

In a letter addressed to us by the Right Rev. the Bishop of Liverpool, His Lordship writes as follows :—" I do not hesitate to say that scores of young clergymen ruin their prospects in life, and destroy their own usefulness by being yoked to some woman who is perfectly unable to help them. They find it out too late, and the result is, unhappiness at home, and the unwillingness of Patrons and Trustees to appoint them to any positions of importance. The first thing that Trustees of good sense, in this country always look at, is the character of a clergyman's wife."



THE EPISTLE TO THE CHURCH OF THE LAODICEANS.

BY THE REV. M. O. SMITH, B. D.

At the close of the first century of the Christian era there were clustered together near the southern boundary of proconsular Asia three cities, Hierapolis, Colossae and Laodicea. Each of these three cities has some connection with the early history of the Church. The first of them, namely, Hierapolis, is known to us through its bishop, Papias, some few fragments of whose writings have been preserved in Eusebius. Papias is supposed by Bp. Lightfoot to have been born between the years 60 and 70 A. D. and to have written his work concerning the "Oracles of Our Lord" between the years 130 and 140 A. D. He is said by S. Irenaeus to have been a hearer of the Apostle S. John, and a companion of S. Polycarp the bishop of Smyrna. Inasmuch as Hierapolis was only six miles from Laodicea, and as Papias was in all likelihood, a man about 30 years old, at the time that the Apocalypse was written, it is certainly possible, and on the whole not improbable, that he was personally acquainted with the "angel of the church of the Laodiceans."

The city of Colossae, however, has a more immediate interest for us than the neighbouring town of Hierapolis. Colossae is known to us as the home of Philemon, and of his slave Onesimus. Onesimus had escaped from slavery and taken refuge in the city of Rome. There in some way or other he had been brought in contact with the Apostle S. Paul by whom he was advised to return to his master

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