cn. iii, 14] EXPOUNDED 85  
  
VIT  
LAODICEA  
  
14. ‘‘ And unto the angel of the church in Laodicea, write ;  
These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true Witness,  
the beginning of the creation of God.”  
  
THE titles by which our Lord introduces Himself to  
this angel are not those found in the first vision: as if  
to warn us that He was retreating farther and farther  
from his original position, as the state of the churches  
became more and more fallen, and unlike its original  
standing.  
Jesus is “‘ the Faithful and True Witness.”  
As there were two opposite opinions about the state of  
the angel and Church: the one, their own, which was  
very flattering ; the other, that of the Lord; Jesus  
first establishes His own character, as the fulcrum to  
overturn their unfounded opinion of themselves.  
“The beginning of the creation of God.”  
He is ‘“‘the Beginning of Creation,” as its First Cause.  
This attribute John has more than once assigned to Jesus.  
John i. 1-3. There is probably a reference to Jesus’  
previous words—‘I am Alpha and Omega, saith the  
Lord, which was, and is, and is to come, the Almighty ”  
(i. 8). And again—‘‘ I am Alpha and Omega, the first  
and the last, beginning and end:” xxii. 13. These  
titles, as we have seen, import Deity. There is pro-  
bably a further reference to Prov. viii. There Jesus  
speaks as Wisdom, the Wisdom of God. ‘“ Jehovah  
possessed me THE BEGINNING OF His way (Heb.)