

NOTES ON THE APOSTOLIC FATHERS.

I.—CLEMENT OF ROME.

FIVE men, whose writings have come down to us, are said, upon good authority, to have enjoyed intercourse with, and to have received instruction from, the Apostles. Their names are St. Clement, of Rome, Barnabas, Hermas, Ignatius and Polycarp. Hence, they are called the *Apostolic Fathers*. We will mention this month Clement, whose name we find in Philippians iv. 3—"With Clement also, and with the others whose names are in the Book of Life." About A. D. 95, Clement addressed to the Corinthians his first and genuine Epistle, which has fortunately been preserved to us, and is probably the most ancient of uninspired writings. He was born at Rome, and his father's name was Faustinus. After Linus and Anacletus he became Bishop of Rome, and was bishop during the first century. Little is known about him. The accounts which remain of his life and death are, for the most part, uncertain. The *Recognitions* falsely ascribed to him, but written according to Mosheim in the 3rd century, give the following account in substance: His father was near of kin to Tiberius Cæsar, and he was the youngest of three sons, the others being Faustus and Faustinus. He grew up virtuously, but became dissatisfied about the immortality of the soul. He frequented the schools of philosophy, and there found nothing but contentions; then he went to Egypt and sought the Hierophante and Magicians. Hearing of Christ,

he was instructed by St. Barnabas, then at Rome, followed him to Alexandria and then to Judea. At Caesarea he is said to have met St. Peter, who baptized him. He became Bishop of Rome, and Damasus says that he divided Rome into seven regions, in each of which he appointed a Notary to look after the martyrs, and record their acts. About the year 95 the Corinthians seem to have had some serious dissensions about the discipline and doctrine of the Church. They had dismissed undeservedly, as it appears, certain presbyters from the ministry. For the purpose of settling this, five deputies were sent from Rome bearing an Epistle from Clement. This is written in the name of the "Church sojourning at Rome," and not in that of the bishop, it is the language of exhortation, not authority, and it is in answer to a communication sent from Corinth. Clement was soon after this banished to Cherson, and compelled to dig in the marble quarries. He is said to have encouraged the Christians there, and to have converted many heathen. The Emperor despatched Aufidius to stop this. He is said to have been drowned in the sea. Some think that he died a natural death about A. D. 100.

CHAPTERS AND VERSES OF THE NEW TESTAMENT.

THE earliest attempt to divide the New Testament into chapters and verses is attributed to a learned Alexandrian named Ammonius (A. D. 220) who divided the Gospels into lessons for the convenience of reading in Church. These sections comprised a distinct subject, and were afterwards divided into small