intropuction.}| THE EPISTLE TO TITE HEBREWS. {cu. xv.   
   
   
 away: b) that the first leaders of the church had died, probably under   
 the persecution elsewhere alluded to: ¢) that Timotheus had been im-—   
 prisoned, and was then set free, probably in connexion with that same   
 persecution. If these notices are to be taken, as maintained above —   
 (§ ii. par. 31 ff), to apply to the Neronian persecution, then the   
 Epistle cannot have been written till some considerable time after that, —   
 in order to justify the expression, remember the former days, of our .   
 ch. x. 82. Now that persecution broke out in 64, and lasted four years,   
 i.e. till Nero’s death in 68. And I may notice, that even those who   
 are far from adopting the views here advocated as to the Author and   
 readers of the Epistle, yet consider, that the liberation of Timotheus   
 may well have been connected with the cessation of the Neronian   
 persecution.   
 3. If we follow these indications, we shall get the year 68 as our   
 earlier limit, and the time of writing the Epistle will be 68—70,   
 i.e. during the siege of Jerusalem by the armies of Titus, to which   
 we may perhaps discern an allusion in ch. xiii. 14, for we have here no   
 abiding city, but we seek one to come.   
 4. With regard to the place of writing, we are almost entirely in the   
 dark. Taking the usual New Test. sense, above maintained, for those   
 from Italy, —‘ persons whose home is in Italy, but who are now here,”   
 it cannot have been written in Italy. Nor is Apollos (for when we are   
 left, as now, to the merest conjecture, it is necessary to shape our course   
 by assuming our own hypothesis) likely, after what had happened, again   
 to be found fixed at Corinth. Jerusalem, and indeed Palestine, would   
 be precluded by the Jewish war then raging; Ephesus is possible,   
 and would be a not unlikely resort of Timotheus after his liberation   
 (ch. xiii, 23), as also of Apollos at any time (Acts xviii. 24): Alexandria,   
 the native place of Apollos, is also possible, though the words if he come   
 shortly, applied to Timotheus, would not so easily fit it, as on his libe-   
 ration he would be more likely to go to some parts with which he was   
 familiar ‘than to Alexandria where he was a stranger. In both these   
 cities there may well have been persons from Italy sojourning: and this   
 very phrase seems to point to some place of considerable resort. On the   
 whole then, I should incline to Epuxscs, as the most probable place of   
 writing: but it must be remembered that on this head all is in the realm   
 of the vaguest conjecture.   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
 SECTION IV.   
 ‘ OCCASION, OBJECT OF WRITING, AND CONTENTS.   
   
   
 1. The occasion which prompted this Epistle evidently was, the   
 enmity of the Jews to the Gospel of Christ, which had brought a   
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