CHAPTER II

I  
  
EPHESUS

1. “Unto the angel of the church in Ephesus 1 write ; These  
things saith he that holdeth fast the seven stars in his right hand,  
who walketh in the midst of the seven golden lamp-stands.”  
  
“WRITE.” John was the secretary of our Lord. He  
penned these epistles, at the dictation of the great Lord  
to whom the churches belong.  
 The description of Jesus in the front of each epistle  
has a reference to the peculiar state of each Church.  
Jesus then informs us of his relations, both to the  
star, and to the lamp. For He addresses the angel  
directly; but not the angel alone. His words are  
designed to affect the Church also, and each member  
of it.  
 The name of the angel is not given in any case: and  
vainly should we inquire for it. It is the office that is  
addressed; and the lessons *belong to the dispensation,  
through its whole course*. Hearken, oh star! *He* addresses you, from whom you derive all your brightness,  
all that prevents your fall. He speaks, to whom you  
will give account.  
 The danger to the golden vessels of the sanctuary  
no longer arises from the might of a Babylonian army  
  
1 It has been supposed that the names of the churches carry a  
secret meaning. In regard to some of these it is, I think, plain.  
But it is not clear in all. If it be true throughout, then Ephesus  
signifies “desire” (έφεσις), i.e. Love to Christ.