§ 1.) FOR WIAT READERS, &c. — [inrropucrion.   
   
 that goddess. This temple was burnt down by Herostratus, in the night   
 of the birth of Alexauder the Great (B.c. 355), but rebuilt at immense   
 cost, and was one of the wonders of the ancient world. On the worship   
 of Artemis there, &c., seo Acts xix. 24 ff. and notes. The present state   
 of the site of the city, the stadium, theatre, supposed basement of the   
 temple, &c., are described in Smith’s Dictionary, and in Conybeare and   
 Howson as above.   
 38. St. Paul’s first visit to Ephesus is related Acts xviii. 19—21. It   
 was very short, as he was hastening to reach Jerusalem by the next   
 Pentecost. The work begun by him in disputations with the Jews, was   
 carried on by Apollos (ib. 24—26), and by Aquila and Priscilla (ib. 27).   
 After visiting Jerusalem, and making a journey in the Eastern parts of   
 Asia Minor, he returned thither (ib. xix. 1) and remained there “ three   
 years” (ib. xix.; xx. 81): during which period the founding of the   
 Ephesian church must be dated. From what is implied in Acts xix. and   
 xx., that church was considerable in numbers: and it had enjoyed a more   
 than usual portion of the Apostle’s own personal nursing and teaching.   
 Tt will be important to bear this in mind when we come to consider the   
 question of this section.   
 4, On his last recorded journey to Jerusalem he sailed by Ephesus,   
 and summoned the elders of the Ephesian church to meet him at Miletus,   
 where he took what he believed to be his last farewell of them, in that   
 most characteristic and wonderful speech, Acts xx. 18—35.   
 5. At some subsequent time (see Introd. to the Pastoral Epistles),   
 he left Timothy behind in Ephesus, at which place the first Epistle   
 was addressed to him (1 Tim. i. 3), and perhaps (?) the second. The   
 state of the Ephesian church at the time of these Epistles being written,   
 will be found diseussed in the Introd. to them.   
 6. Ecclesiastical tradition has connected the Apostle John with   
 Ephesus: see Vol. I. Introd. ch. v. § i. 9 ff.: and his long residence   
 and death there may with safety be assumed.   
 7. To this chureh our Epistle is addressed, according to our present   
 text. And there is nothing in its contents inconsistent with such an   
 address. We find in it clear indications that its readers were mixed   
 Jews and Gentiles ,—that they were in an especial manner united to the   
 Apostle in spiritual privilege and heavenly hope':—that they resided in   
 the midst of an unusually corrupt and profligate people’.   
 8. Nor are minor indications wanting, which possess interest as con-   
 necting our Epistle with the narrative in the Acts. He had preached to   
 them “ the gospel of the grace of God,” Acts xx. 24; and he commits them   
 “to the word of his grace,” ib. ver. 32. In this Epistle alone, not in the   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
 10 ch. ii. ff. Compare Acts xix. 10. 1 ch. i. 3 and passim.   
 2 ch. iv. 17 ff.; 1—13.   
 39