intropuction.] THE EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS. [cm xv.   
   
 our assurance, that the more acumen and scholarship are brought to   
 bear on the enquiry, aided by a fairly judging and unbiassed mind,   
 the more such incompatibility will be felt: and say, in the words of   
 Origen cited above, par. 19, “ That the character of the style has not   
 the individual peculiarity of that of the Apostle, every one who knows   
 how to judge of the difference of phrases will acknowledge.”   
 121. I now proceed to consider the principal notices in the Epistle   
 have been either justly or unjustly adduced, as making   
 for or against the Pauline authorship.   
 itself, whic ch, xiii. 23, we read, “Know ye (or, ye know) that our   
 brother Timotheus is set at liberty: with whom, if he come soon,   
 I will cee you.” ‘This notice has been cited with equal confidence on   
 both sides. The natural inference from it, apart altogether from the   
 controver would be, that the Writer of the Epistle was in some other   
 place than ‘Timotheus, who had been recently set free from an imprison-   
 ment (for this and no other is the meaning of the participle), and that   
 he was awaiting Timotheus’s arrival: on which, if it took place soon,   
 he hoped to visit the Hebrews in his company.   
 123. It is manifest, that such a situation would fit very well some   
 point of time after St. Paul’s liberation from his first Roman imprison-   
 ment. Supposing that he was dismissed before Timotheus, and, having   
 left Rome, expeeting him to follow, had just reecived the news of his   
 liberation, the words in the text would very well and naturally express   
 this. It is true, we read of no such imprisonment of Timothens : and   
 this fact seems to remove the date of the occurrence out of the limits of   
 the chronology of the Pauline Epistles. But if the command of the   
 Apostle in 2 Tim. iv. 9 was obeyed, and Timotheus, on arriving, shared   
 his imprisonment, the situation here alluded to may have occurred not   
 long after.   
 124. On the other hand, the notice would equally well fit some com-   
 panion of St. Paul, either St. Luke, or Silvanus, or Apollos, writing   
 after the Apostle’s death. All these would speak of Timotheus as our   
 brother.   
 125. On the whole then, this passage carries no weight on either   
 side. I own that the expression, ‘J will see you,” has a tinge of   
 authority about it, which hardly scems to fit either of the above-   
 mentioned persons. But this impression may be fallacious; and it is   
 only one of those cases where, in a matter so doubtful as the author-   
 ship of this Epistle, we are swayed hither and thither by words and   
 expressions, which perhaps after all have no right to be so seriously   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
 taken.   
 126. Similar remarks might be made on the notice of ch. x 25,   
 “They from Italy salute you,” as carrying no weight either way.   
 As regards its meaning, it is indeed surprising that Bleck should main-   
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