REVELATION. Il.   
 952   
   
 AUTHORIZED VERSION REVISED. AUTHORIZED VERSION.   
 IL. 1 Unto the angel of the church II.» Unto the angel of   
 int Ephesus write; These things the church of Ephesus   
 + Saal our saith \*he that holdeth the seven writes These things saith   
 MSS. of stars in his right hand, he that he that holdeth the seven   
 deb. 1.13. walketh in the midst of the seven stars in his right hand,   
 golden candlesticks; 2° know thy who walketh in the midst   
 it works, and thy labour, and thy of the seven golden candle-   
 patience, and that thou canst not sticks ; ? I thy works,   
 and thy labour, and thy   
 patience, and how thow   
   
   
 view as far the more likely one. It has Commentary, pp.27—58: and (but scantily,   
 been taken by Origen, Jerome, and several as most interpreters pass over this portion   
 more of the ancients, and by many among of the book slightly) in the introductions   
 the moderns. The attempt to defend to the principal commentaries. See also   
 the interpretation of angels as bishops by Abp, Trench’s Appendix to his Commentary   
 the analogy of the legate of the congrega- ‘on the Seven Epistles, pp. 209—225.   
 tion, in the synagogue, appears to be futile, Before commenting on each individual   
 jnasmuch as that officer held quite an in- Epistle, I would notice the similar con-   
 ferior place, in no way corresponding to a struction of all. This may be thns de-   
 bishop, or any kind of president of the scribed. Lach Epistle contdins, 1. A com-   
 church. ‘As regards the symbolism, mand, to write to the angel of the   
 stars are the symbols of the angels of the church. 2. A sublime title of onr Lord,   
 churches, inasmuch as angels are beings of taken for the most part from the imagery   
 light, Heb. i. 7 [from Ps. civ. 4], where see of the preceding vision. 3. An address to   
 note; Job xxxviii, 4, where they are called the angel of the church, always commenc-   
 the morning stars, ‘The same symbolism ing with I know, introducing a statement   
 js used in the prophets of Lucifer, the day- of its present circumstances: continuing   
 star, the son of the morning, Isa. xiv. 12 ff, with an exhortation either to repentance   
 who would exalt his throne above the stars or to constancy : and ending with a pro-   
 of God, ib. ver. 13; Rev. xii.4,9. See also phetie announcement, mostly respecting   
 Inke x. 18. That stars are also used to what shall be at the Lord’s coming. 4, A   
 symbolize earthly authorities, is what promise made to “him that overcometh,”   
 might be expected from the very nature of generally accompanied with a solemn call   
 the symbol, and should never have been to earnest attention, “Ze that hath an   
 alleged here as a reason against the literal ear, 5c”   
 interpretation of angels. The churches 1—7.]—Tux Eristie ro tHe cuuRcr   
 themselves are represented by candlesticl ar Evuesus, To the angel of the   
 agreeably IIT. the universal symbol 70 church in Ephesus write; These things   
 hoth of the prophetic and evangelic Se con- saith he that holdeth fast (compare ch. ii.   
 tures, Compare respecting 18; character 26, iti.11) seven stars in his right hand,   
 3; these Epistles, whether xii. 35; Phil. be He that walketh in the midst of the   
 regarded as simply historical, or historico- seven candlesticks of gold (asscrtions of   
 prophetical, or simply prophetical. The Christ’s being the Lord, tie Governor   
 point on which all, I presume, will be and the Upholder of His Church, agree-   
 agreed is, that the words contained in these ably to the vision of ch. i,: coming in   
 Epistles are applicable to and intended for suitably in this first Epistle, as beginning   
 the guidance, warning, and encourage- the complete number): I know (am aware   
 ment of the whole Church Catholic, and of: not as some explain it, approve.   
 its several parts, throughout all time. ‘The context determines this to be the fact   
 ‘The differing interpretations will here be here, but not this word. ‘The works might   
 only briefly alluded to. One account of be bad ones, see John iii. 19) thy works   
 them will be found in Vitringa’s (Latin) (so in ‘all the Epistles, except those to   
 Smyrna and Pergamns), and thy labour   
 (1 Cor. iii, 8, 58, the same word), and   
 endurance (labour and endurance for,   
 patience] form the active and the passive   
 sides of the energizing Christian life.