THE FIRST EPISTLE GENERAL   
   
   
 oF   
   
   
 JO FN.   
   
   
   
   
 AUTHORIZED VERSION. |   
 AUTHORIZ VERSION REVISED.   
 I} THAT which was I. 1 Tnar \*which was from the John L.   
 from the beginning, which beginning, which we have heard,—   
 toe have heard, which we   
 have seen with our eyes, which we have seen with our eyes,   
 thick we have looked upon, which we looked upon, and © our »somn   
 dled, our the Word have tife;|hands handled, — concerning the fiat.   
 30, John xx,   
 EA   
   
 Cup, I, 1-4] Inrropvctioy : THE cannot stand for a moment when we con-   
 PERSONAL AUTHORITY OF THE WRITER, sider the context with ver. 2, and the use   
 AND onsEcTs oF THE Errstur.—This of this term by St. Jobn when applied   
 Epistle does not begin with an address, Christ or to supernatural beings : see ch.   
 properly so called. But there is in this 13, 14, if, 8; John viii, 44. Wher-   
 sentence the latent form of an address : the ever he uses it of the preaching of the   
 “unto you” of ver. 3, and the wish “that Gospel it is definitely marked as bearing   
 our joy maybe full,” answering (see note) to that meaning: compare ch. ii. 7, iii.   
 the'more usnal greeting, seem to shew that On the meaning of this clause ‘see below),   
 what follows is an Epistle, not a treatise. that which we have heard (the perfect   
 ‘The construction of these verses is tense extends the reference of the verb   
 difficult, and has been variously given. from the beginning, and that which the   
 ‘The simplest view, and that generally Apostle might have heard coneerning   
 adopted, is, that in ver. 1 a sentence is Christ, e.g. ftom John the Baptist, down   
 begun, which is broken off by the paren- to the time when he was writing: regards   
 thetical ver. 2 inserted to explain ver. 1, his hearing as a finished and abiding pos-   
 and carried on again in ver. 3, some session), that which we have seen with   
 worils heing, for the sake of perspicnity, our eyes (the same is true again. The   
 recited again from ver. 1. The smaller seeing as well as the hearing is a finished   
 clauses, &e., are co-ordinate with each and abiding possession. The clauses rise   
 other. So that the sentence and con- in climax: seeing is more than hearing:   
 struction flow smgothly and regularly. with our eyes emphasizes the fact of eye-   
 That which was (not, ‘took place’) witness), that which we looked upon   
 from the beginning (not synonymons with (now, the tense is altered: because the   
 “in the beginning,” though in the depth Evangelist comes from speaking of the   
 of its meaning it is virtually the same. closed testimony which abode with bim   
 Tt sets before us the prior limit, but with- asa whole, to that of the senses actually   
 out meaning strictly to define it as such exercised at the time when Christ was on   
 exclusively. ‘The interpretation, “ the earth. Notice the climax again: to look   
 beginning of the Gospel,” is connected upon is more than to see: so Beza here:   
 with the misunderstanding of the whole “which I saw with these cyes, and that   
 passage by the Socinian interpreters, and not once, nor by the way, but which I   
 3K