

destruction, Lord Chesterfield actually made a rush forward to save him, exclaiming aloud, "He is gone! he is gone!" The noble Lord had been so entirely carried away by the preacher that he forgot the whole was a picture.

THE CHURCH AT EPHESUS.

THE ancient city of Ephesus was built on a hill rising from a marshy plain, and once contained a Christian church; one of the seven of the Apocalypse. It was founded by the Apostle Paul, and was one of the earliest scenes of his ministry in Asia Minor. At the time St. John wrote his epistle to the church there, false doctrines had already made their appearance, causing of necessity much disunion. The church also was inclined to be indolent, and hence the necessity for reproof. The angel or bishop of the Ephesian church at that time was Paul's own son, Timothy, who was supposed to have been succeeded by St. John himself. The sins reproofed, however, are not to be looked on as Timothy's, but those of certain members of his congregation whom he may have neglected to censure. Nor is the present desolate aspect of Ephesus to be regarded as a divine judgment, which might reasonably be inferred with regard to all the other cities of Asia Minor, as it is the church that is reproofed and not the city; though the present aspect is very significant, and the city may have suffered for the sins of the church. St. Paul laboured in Ephesus for three years, carrying on his trade as tent maker, and preaching on the Sabbath, till the riot raised by Demetrius hastened his departure from that city (which he had contemplated some little time before) to Macedonia. The sin of the Ephesian church, when John wrote his epistle, was, that it had left its first love, and was exhorted to return to it.

Ephesus to all appearance had a bright future before