§urj FOR WHAT READERS WRITTEN. [ixtropucrion.   
   
 Thus the great fight of afflictions is fully justified: thus, the being   
 made a spectacle of in reproaches and tribulations, which finds almost   
 an echo in the expression of Tacitus, that mockery was added to the   
 sufferings of the dying Christians, and is so exactly in accord, when   
 literally taken, with the cruel exposures and deaths in the circus. The   
 prisoners and the spoiling too, on this supposition, would be matters of   
 course. And I own, notwithstanding the objection stated above, that   
 all this seems to fit the great Nera persecution, and in the fullest   
 sense, that only.   
 33. To that period also may we refer the notice in ch. 3   
 “Remember your leaders, who spoke to you the word of God, of whom   
 regarding the end of their conversation, imitate their faith.” Tt may   
 be indeed, that this refers simply to a natural death in the faith of   
 Christ: but it is far more probable, from the terms used, that it points   
 to death by martyrdom: faith having been so strongly illustrated in   
 ch. xi., as bearing up under torments and death.   
 34. On this hypothesis, several other matters seem also to fall into   
 place. The setting at liberty of Timotheus may well refer to the   
 termination of some imprisonment of Timotheus consequent upon the   
 Neronian persecution, from which perhaps the death of the tyrant   
 liberated him. Where this imprisonment took place, must be wholly   
 uncertain. I shall speak of the conjectural probabilities of the place   
 indicated by the words if he come shortly, when I come to treat of tho   
 time and place of writing,   
 35. The use evidently made in our Epistle of the Epistle to the   
 Romans, above all other of St. Paul’s\*, will thus also be satisfactorily   
 aecounted for. Not only was the same church addressed, but the   
 Writer had especially before him the matter and language of that Epistle,   
 which was written in all probability from Corinth, the sceno of the   
 Jabours of Paul and Apollos.   
 36. The sort of semi-anonymous character of our Epistle, already   
 treated of when we ascribed the authorship to Apollos, will also come   
 in here, as singularly in accord with the circumstances of the case, and   
 with the subsequent tradition as regards the Epistle, in case it was   
 addressed to the church in Rome. Supposing, as we have gathered   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
 ¥ Sco below, § iii. par.   
 2 This has been noticed by many; and may be established by consulting those   
 Commentators and writers, who have drawn up tables of verbal eoincidence with a   
 view of proving the Pauline anthorship. There is reason for thinking that the   
 peculiar form of the quotation, « Vengeance is mine, I will in ch. x. a   
 neither with the Hebrew text of Deut. xxii, 35, nor with the Septungint v   
 there, is owing to its having heen taken direct from Rom. xii. 19. And the whole   
 form of exhortation iu our ch. xiii. reminds us forcibly of that Rom. xii.   
 See also Rom. xiv. 17, as compared with Heb. xiii. 9, in § iv. 1, note.   
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