

things
h unto

DISCOURSES ON THE APOCALYPTIC EPISTLES.

DISCOURSE I.—PRELIMINARY.

REVELATION i. 11. —“ *What thou seest write in a book, and send it unto the Seven Churches which are in Asia ; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna ; and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.*”

THE present discourse is intended to be preliminary, and will contain some remarks on scenes and characters, unfolded in the previous vision related in this chapter, necessary to be understood and remembered throughout the series.

The transactions of the Church of God often come before us in history ; and every lover of Zion is interested in their perusal. There have been many movements and occurrences which, as it respects some of them, have been astounding ; and, as it respects others, have afforded motives for gratitude and thanksgiving. Here we are admitted, as it were, behind the scenes ; and are allowed to see the secret machinery in operation, and the Divine hand directing this machinery.

There were many other churches, which, at that time, had been founded ; but only the *seven* here enumerated were addressed : perhaps, because they were a fair specimen of all others.

These churches were introduced by name. They