

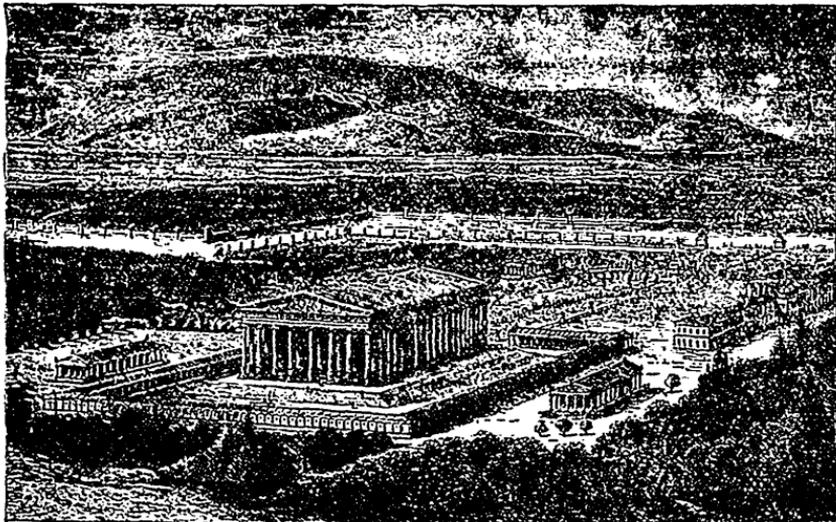
ed from the fable that on this spot the god Mars, or Ares, was tried for the murder of a son of Neptune. Paul compliments them on being very religious after their own manner, they were "pre-eminently a divinity-fearing people."

23. For as I passed by and beheld your devotions (R. V. observed the objects of your worship), I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD (R. V. an unknown god). Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you (R. V. what therefore ye worship in ignorance, this set I forth unto you). There was more than one altar of this kind in Athens. They were erected in order that no deity might punish them for not worshipping him, even although they did not know his name. They

had accused Paul of being a "setter forth of strange gods." This was a very serious offence, indeed the very one for which Sociates was made to drink the hemlock. Paul takes up this word and declares that he "sets forth" no new god, but one they already blindly acknowledge.

24. God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands—These were brave words. There were countless temples all around, and right over against Mars' hill stood the Acropolis with its Parthenon, or temple of Minerva, the "Champion," or guardian deity of the city (ch. 7: 48; Isa. 66: 1-2).

25. Neither is worshipped with (R.



THE TEMPLE OF DIANA AT EPHESUS RESTORED.

V. is h- served by) men's hands as though he needed anything, seeing he (R. V. he himself) giveth to all life, and breath, and all things. —(Ps. 50: 8-13). He needs nothing that we can give him, seeing he is himself the source of everything (Job 35: 6-8; Ps. 16: 2; Isa. 40: 14-18).

26. And hath made of one blood (R. V. omits blood) all nations of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed (R. V. their appointed seasons), and the bounds of their habitations—The unity of the human race is here asserted. God has over-

ruled the migrations of the nations determining where each should settle, fixing its bounds and determining the periods of its glory and decline. He is the Governor among the nations (Ps. 22: 28).

27. That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him and find him, though he be not far from every one of us—Even though our seeking be like the groping of a blind man in the dark, he will be found of those who search for him with all their heart (Isa. 59: 2).

28. For in him we live and move and have our being; as certain also of our