intropuction.] THE EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS. [cu xy.   
   
 hardly, after such an indication of it, be wanting in Apollos, to what-   
 ever church he was writing. But I reserve it for the next section to   
 enquire how far this view is confirmed or impugned by our conclusion   
 as to the church to which the Epistle was, in all probability, originally   
 aldressed \*,   
 188. The history of the hypothesis that Apollos was the author of   
 our Epistle, has been given by implication, from the time of Luther, its   
 apparent originator, above in parr. 98-108. It may be convenient to   
 give here, in one conspectus, the principal names in its favour : Luther,   
 Osiander, Le Clere, Heumann (1711), Lorenz Miiller (1717), Semler,   
 Ziegler, Dindorf, Bleek, Tholuck, Credner, Reuss, the R.-Catholics   
 Feilmoser and Lutterbeck (tie latter with this modification, that   
 he believes St. Paul to have written the 9 last verses, and the rest to   
 have been composed by Apollos in union with St. Luke, Clement, and   
 other companions of the Apostle),—De Wette, Liinemann.   
 189, The objection which is commonly set against these probabilities   
 is, that we have no ecclesiastical tradition pointing to Apollos: that it   
 is unreasonable to suppose that the church to which the Epistle was   
 sent should altogether have lost all trace of the name of an author who   
 must have been personally known to them. ‘This has been strongly   
 urged, and by some, e. g. Mr. Forster, regarded as a ground for attempt-   
 ing to langh to scorn the hypothesis, as altogether unworthy of serious   
 consideration \*.   
 190. But if any student has carefully followed the earlier paragraphs   
 of this section, he will be fully prepared to meet such an objection, and   
 will not be deterred from the humble search after truth by such scorn.   
 He will remember how we shewed the failure of every attempt to   
 establish a satisfactory footing for any view of the authorship as being   
 the tradition of the church: and proved that, with regard to any re-   
 search into the subject, we of this day approach it as those of old didin   
 their day, with full liberty to judge from the data furnished by tho   
 Epistle itself.   
 191, And he will also bear in mind, that the day is happily passing   
 away with Biblical writers and students, when the strong language of   
 those, who were safe in the shelter of a long-prescribed and approved   
 opinion, conld deter any from humble and faithful research into the   
 various phwnomena of God’s word itself: when the confession of   
 having found insoluble difficulties was supposed to indicate unsound-   
 ness of faith, and the recognition of discrepancies was regarded as   
 affecting the belief of divine inspiration. We have at last in this   
 country begun to learn, that Holy Scripture shrinks not from any tests,   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
 © See below, § ii. par. 36,   
 7 Apostolical authority of the Epistle to the Hebrews, preface, pp. ix., x.   
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