

THE ARGUMENT OF THE EPISTLE OF S. PAUL TO THE EPHESIANS.

Of S. Paul's first coming to Ephesus, and short abode there, we read *Act. 18.* And immediately *Act. 19.* of his returning thither according to his promise, what time he abode there *three moneths, speaking to the Iewes in the Synagogue. Act. 19. v. 8.* and afterward apart from them (because they were obstinate) *two yeares* in a certaine schoole, *so that all that dwelt in Asia, heard the word of our Lord, Iewes and Gentils. Act. 19. v. 10.* The whole time himself calleth *three yeares*, in his exhortation at Miletum to the Clergie of Ephesus. *Act. 20. v. 31.*

After all this he writeth this Epistle vnto them from Rome (as it is said) being then *prisoner* and *in chaines*: and that as it seemeth, not the first time of his being in bonds there, wherof we read *Act. 28.* but the second time, wherof we read in the Ecclesiastical Stories afterward: because he saith in *this Epistle c. 6. v. 21.* *Tychicus wil certifie you of all things, whom I haue sent to you.* Of whom againe in the *2. to Tim. c. 4. v. 12.* he saith: *Tychicus I haue sent to Ephesus.* And the said *2. Epistle to Timothee* (no doubt) was written very litle before his death; for in it thus he saith: *I am euen now to be sacrificed, & the time of my resolution is at hand. 2. Tim. 4, 6.*

In the three first chapters, he commendeth vnto them the grace of God, in calling of the Gentils no lesse then the Iewes, and making one blessed Church of both. Wherin his intention is to moue them to perseuer (for otherwise they should be passing vngrateful) and specially not to be moued with his trouble, who was their Apottle knowing (belike) that it would be a great temptation vnto them, if they should heare soone after, that he were executed: therefore also arming them in the end of the Epistle, as it were in complete harnesse.

In the other three chapters he exhorteth them to good life, in all points, and all states, as it becommeth Christians: and afore all other things that they be most

ftudious to continue in the vnitie of the Church, and obedience of the Paftours therof, whom Chrifft hath giuen to continue and to be our ftay againft al Heretikes, from his Afcenfion, euen to the ful building vp of his Church in the end of the world.