INTRODUCTION. ] REVELATION. (eu. xxi.   
   
 powerful subsidiary argument in favour of the later date. This will be   
 expanded in the next section.   
 30. These things then being considered,—the decisive testimony of   
 primitive tradition, and failure of all attempts to set it aside,—the   
 internal evidence furnished by the book itself, and equal failure of all   
 attempts by an unwarrantable interpretation to raise up counter   
 evidence,—I have no hesitation in believing, with the ancient fathers and   
 most competent witnesses, that the Apocalypse was written at the end   
 of the reign of Domitian, i.e. about the year 95 or 96 a.p.   
   
   
   
   
   
 SECTION I.   
 TO WHOM ADDRESSED.   
   
   
   
 1, The superscription of the book plainly states for what readers   
 it was primarily intended. At the same time indications abound, that   
 the whole Christian church was in view. In the very epistles to the   
 seven churches themselves, all the promises and sayings of the Lord,   
 though arising out of local circumstances, are of perfectly general   
 application, And in the course of the propheey, the wide range of   
 objects embraced, the universality of the cautions and eneouragements,   
 the vast periods of time comprised, leave us no inference but this, that   
 the book was intended for the comfort and profit of every age of the   
 Christian Chureh. In treating therefore the question at the head of   
 this section in its narrower and literal sense, I am not excluding the   
 broader and general view. It lies behind the other, as in the rest   
 of the apostolic writings. ‘These things,” as the older Scriptures,   
 “are written for our ensamples, upon whom the ends of the world are   
 come:” or, in the language of the Muratori fragment on the Canon,   
 « John, though he writes to seven churches, yet speaks to all.”   
 2. The book then was directly addressed to the seven churches of   
 proconsular Asia. A few remarks must be made on the general subject   
 of the names and state of these churches, before entering on a description   
 of them severally.   
 3. First, as to the selection of the names. The number seven,   
 so often used by the Seer to express universality, has here prevailed in   
 oceasioning that number of names to be selected out of the churches in   
 the district. For these were not all the churches comprised in Asia   
 proper. Whether there were Christian bodies in Coloss@ and Hiera-   
 polis, we cannot say, Those cities had been, since the writing of   
 St. Paul’s Epistle, destroyed by an earthquake, and in what state of   
 restoration they were at this date is uncertain. But from the Epistles   
 of Ignatius we may fairly assume that there were churches in Magnesia   
 340