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 with a decided negative the hypothesis of the Apocalypse being written   
 under Nero, Galba, or even Vespasian. At the same time, see note on   
 ch. ii. 20,—the mention of eating things sacrificed to idols there iden-   
 tifies the temptations and difliculties which beset the churches when the   
 Apocalypse was written, with those which we know to have been pre-   
 valent in the apostolic age, and thus gives a strong confirmation of the   
 authenticity of the book.   
 I now proceed to consider these churches one by one.   
 7. Epnesvs, the capital of proconsular Asia, has already been described,   
 and a sketeh of its history given, in the Introduction to the Epistle to the   
 Ephesians, § ii. parr. 1—6. More detailed accounts are there referred to.   
 The notes to the Epistle will in each case put the student in possession   
 of the general character and particular excellencies or failings of each   
 church, so that I need not repeat them here. In reference to the threat   
 uttered by our Lord in ch, ii. 5, we may remark, that a few miserable   
 huts, and ruins of great extent and massiveness, are all that now remains   
 of the former splendid capital of Asia. The candlestick has indeed   
 been removed from its place, and the church has become extinct. We   
 may notice, that Ephesus naturally leads the seven, both as the metro-   
 polis of the province, and as containing that church, with which the   
 Writer himself was individually connected.   
 8. Smyrna, a famous commercial city of Ionia, at the head of the   
 bay named after it, and at the mouth of the small river Meles: from   
 which Homer, whose birthplace Smyrna, among other cities, claimed to   
 be, is sometimes called Melesigenes. It is 320 stadia (40 miles) north   
 of Ephesus. It was a very ancient eity: but lay in ruins, after its   
 destruction by the Lydians (B.c. 627), for 400 years (till Alexander the   
 Great, according to Pliny and Pausanias ; till Antigonus, according to   
 Strabo). It was then rebuilt, 20 stadia from old Smyrna, and rose to   
 be, in the time of the first Casars, one of the fairest and most populous   
 cities in Asia. Modern Smyrna is a large city of more than 120,000   
 inhabitants, the centre of the trade of the Levant. The church in   
 Smyrna was distinguished for its illustrious first bishop the martyr   
 Polyearp, who is said by Treneus to have been put to death in the   
 stadium there in a.p. 166.   
 9. Percamum (sometimes Pergamus), an ancient city of Mysia, on   
 the river Cnieus, an “illustrious city” (Strabo). At first it appears to   
 have been a mere hill-fortress of great natural strength; but it beeame   
 an important city owing to the circumstance of Lysimachus, one of   
 Alexander’s generals, having chosen it for the reception of his treasures,   
 and entrusted them to his eunuch Philaterus, who rebelled against him   
 (n.c, 283), and founded a kingdom, which lasted 150 years, when it was   
 bequeathed by its last sovereign Attalns II. (p.c. 133) to the Roman   
 people. Pergamum possessed a magnificent library, founded by its   
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