used here is unique among the Pauline Epistles; and if it had been the work of a forger, he would surely have been more careful to follow St. Paul's general usage, as it meets us in 1 Corinthians xvi. 21, or Colossians iv. 18. Whereas "if Paul wrote the words, they express his intention," as Dr. Drummond has pointed out, "and this intention was satisfactorily fulfilled if he always added the benediction in his own handwriting." 1

On the whole then, without any desire to minimize the difficulties surrounding the literary character and much of the contents of this remarkable Epistle, I can find nothing in them to throw undue suspicion on its genuineness; while the failure of those who reject it to present any adequate explanation of how it arose, or of the authority it undoubtedly possessed in the Early Church, is in itself strong presumptive evidence that the traditional view is correct, and that we have here an authentic work of the Apostle Paul.

GEORGE MILLIGAN.

NOTES ON THE TEXT OF THE EPISTLE OF JUDE.

If we may judge from the number of 'primitive errors' suspected by WH in this short Epistle, it would seem that the text is in a less satisfactory condition than that of any other portion of the New Testament. There are no less than four such errors in these thirty verses, the same number as are found in the eight chapters of the two Petrine Epistles, and in the forty-four chapters of the first two Gospels. In what follows I give the text of WH.

v. 1. Τοῖς εν Θεῷ πατρὶ ἡγαπημένοις καὶ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ τετηρημένοις κλητοῖς.

Here ἡγαπημένοις is supported by ABN, several cursives and ver-

The objection to the text rests on internal grounds. There appears to be no parallel either for \( \varepsilon v \) \( \Theta \varepsilon \varphi \) \( \Pi \alpha \tau \rho \) \( \eta \gamma \alpha \pi \eta \mu \varepsilon \nu o \), or for \( \chi \rho \iota \sigma \tau \omega \) \( \tau \tau \eta \pi \eta \mu \varepsilon \nu o \), whereas the preposition \( \varepsilon v \) is constantly used to express the relation in which believers stand to \( \chi \rho \iota \sigma \tau \omega \) as the members of His body. If Bishop Lightfoot is right in saying (on Col. 3. 12) that in the New Testament the word \( \eta \gamma \alpha \pi \eta \mu \varepsilon \nu o \) “seems to be always used of the object of God’s love,” it is difficult to see the propriety of the phrase “Brethren beloved by God in God.” Omitting the preposition we have the dative of the agent, as in Nehemiah 13. 26, \( \eta \gamma \alpha \pi \omicron \omega \mu \nu o \) \( \tau \delta \) \( \Theta \varepsilon \varphi \) \( \eta \nu \). Nor does it seem a natural expression to speak of “those who are kept for Christ” (so Alford, Spitta, B. Weiss, v. Soden, al.); rather believers are kept \( b y \) and \( i n \) Christ, as in 2 Thessalonians 3. 3, Apocalypse 3. 10. The easiest way of accounting for the error is to suppose that \( \varepsilon v \) was accidentally omitted, and then corrected in the margin and inserted in the wrong place. Possibly the wrong insertion of \( \varepsilon v \) may have suggested or facilitated the change from \( \eta \gamma \alpha \pi \eta \mu \varepsilon \nu o \) to \( \eta \gamma \alpha \pi \eta \mu \varepsilon \nu o s \). If this is so, it suggests that our MSS. are derived from an archetype which was a far from exact copy of the original autograph.

\( \nu \). 5. \( \upsilon \omicron \mu \mu \omicron \sigma i a \) \( d e \) \( \upsilon \mu \alpha s \) \( \beta \omicron \upsilon \lambda \omicron \omega \mu a i \) \( \varepsilon i d \omicron \tau a s \) \( \alpha \pi \alpha \varepsilon \pi \alpha n t a \), \( \delta \tau i \) \( k \upsilon \rho \omicron \sigma \lambda \alpha \nu \) \( \epsilon k \) \( \gamma \iota \varsigma \) \( \Lambda i \gamma \iota \pi \tau \tau o \) \( \sigma \omicron \varsigma \sigma a s \) \( t o \) \( d e \upsilon \tau e \rho o n \) \( t o \delta s \) \( \mu \varsigma \) \( \pi i \sigma t e \upsilon \varsigma a n t a s \) \( \alpha p \omega \lambda \varepsilon \varepsilon n \). I quote Tregelles’ notes with additions from Tischendorf in round brackets.

\( \varepsilon i d \omicron \tau a s \) “\( a d d . \) \( \upsilon \mu \alpha s \) \( \varsigma \) \( \mathbf{N} \). 31. \( K L \), \( o m . \) \( A B C \) \( 2 \) \( 13 \) Vulg. Syrr. Bdl. and Hcl. Memph. Theb. Arm.,” and so Tisch.

In point of fact, however, B reads \( \varepsilon i d \omicron \tau a s \) \( \upsilon \mu \alpha s \), as any one may convince himself by looking at Cozza-Luzi’s photo-
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graphic reproduction. The preponderance of authority is therefore in favour of this latter reading. The repeated ἵμας emphasizes the contrast between the readers ("to remind you, you who know it already") and the libertines previously spoken of. The repetition here may be compared with the repeated ἵμιν of v. 3.


παντα ABCN. 13 Vulg. Syr. Hcl. Memph. Arm. Aeth. Lucif. [In the App. to WH (Sel. Readings, p. 106) it is suggested that this may be a primitive error for παντας (cf. 1 John 2. 20) found in Syr. Bodl.]. τουρο] τ. 31. KL. Theb.


κυριος] NCKL. Syr. Hcl. θεος C Tol. Syr. Bdl. Arm. Clem. Lucif. ησυς AB. 13 Vulg. Memph. Theb. Aeth. [In App. to WH (Sel. Readings, p. 106) it is suggested that there may have been some primitive error, "apparently οτικε (ὅτι Κύριος), and οτικ (ὅτι ησυς) for οτιο (ὅτι ὅ)."]

It appears to me that the true reading of the passage is ὑπομνησαι δὲ ἵμας βούλομαι, εἰδότας ἵμας πάντα, ὅτι Κύριος ἀπαξ λαὸν ἐκ γῆς Αἰγύπτου σώσας τὸ δεύτερον τοὺς μὴ πιστεύσαντας ἀπώλεσεν. I see no difficulty in πάντα, which gives a reason for the use of the word ὑπομνησαι, "I need only remind you, because you already know all that I have to say." It was easy for the second ἵμας to be omitted as unnecessary, and then the word ἀπαξ might be inserted in its place partly for rhythmical reasons; but it is really unmeaning after εἰδότας: the knowledge of the incidents, which are related in this and the following verses, is not a knowledge for good and all, such as the faith spoken of in v. 3. On the other hand, ἀπαξ is very appropriate if taken with λαὸν σώσας (a people was saved out of Egypt once for all), and it prepares the way for τὸ δεύτερον, as in Theoph. add Aut. ii. 26, ἵνα τὸ μὲν ἀπαξ ἣ πεπληρωμένον ὦτε ἑτέθη, τὸ δὲ δεύτερον μέλλῃ πληροῦσαι μετὰ τὴν κρίσιν. On the other hand, πάντας seems to me inappropriate. Can it be
assumed that all who are addressed should be familiar with the legends contained in the Book of Enoch and the Ascension of Moses, to which allusion is made in what follows? It is surely much more to the point for the writer to say, as he does again below (v. 17), that he is only repeating what is generally known, though it need not be known to every individual. As to Hort’s suggestion on the word κύριος, that the original was ὅτι ὁ (λαὸν σῶσας), the difficulties in its way seem to be: (1) That such a periphrastic expression for God is unusual; (2) that the supposed corruptions are not very easily explained; (3) that a further difficulty is introduced if we suppose θεός or κύριος to have been accidentally omitted by the original scribe. Spitta considers that the abbreviations ΙϹ, ΚϹ, ΘϹ might easily be confused if the first letter was faintly written, and that the mention of τὸν μόνον δεσπότην καὶ κύριον Ι.Χ. in the preceding verse would naturally lead a later copyist to prefer ΙϹ, a supposition which is confirmed by Cramer’s Catena, p. 158, εἰρηταὶ γὰρ πρὸ τοῦτων περὶ αὐτοῦ, ὥς εἴη ἄληθινὸς θεὸς ὁ ὁ μόνος δεσπότης ὁ κύριος Ι.Χ., ὁ ἀναγαγῶν τὸν λαὸν ἐξ Αἰγύπτου διὰ Μωσέως. Spitta himself, however, holds that ΘϹ is the true reading, as it agrees with the corresponding passage in 2 Peter 2. 4, ὅ θεὸς ἀγγέλων ἄμαρτσάντων οὐκ ἐφείσατο, and with Clement’s paraphrase (Adumbr. Dind. iii. p. 482): “Quoniam Dominus Deus semel populum de terra Aegypti liberans deinceps eos qui non crediderunt perdidit.” There is no instance in the New Testament of the personal name “Jesus” being used of the pre-existent Messiah, though the official name “Christ” is found in 1 Corinthians 10. 4, 9, in reference to the wandering in the wilderness. But in the second and later centuries this distinction was less carefully observed. Thus Justin M. (Dial. 120), speaking of the prophecy in Genesis 49. 10, says that it does not refer to Judah, but to Jesus, τὸν καὶ τοὺς πατέρας ὑμῶν ἐξ Αἰγύπτου ἐξαγαγόντα,
and this use of the name was confirmed by the idea that the son of Nun was a personification of Christ (see Justin, *Dial.* 75; Clem. Al. 133; Didymus, *De Trin.* 1. 19, Ἰσόδας καθολικῶς γράφει, ἀπαξ γὰρ κύριος Ησιοὺς λαὸν ἐξ Ἀἰγύπτου σώσας κ.τ.λ.; Jerome, *C. Jov.* 1. 12; Lact. *Inst.* 4. 17, Christi figuram gerebat ille Jesus, qui cum primum Auses vocaretur, Moyses futura praesentiens jussit eum Jesum vocari).

v. 19. οὗτοι εἰσίν οἱ ἀποδιοριζόντες, ψυχικοὶ πνεῦμα μὴ ἔχοντες.

ἀποδιοριζόντες add. οὐαυτοὶ C. Vulg. *Om. ABNKL* 13, etc.

This rare word is used of logical distinctions in Arist. *Pol.* iv. 48, ὁπερ οὖν εἰ ζῷον προηρούμεθα λαβείν εἰδη, πρῶτον ἄν ἀποδιορίζουμεν ὁπερ ἀναγκαῖον πᾶν ἔχειν ζῷον ("as, if we wished to make a classification of animals, we should have begun by setting aside that which all animals have in common"), and I believe in every other passage in which it is known to occur. Schott, B. Weiss and Huther-Kühl would give it a similar sense in this passage, supposing the words ψυχικοὶ πνεῦμα μὴ ἔχοντες to be spoken by, or at least to express the feeling of οἱ ἀποδιοριζόντες: "welche Unterscheidungen machen, sc. zwischen Psychikern und Pneumatikern, wobei dann der Verfasser diese Unterscheidungen in seiner drastischen Weise sofort zu ihren Ungunsten umkehrt." This explanation seems to me to give a better sense than the gloss approved by Spitta, οἱ τὰ σχίσματα ποιοῦντες; for one cause of the danger which threatens the Church is that the innovators do not separate themselves openly, but steal in unobserved (παρεισδύησαν, v. 4), and take part in the love-feasts of the faithful, in which they are like sunken rocks (v. 12); and, secondly, it is by no means certain that the word ἀφορίζω could bear this sense. ἀφορίζω is used in Luke 6. 22 of excommunication by superior authority, which of course would not be
applicable here. On the other hand, it seems impossible to get the former sense out of the Greek as it stands. Even if we allowed the possibility of such a harsh construction as to put ψυχικοὶ in inverted commas, as the utterance of the innovators, still we cannot use the same word over again to express Jude’s “drastic” retort. This difficulty would be removed if we suppose the loss of a line to the following effect after ἀποδιορίζοντες:

ψυχικοὺς ύμᾶς (οὐ τοὺς πιστοὺς) λέγοντες, δότες αὐτοὶ ψυχικοὶ πνεύμα μὴ ἔχοντες.

We may compare Clement’s paraphrase in the Adumbrationes (Dind. vol. iii. p. 483, more correctly given in Zahn, Forsch. iii. p. 85). *Isti sunt* 1 inquit segregantes fideles a fidelibus secundum propriam infidelitatem redarguti 2 et iterum [non] 3 discernentes sancta 4 a canibus. 5 *Animales inquit spiritum non habentes, spiritum scilicet, qui est per fidem secundum usum justitiae.*

[The authorities are two MSS. Cod. Laudun. 96, sec. ix. (L), Cod. Berol. Phill. 1665, sec. xiii. (M), and the Ed. Pr. of De la Bigne 1575 (P).]

Zahn endeavours to defend the reading sancta a canibus by quoting Clem. Str. ii. 7, τῶν δὲ ἁγίων μεταδίδοντι τοῖς κυσίν ἀπαγορεύεται, which seems to me entirely alien to the general drift of the passage. Starting with the carnibus of the oldest MS., I think we should read carnalibus. If we retain sancta, I should be inclined to understand this in reference to the behaviour of the libertines at the love-feasts described in v. 12, which may be compared with 1 Corinthians 11. 29, ὁ γὰρ ἐσθίων καὶ πίνων ἀναξίως κρίμα ἐστὶν καὶ πίνει μὴ διακρίνων τὸ σῶμα. But perhaps we

1 Sunt M, om. LP.
2 Redarguti MP, redargui L.
3 Non inserted by Zahn (Mr. Barnard suggests parum for iterum).
4 Sancta L has the word between the lines.
5 Canibus MP, carnibus L (“wenn ich nicht die Variante übersehen habe”).
should read sanctos and transpose the clauses as follows:—

Isti segregantes: fideles a fidelibus et iterum sanctos a carnalibus discernentes secundum propria incredulitatem, redarguti, animales spiritum non habentes, the Greek being something of this sort: οὐτοί εἰσιν οἵ ἀποδιορίζοντες. πιστοὺς τῶν πιστῶν, ἀγίους δὲ αὐ τῶν ψυχικών διακρίνοντες κατὰ τὴν ἑδικ ἀπιστίαν, ἐλέγχονται ψυχικοὶ πνεῦμα μὴ ἔχοντες.

The opposition of ψυχικοὶ to πνευματικοὶ is familiar in the writings of Tertullian after he became a Montanist. The Church is carnal, the sect spiritual. So the Valentinians distinguished their own adherents as pneumatici from the psychici who composed the Church. These were also technical terms with the Naassenes and Heracleon (see my notes on James 3. 15), and were probably borrowed by the early heretics from St. Paul, who uses them to distinguish the natural from the heavenly body (1 Cor. 15. 44), and also to express the presence or absence of spiritual insight (1 Cor. 2. 14), ψυχικὸς ἀνθρωπος οὗ δέχεται τὰ τοῦ πνεύματος τοῦ θεοῦ, μορία γὰρ αὐτῷ ἔστω ... ὃ δὲ πνευματικὸς ἀνακρίνει πάντα. The innovators against whom St. Jude writes seem to have been professed followers of St. Paul (like the Marcionites afterwards), abusing the doctrine of Free Grace which they had learnt from him (v. 4, τὴν τοῦ θεοῦ χάριτα μετατιθέντες εἰς ἀσέλγειαν), professing a knowledge of the βάθη τοῦ θεοῦ (1 Cor. 2. 12), though it was really a knowledge only of τὰ βαθέα τοῦ Σατανᾶ (Apoc. 2. 24), and claiming to be the true δύνατοι and πνευματικοὶ, as denying dead works and setting the spirit above the letter. This explains the subsequent misrepresentation of St. Paul as a heresiarch in the Pseudo-Clementine writings.

vv. 22, 23. (Text of Tischendorf and Tregelles) καὶ οὗ μὲν ἑλέγχετε διακρινομένους, οὗ δὲ σῶζετε ἐκ πυρὸς ἀρταξομένους, οὗ δὲ ἑλάτε ἐν φόβῳ, μισοῦσας καὶ τὸν ἀπὸ τῆς σαρκὸς ἐσπιλαμβάνον χιτῶνα. (Text of WH and B. Weiss)
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καὶ ὅσι μὲν ἐλεάτε διακρινομένους σώζετε ἐκ πυρὸς ἀρπάζοντες, ὅσι δὲ ἐλεάτε ἐν φόβῳ, μισοῦντες καὶ τὸν ἀπὸ τῆς σαρκᾶς ἐσπιλωμένον χιτῶνα. In App. to WH it is added, “Some primitive error probable: perhaps the first ἐλεάτε an interpolation” (Sel. Readings, p. 107).


Tischendorf makes the matter clearer by giving the consecutive text of versions and quotations as follows: Vulg. Et hos quidem arguite judicatos, illos vero salvate de igne rapientes, aliis autem miseremini in timore. Ar*. Et quosdam corripite super peccatis eorum, et quorundam miseremini cum fuerint victi, et quosdam salvate ex igne et liberate eos. ArP. Et signate quosdam cum dubitaverint orbos (?) et salvate quosdam territione, abripite eos ex igne. Aeth. quoniam est quem redarguunt per verbum quod dictum est (AethP-P. propter peccatum eorum), et est qui et servabitur ex igne et rapient eum, et est qui servabitur timore et poenitentia. Arm. Et quosdam damnantes sitis reprehensione, et quosdam salvate rapiendo ex igne, et quorundam miseremini timore judicando (?) indicando). Cassiodor. Ita ut quosdam dijudicatos arguant, quosdam de adustione aeterni ignis eripiant, nonnullis miserecantur errantibus et conscientias maculatas emundent, sic tamen ut peccata eorum digna execratione refugiant. Commentaries of Theophylact and Ecumenius, κάκεινος δὲ, εἰ μὲν ἀποδίσταναι ὑμῶν—τοῦτο γὰρ σημαίνει τὸ διακρίνεσθαι—ἐλέγχετε, τοστέστι φανεροῦτε τοῖς πάσι τῆν
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In all these it will be observed that three classes are distinguished, as in the text of Tregelles and Tischendorf, and in A. οὐς μὲν ἔλεγχετε διακρινομένους, οὖς δὲ σώζετε ἐκ πυρὸς ἀρπάζοντες, οὖς δὲ ἔλεατε ἐν φόβῳ, and Ν, οὐς μὲν ἔλεατε διακρινομένους, οὖς δὲ σώζετε ἐκ πυρὸς ἀρπάζοντες, οὖς δὲ ἔλεατε ἐν φόβῳ. We should draw the same conclusion from the seeming quotation in Can. Apost. vi. 4 (οὐ μισήσεις πάντα ἄνθρωπον, ἀλλὰ) οὖς μὲν ἔλεγχεις, οὖς δὲ ἔλεησεις, περὶ δὲν δὲ προσεύξῃ (οὖς δὲ ἀγαπήσεις ὑπὲρ τὴν ψυχήν σου), which occurs also, with the omission of the clause οὖς δὲ ἔλεησεις in the Didache ii. 7.

Two classes only are distinguished in the following : Syr. Bdl. Et quosdam de illis quidem ex igne rapite; cum autem repiuerint, miseremini super eis in timore, representing καὶ οὐς μὲν ἔλεατε διακρινομένους, οὖς δὲ σώζετε ἐκ πυρὸς ἀρπάζοντες ἐν φόβῳ. Syr. Hcl. et hos quidem miseremini resipiscentes, hos autem servate de igne rapientes in timore, representing καὶ οὐς μὲν ἔλεατε διακρινομένους, οὖς δὲ σώζετε ἐκ πυρὸς ἀρπάζοντες ἐν φόβῳ. Syr. Hcl. et hos quidem miseremini resipiscentes, hos autem servate de igne rapientes in timore, representing καὶ οὐς μὲν ἔλεατε διακρινομένους, οὖς δὲ σώζετε ἐκ πυρὸς ἀρπάζοντες ἐν φόβῳ. Syr. Hcl. et hos quidem miseremini resipiscentes, hos autem servate de igne rapientes in timore, representing καὶ οὐς μὲν ἔλεατε διακρινομένους, οὖς δὲ σώζετε ἐκ πυρὸς ἀρπάζοντες ἐν φόβῳ. Clem. Adumbr. quosdam autem salvate de igne rapientes, quibusdam vero miseremini in timore, representing καὶ οὐς μὲν ἔλεατε διακρινομένους, οὖς δὲ σώζετε ἐκ πυρὸς ἀρπάζοντες ἐν φόβῳ. Clem. Strom. vi. 773, καὶ οὐς μὲν ἐκ πυρὸς ἀρπάζοντες, διακρινομένους δὲ ἔλεετε, implying that he was acquainted with two different recensions. With these we may compare the texts of B, followed by WH and B. Weiss, καὶ οὐς μὲν ἔλεατε διακρινομένους σώζετε ἐκ πυρὸς ἀρπάζοντες, οὖς δὲ ἔλεατε ἐν φόβῳ, of C, καὶ οὐς μὲν ἔλεγχετε διακρινομένους, οὖς δὲ σώζετε ἐκ πυρὸς ἀρπάζοντες ἐν φόβῳ, and of KLP, καὶ οὐς μὲν ἔλεετε

1 The paraphrase continues, id est ut eos qui in ignem cadunt doceatis ut semet ipsos liberent. (It would seem that this clause has got misplaced and should be inserted after rapientes.) Odientes, inquit, eam, quae carnalis est, maculatam tunicam; animae videlicet tunica macula (read maculata) est spiritalus concupiscientiis pollutus carnalis.
διακρινόμενοι, οὖς δὲ ἐν φόβῳ σώζετε ἐκ πυρὸς ἀρπάζοντες.

St. Jude’s predilection for triplets, as seen in vv. 2, 4, 8, in the examples of judgment in vv. 5-7, and of sin in v. 11, is prima facie favourable to the triple division in this passage. Supposing we take A and N to represent the original, consisting of three members, a b c, we find B complete in a and c, but confused as to b. As it stands, it gives an impossible reading; since it requires οὖς μὲν to be taken as the relative, introducing the subordinate verb ἐλεᾶτε, depending on the principal verb σώζετε; while οὖς δὲ, on the other hand, must be taken as demonstrative. WH suggest that ἐλεᾶτε has crept in from below. Omitting this, we get the sense, “Some who doubt save, snatching them from fire; others compassionate in fear.” It seems an easier explanation to suppose that ἐλεᾶτε was written in error for ἐλέγχετε, and οὖς omitted in error after διακρινόμενοι. The latter phenomenon is exemplified in the readings of Syr. Bdl. and Clem. Str. 773. The texts of C and KLP are complete in a and b, but insert a phrase from c in b. The most natural explanation here seems to be that the duplication of ἐλεᾶτε in a and c (as in Cod. N) caused the omission of the second ἐλεᾶτε, and therefore of the second οὖς δὲ. The reading διακρινόμενοι in KLP was a natural assimilation to the following nominative ἀρπάζοντες, and seemed, to those who were not aware of the difference in the meaning of the active and middle of διακρίνω, to supply a very appropriate thought, viz. that discrimination must be used; treatment should differ in different cases.

The real difficulty, however, of the triple division is to arrive at a clear demarcation between the classes alluded to. “The triple division,” says Hort (App. p. 107), “gives no satisfactory sense”; and it certainly has been very diversely interpreted, some holding with Kühl that the first case is the worst and the last the most hopeful: “Die dritte Klasse . . . durch helfendes Erbarmen wieder hergestellt werden können, mit denen es also nicht so schlimm
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steht, wie mit denen, welchen gegenüber nur ἐλέγχειν zu üben ist; aber auch nicht so schlimm, wie mit denen, die nur durch rasche, zugreifende That zu retten sind”; while the majority take Reiche’s view of a climax: “a dubitantibus minusque depravatis . . . ad insanabiles, quibus opem ferre pro tempore ab ipsorum contumacia prohibemur.” My own view is that Jude does not here touch on the case of the heretical leaders, of whom he has spoken with such severity before. In their present mood they are not subjects of ἐλεος, any more than the Pharisees condemned by our Lord, as long as they persisted in their hostility to the truth. The admonition here given by St. Jude seems to be the same as that contained in the last verse of the Epistle written by his brother long before: εἰσὶς ἐν ὑμῖν πλανηθῇ ἀπὸ τῆς ἀληθείας καὶ ἐπιστρέψῃ τις αὐτῶν, γινώσκετε ὅτι ὁ ἐπιστρέψας ἀμαρτωλὸν ἐκ πλάνης αὐτοῦ σώσει ψυχὴν ἐκ θανάτου. The first class with which the believers are called upon to deal is that of doubters, οἰαὶ παρὰ δτὰ ὑπὸ διακρινόμενοι, men still halting between two opinions (cf. James 1. 6), or we might understand the word of disputatiousness, as in Jude 9. These they are to reprove and convince (cf. John 16. 9, ἐλέγξει περὶ ἀμαρτίας ὅτι οὐ πιστεύουσιν εἰς ἐμέ). Then follow two classes undistinguished by any special characteristic, whose condition we can only conjecture from the course of action to be pursued respecting them. The second class is evidently in more imminent danger than the one we have already considered, since they are to be saved by immediate energetic action, snatching them from the fire; the third seems to be beyond human help, since the duty of the believers is limited to trembling compassion, expressing itself no doubt in prayer, but apparently shrinking from personal communication with the terrible infection of evil. We may compare with this St. Paul’s judgment as to the case of incest in the Church of Corinth (1 Cor. 5. 5), and the story told about Cerinthus and St. John.

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