intropuction.] THE EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS. [cu. xy. |   
   
 from the notices of Apollos in 1 Cor., that he modestly shrunk from |   
 being thought to put himself into rivalry with St. Paul, and that after   
 the death of the Apostle-he found it necessary to write such an Epistle   
 as this to the Church in the metropotis, what more likely step would   
 he take with regard to his own name and personality in it, than just   
 that which we find has been taken: viz., so to conceal these, as to keep   
 them from having any prominence, while by various minute personal   
 notices he prevents the concealment from being complete? And with   
 regard to the relation evidently subsisting between the Writer and his   
 readers, all we can say is that, in defcet of positive knowledge on this head   
 connecting Apollos with the church at Rome, it is evidently in the metro-   
 polis, of all places, where such a relation may most safely be assumed.   
 There o teacher, whose native place was Alexandria, and who had tra-   
 velled to Ephesus and Corinth, was pretty sure to have been: there   
 many of his Christian friends would be found: there alone, in the   
 absence of positive testimony, could we venture to place such a eycle   
 of dwelling and teaching, as would justify the expression, restored to   
 you, of our ch, xiii, 19: in the place whither was a general confluence   
 of all, and where there is ample room for such a course after the   
 decease of St. Paul.   
 37. And what more likely fate to befall the Epistle in this respect,   
 than just that which did befall it in the Roman Chureh; viz., that while   
 in that church, and by a contemporary of Apollos, Clement, we find   
 the first use made of our Epistle, and that the most familiar and copious   
 use,—its words are never formally cited, nor is any author's name   
 attached ? And was not this especially likely to be the case, as Clement   
 was writing to the Corinthians, the very church where the danger had   
 arisen of a rivalry between the fautors of the two teachers?   
 38. And as time goes on, the evidence for this hypothesis seems to   
 gather strength, in the nature of the traditions respecting the authorship   
 of our Epistle. While in Africa and the East they are most various   
 and inconsistent with one another, and the notion of a Pauline origin is   
 soon suggested, and gains rapid acceptance, it is in the ehurch of Rome   
 alone, and among those influenced by her, that we find an ever steady   
 and unvarying assertion, that it was not written by St. Paul. Ty whom   
 it was written, none ventured to say. How weighty the reasons may   
 lave been, which induced silence on this point, we have now lost the   
 power of appreciating. The fact only is important for us, that the few   
 personal notices which oceur in it were in course of time overborne, as   
 indications of its author, by the prevalent anonymous character: and   
 that the same church which possessed as its heritage the most illustrious   
 of St. Paul’s own epistles, was ever unanimous in disclaiming, on the   
 part of the Apostle of the Gentiles, the authorship of the Epistle to the   
 Ilebrews.   
 194