on. i. 12] EXPOUNDED 15  
  
standing of the churches of Christ before the last of  
the apostles died ; and we see from the Saviour’s words,  
how likely they were to have their candlesticks re-  
moved. Abounding grace still spares the churches,  
but they have not continued in God’s goodness, and  
are soon to be cut off. Rom. xi.  
  
12. ‘‘ And I turned to see the voice which was speaking with  
me, And being turned, I saw seven golden lamp-stands.”  
  
He beheld then seven golden lamps upon their stands.  
On this point I must differ from most or all who have  
preceded me. They speak of the lamps, altars, censers,  
etc., beheld by John, as mere images and allusions to the  
utensils of the tabernacle. But such a conclusion is not  
derived from Scripture. Scripture would assure us, that  
the things which John beheld were the REALITIES, of  
which the Mosaic tabernacle contained only the copies.  
It were strange indeed, if, while the law of Moses gave  
only the copies of the things in heaven, John saw only  
the shadowy appearance of those shadows! If Paul may  
be trusted, there is really a tabernacle in heaven, in  
which are the originals which Moses, and John, were  
permitted to see. What other conclusion should we  
gather from such passages as these ?—“ A minister  
of the Holiest, and of the TRUE TABERNACLE, which the  
Lord priched and not man.’ The priests of Aaron’s line  
“ serve the example and shadow of the heavenly things ;  
as Moses was admonished when he was about to make  
the tabernacle.” For ‘“ see (saith He) that thou make  
all things according to the pattern showed thee in the  
mount’ (Heb. viii. 2, 5). If the person of Jesus be a  
reality, why not the lamps amidst which He moves ?  
There are then real vessels in heaven, about which  
the ministry of Jesus as high priest is at present en-  
gaged ; things which were purged with His blood. Heb.  
ix. 23. Besides their reality, they are significant of