§in.J TIME AND PLACE OF WRITING. [iytropuction.   
   
 39, The result of the above enquiry may be shortly stated, As tho   
 eurrent of popular opinion in the church has gradually set in to’   
 tho Pauline authorship, inferring that a document at first s   
 Pauline must have proceeded from the Apostle himsel.   
 set in towards the church at Jerusalem as the original readers, inferring   
 that the title, to the Hebrews, must be thus interpreted. But as in the   
 one case, so in the other, the general popular opinion does not bear   
 examination. As the phenomena of the Epistle do not bear out the   
 idea of the Pauline authorship, so neither do they that of being addressed   
 to the Palestine churches. And as in the other case there is one man,   
 when we come to search and conjecture, pointed out as most likely to   
 haye written the Epistle, so here, when we pursue the same process,   
 there is one place pointed out, to which it seems most likely to have   
 been addressed, At Rome, such a Church existed as is indicated in it:   
 at Rome, above all other places, its personal and historical notices are   
 satisfied: at Rome, we find it first used: at Rome only, is there an   
 unanimous and unvarying negative tradition regarding its authorship.   
 To Rome then, until stronger evidence is adduced, we believe it to have   
 been originally written,   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
 SECTION IIL.   
 TIME AND PLACE OF WRITING.   
   
   
 1, Almost all Commentators agree in believing that our Epistle was   
 written before the destruction of Jerusalem. And rightly : for if that great   
 break-up of the Jewish polity and religious worship had occurred, we   
 may fairly infer, that some mention of such an event would have been   
 found in an argument, the scope of which is to shew the transitoriness   
 of the Jewish priesthood and the Levitical ceremonies. It would be   
 inconceivable, that such an Epistle should be addressed to Jéws after   
 their city and temple had ceased to exist.   
 2. This then being assumed, as our later limit, i.e. A.v. 70, or at the   
 latest assigned date, 72, it remains to seek for an earlier limit. Such   
 would appear to me to be fixed by the death of St. Paul: but inasmuch   
 as 1) this would not be recognized either by the advocates of the   
 Pauline authorship, or by those who believe that the Epistle, though   
 possibly written by another, was superintended by the Apostle, and   
 sceing 2) that the date of that event itself is wholly uncertain, it will   
 be necessary to look clsewhere for some indication. And the only   
 traces of one will, I conceive, be found by combining several hints fur-   
 nished by the Epistle. Such are, a) that the first generation, of those   
 who had seen and heard the Lord, was at all events nearly passed   
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