8—10. 1 JOHN. 911   
   
 AUTHORIZED VERSION. AUTHORIZED VERSION REVISED.   
 are three that bear witness |i one, 9 Tf we receive 'the witness ! Yona vit.   
 in earth, the spirit, and of men, the witness of God is greater:   
 the water, and the blood: ™ for the witness of God is this, + that msate,1-1,   
 and these three agree in   
 one. » If we receive the he hath borne witness concerning his \* jst xvil.   
 witness of men, the witness Son, 10 He that believeth on the Son   
 of God is greater : for this   
 is the witness of God which   
 he hath testified of his   
 1© He that believeth on the   
   
 mere fact of the triplicity of testimony : may safely affirm, that no reasonable man,   
 for there is not the remotest analogy be- acqnainted with the facts, can again defond,   
 tween the terms in the one case and those the genuineness of these words. If any   
 in the other: the very order of them, dif- do defend them, it is the charitable con-   
 fering as it does in the two cases, shews clusion that he speaks in ignorance. The   
 this. Is this triplicity a faet worthy of real mischief is, that the ignorant in high   
 snch a comparison? “And then, what is places allow themselves to use the stroug   
 the testimony in heaven? Is it borne to language of authority, and thus become   
 men? Certainly not: for God hath no the chief enemies of truth. A sketeh of   
 man seen, as He is there: His only-be- the principal particulurs of the dispute   
 gotten Son hath declared Hiin to us on and of the books relating to it is given in   
 earth, where all testimony affecting us Horne’s Introduction, vol. iv. pp.   
 inust be borne. Is it a testimony to 388.   
 angels? Possibly: but what has this to 9.] An argument from the less to the   
 do with the matter in hand? And then, greater, grounded onthe practice of man-   
 again, what but an unworthy play on kind, by which it is shewn that God’s tes-   
 words can it be called, to adduce the timony must be by all means believed by   
 fact of oneness on the one side, the essen- us. If we (mankind in general; all   
 tinl unity of the ever blessed Godhead, and sonable men) receive (as we do: recei   
 on the other the concurrence in testifying with approval; accept) the testimony of   
 to one fact,—as correspondent, to one an- men (generic; the testimony, i.e. in any   
 other? Does not this betray itself as the given ease. No special testimony need be   
 fancy of a patristic gloss, the days when thonght of, as touching this present. case:   
 such analogies and comparisons were the the proposition is general), the testimony   
 sport of every theological writer? And of God is greater (supply in the argument,   
 2) the very’ words betray themselves. “and therefore much more onght we to   
 “The Father” and “the Word” are receive that.” The testimony of God here   
 never combined by St. John, but always spoken of is not any particular testimony,   
 the Father and the Son. The very apo- as the prophecies concerning Christ, or the   
 logy of Bengel, “the appellative, the testimony of the Baptist and other eye-   
 Word, is most appropriate to testimony,” witnesses to Him, or the Prophets, the   
 anay serve to shew how utterly weak he Baptist, Martyrs, and Apostles: it is   
 inust have felt the cause to be. general, as is the testimony of men with   
 The best conclusion to the whole subject which it is ‘The particular tes-   
 is tound in the remark of Bengel himself timony pointed at by the general proposi   
 on another oceasion of the practice repro- tion is introduced in the following words)   
 bated, of which he himself furnishes here for (see above at the beginning of ver. 7.   
 so striking an instance: “They exhibit a Here there is an ellipsis: “and this maxiin   
 mischievous zeal in the Lord’s quarrels, applies in the case hefore us, because”)   
 who bring themselves to reason thns, the testimony of God is this, that He   
 “This text is convenient for my doctrine hath borne testimony concerning His   
 and argument; therefore I will constrain Son (i.e. the testimony of God to which   
 myself to believe it genuine, and will ob- the argument applies is this, fact. that   
 stinately defend it, and all that can be He hath borne testimony to His Son).   
 scraped together on its bebalf’ But the 10—12,] The perfect tense, “hath   
 Truth needs not false supports, resting Borne witness,” in ver. 9, shewed that the   
 much better on itself alone.” As the re- testimony spoken of is not merely an his-   
 sults of critical enquiry now stand, we torical one, such for instance as Matt.