

Yet even the vocabulary itself is but partially examined. And when the evidence furnished by the vocabulary happens to point in the conservative direction, the vocabulary is at once abandoned, and the argument transferred to the style. One familiar instance (not perhaps of any vital importance in itself) is furnished by the epistle to the Hebrews. To maintain the Pauline authorship of that epistle in the present day, is to confess oneself an ignoramus. But on what grounds? If the discussion proceeds on the evidence of the vocabulary, the Pauline authorship is established beyond all dispute. I need only refer to the learned introduction to that epistle in the "Speaker's Commentary." The proof is exhaustive, but it is still repeated that the epistle was not written by St. Paul. If we ask, Why not? we are told the style is not his. One might venture to reply, Show me the non-Pauline style, after deducting the Pauline arguments and the Pauline vocabulary. We should wait long enough for an answer to the request. In the end it must come to this, that the style is not precisely that of St. Paul's other epistles. In other words, a member of the Sanhedrin, and an Hebrew of the Hebrews, the passion of whose life it was to convert his countrymen, is expected to write to them in the same style in which he was wont to address certain Gentile churches, whose knowledge of Scripture and revealed religion was a thing of yesterday! How *could* the style be the same, if the writer were a man of any grasp or education? He was, in fact, a person of remarkable versatility. Personally, I believe the chief reason why men deny that St. Paul wrote the epistle is that one or two prominent writers have spoken contemptuously of that view. It does not look well to set up one's own opinion against theirs, whom all sermondom and the press worshipping. "Great is Diana of the Ephesians!"

The real difficulties lie rather in the question, If St. Paul wrote the epistle, when, where, and to what Church was it written? These are matters worthy of patient discussion. It would be beside the point were I to discuss them now. They are by no means inexplicable. And if we cannot solve