in the tables in any of the writers on   
 the subject,—how like, and yet how unlike, the style of our Epistle is to   
 that of the great Apostle: how completely the researches of such books   
 as Mr, Forster’s have succeeded in proving the likeness, how completely   
 at the same time they have failed to remove one iota of the unlikeness ;   
 so that the more we read and are borne along with their reasonings, the   
 closer the connexion becomes, in faith and in feeling, of the writer of   
 the Epistle with St. Paul, but the more absolutely incompatible the   
 personal identity: the more we perceive all that region. of style and   
 diction to have been in common between them, which men living   
 together, talking together, praying together, teaching together, would   
 naturally range in; but all that region wherein individual peculiarity   
 is wont to put itself forth, to have-been entirely distinct.   
 117. I need only mention the different tinge given to the same or   
 similar thoughts; the wholly differing rhythm of sentences wherein   
 perhaps many words occur in common; the differing spirit of cita~   
 3 As c.g. when he alleges, which he often docs, the same thought expressed by   
 different words, or different cognate forms of the same root, in Hebrews and the Pauline   
 Epistles, as indicating identity of authorship. The conclusion of most examiners of   
 evidence would be in the opposite direction,   
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