we cannot say) **a comfort to me.**

**12**.] On Epaphras, see ch. i.'7 note. By mentioning Epaphras’s anxious prayers for  
them, he works further on their affections,  
giving them an additional motive for stedfastness, in that one of themselves was  
thus striving in prayer for them.  
**that ye may stand,—perfect and fully  
persuaded,—in** (be firmly settled in, without danger of vacillating or falling: the  
preposition belongs to the verb “*ye may  
stand*,” not to “*fully assured*”) **all the**  
(literally, ‘*in every*:’ but we cannot thus  
express it in English) **will of God.**

**13.**] On account of this mention of Laodicea and Hierapolis, some have thought  
that Epaphras was the founder of the  
three churches. See Introd. § ii. 2, 7.  
LAODICEA was a city of Phrygia Magna,  
large and rich (Rev. iii. 17; and Introd.  
to Rev. § iii. 13; and Tacitus says that  
when destroyed by an earthquake, the  
inhabitants rebuilt it without imperial  
assistance), on the river Lycus, formerly  
called Diospolis, and afterwards Rhoas;  
its subsequent name was from Laodice,  
queen of Antiochus II. In A.D. 62, Laodicea, with Hierapolis and Colossae, was  
destroyed by an earthquake (see above),  
to which visitations the neighbourhood  
was very subject. There is now on the  
spot a desolate village called Eski-hissar,  
with some ancient ruins. **Hierapolis**]  
Six Roman miles north from Laodicea: famed for mineral springs (Strabo de-  
scribes them at length, also the caverns  
which exhale noxious vapour), which are  
still flowing.

**14.**] This **Luke** has  
ever been taken for the Evangelist: Introd.  
to St. Luke, § i. In the designation, **the  
beloved physician**, there may be a trace  
of what has been supposed, that it was  
in a professional capacity that he first  
became attached to St. Paul, who evidently laboured under grievous sickness  
during the earlier part of the journey  
where Luke first appears in his company.  
Compare Gal. iv. 13 note, with Acts xvi.  
6, 10. But this is too uncertain to be  
more than an interesting conjecture.  
**Demas**] one of Paul's *fellow-workmen*,  
Philem. 24, who however afterwards deserted him, from love to the world, 2 Tim.  
iv. 10. The absence of any honourable or  
endearing mention here may be owing  
to the commencement of this apostasy,  
or some unfavourable indication in his  
character.

**15—17.**] *Salutations to friends.*

**15.**] **and** before *Nymphas*, as so often,  
selects one out of a number previously  
mentioned: Nymphas was one of these  
Laodicean brethren. On the **church** spoken  
of, see note, Rom. xvi. 5.

**16.] this** (literally, **the**) **epistle. the epistle  
from Laodicea**] i.e. an epistle which I  
have written to Laodicea, to be forwarded  
from thence to you. On this Epistle, see