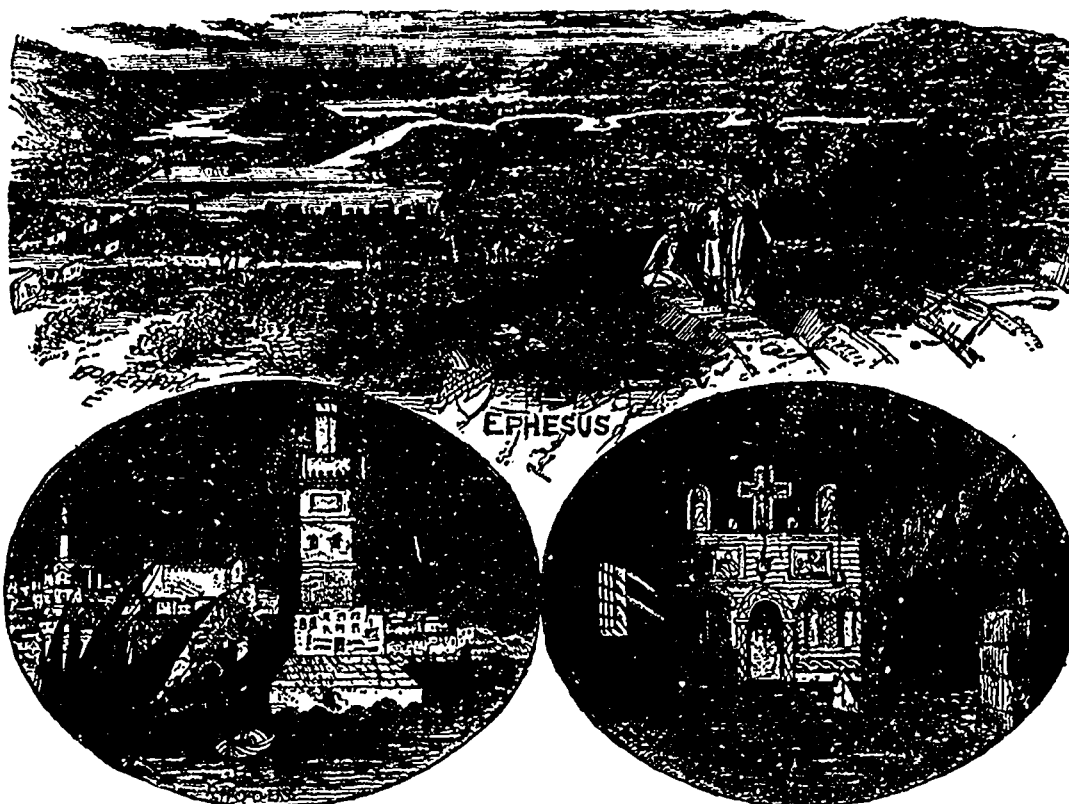




EPHESUS.

repairs to the *Torii* of the Shokon monument which stands within the precincts of the temple. The weather was all that could be desired, the sun shining out right gloriously upon the gaily decorated processional cars as they wound their way, with their straggling hosts of attendants, through the adjacent streets. At two o'clock a memorial service for all foreigners who have died in Japan—'whether they came here for their own interests, or to introduce Western civilization into the country, or have received their death from cruel Japanese swords, or have been drowned in Japanese waters,' so ran the announcement—was quietly celebrated. Long ere it finished, the happy throngs had left the priests to themselves and adjourned to the fencing and wrestling ring. There were many foreigners among the assembly, and they appeared to derive much satisfaction and fun from the spirited displays.

An effort is under way in England to have a translation of the Bible made in the Jewish dialect now spoken by the majority of the Jews all over the world. As very few Jews understand Hebrew, the Bible has long been to them a sealed book. A strong, influential committee, has been formed for the purpose of bringing out a translation of God's Word.

THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF ASIA.

II.—THE FIRST MESSAGE.

Unto the angel of the Church of Ephesus write.—Rev. ii. 1.

WHEN our Lord's message was sent to Ephesus it was a great and wealthy city. For the first time in its history it was beginning to realize as a city somewhat of the power of Christianity. In its old form of heathenism it was what might be called a religious city, *i. e.*, it was devoted to the cause of heathen deities. It had a temple dedicated to Diana, which was considered one of the seven wonders of the world. Making shrines for the temple of Diana, working in the silver and copper trade, was the lucrative business of many of her citizens. Nothing now remains of the once magnificent city but a few ruins. The place where it stood is marshy and desolate, a deserted, abandoned region, but the ruins shew how massive and grand the city must once have been.

At the beginning of the Christian era she was in the height of her wealth and power. An early effort was made upon the city to bring her to know the ways of Christ, and the attempt was continued from time to time till a large and important band of Christians was formed. The