cu. xvi.] THE GENERAL EPISTLE OF JAMES. [ivtropvction.   
   
   
 evidence which probable authorship, early recognition, and subsequent   
 consent, furnish to the canonicity of our Epistle, when we find that no-   
 where are the main doctrines of the faith more purely or more majes-   
 tically set forth: nowhere Holy Scripture urged with greater authority   
 and eogency ; nowhere those marks in short, which distinguish tho   
 first rank of primitive Christian writings from the second, more un-   
 equivoeally and continuously present.   
 32. The result of this combination of evidence is, that though no   
 considerations of expediency, nor consent of later centuries, can ever   
 make us believe the Epistle to have been written by St. Paul, we yet   
 conceive ourselves perfectly justified in accounting it a portion of the   
 New Test. canon, and in regarding it with the same reverence as the   
 rest of the Holy Scriptures.   
   
   
   
   
   
 There are other subjects of deep interest connected with our Epistle,   
 such as its relation, in point of various aspects of Christian doctrine, to   
 the teaching of St. Paul, of St. John, of St. James, and of St. Peter : its   
 connexion with, and independence of, the system of Philo: to treat of   
 which would extend this introduction, already long, to the size of a   
 volume. They will be found discussed in the first part of Richm’s   
 “Lehrbegriff des Hebraerbriefes,” Ludwigsburg, 1858.   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
 CHAPTER XVI.   
 THE GENERAL EPISTLE OF JAMES.   
   
   
   
 SECTION I.   
   
   
 ITS AUTHORSHIP.   
   
 1, Ir has been very generally agreed, that among the apostolic per-   
 sons bearing the name of James (Jacobus), the son of Zebedee, the   
 brother of St. John, cannot well have written our Epistle. The state   
 of things and doctrines which we find in it can hardly have been reached   
 as early as before the execution of that Apostle, related in Acts xii.   
 2. But when we have agreed on this, matter of controversy at once   
 arises. It would appear from the simple superscription of our Epistle   
 with the name Jacobus, that we are to recognize in its Writer tho   
 apostolic person known simply by this name in the Acts,—who was tho   
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