

NOTE ON THE DATE OF THE FIRST EPISTLE  
OF PETER.

ON page 43 of the last volume of the EXPOSITOR Prof. Ramsay has given my name in connection with an argument for dating 1 Peter some years after the death of Paul. I should like to outline the argument in full, as it is an argument founded on no hypothesis evolved from my inner consciousness, but on the text of the Epistle.

From 1 Peter v. 12, 13 we learn that Silas and Mark were with Peter in Rome when he wrote his letter to the Pauline Churches.

Prof. Ramsay has pointed out (*loc. cit.*) how impossible it is to think of Peter writing to these Churches in this manner during Paul's lifetime. And what are we to say of the presence of Silas and Mark?

Mark was the assistant of Paul and Barnabas during their first missionary journey, and the occasion of their separation. For his second journey Paul had to choose a companion in place of Barnabas. He chose Silas, and we have no reason for supposing that Silas ever left the service of the Apostle until death parted them. Later in the journey Paul chose Timothy to fill Mark's place.

But in after years Mark was restored to Paul's favour (Col. iv. 10), and at the last became almost indispensable (1 Tim. iv. 11) to the great general. We cannot well think of Paul and Mark being in Rome at the same time without being together. It is hard to think of either Silas or Mark leaving the service of their leader in his last years.

And yet here is Peter writing in Rome, where Paul spent many of his last days, writing to the Pauline Churches, and having in his service two of Paul's henchmen. And there is not in the letter, throbbing as it does with Pauline

thought, one word to show that Rome, or the Churches, or Silas and Mark have ever had any connection with Paul.

Is it not then certain from these two verses alone that at the time of writing Paul had been dead some years, during which Peter had taken his place in Gentile Christendom and in the allegiance of the men trained by him? Paul is not present, nor is he near.

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