

THE ARGUMENT OF THE FIRST EPISTLE OF S. PAUL TO TIM- OTHEE.

After the Epistles to the Churches, now follow his Epistles to particular persons, as to Timothee, to Titus, who were Bishops; and to Philemon.

Of Timothee we read *Act. 16.* how S. Paul in his visitation took him in his traine at Lyftra, circumciding him before, because of the Iewes. He was then a Disciple, that is to say, a Christian man. Afterward the Apostle gaue him holy Orders, and consecrated him Bishop, as he testifieth in both these Epistles vnto him. *1. Tim. 4. v. 14.* and *2. Tim. 1. v. 6.*

He writeth therefore vnto him as to a Bishop, and
1. Timoth. 3. himself expreffeth the scope of his first Epistle, saying:
These things I write to thee, that thou maiest know how thou oughtest to conuerse in the House of God, which is the Church. And so he instructeth him, (and in him, al Bishops) how to gouerne both himself, and others. And touching himself, to be an example and a spectacle to al forts, in al vertue. As touching others, to prohibit al such as goe about to preach otherwise then the Catholike Church hath receiued, and to inculcate to the people the Catholike faith: to preach vnto yong and old, men and women: to seruants, to the rich, to euery fort conueniently. With what circumspection to giue orders, and to what persons: for whom to pray: whom to admit to the vow of widowhood, &c.

This Epistle was written, as it seemeth, after his first imprifonment in Rome, when he was dismissed and set at libertie. And therupon it is, that he might say here: *I hope to come to thee quickly,* to wit vnto
1. Timoth. 3. Ephesus, where he had desired him to remaine. Al-
1. Tim. 1. though in his voiage to Hierusalem, before his being at Rome, he said at Miletum to the Clergie of Ephesus,

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Act. 20. vpon probable feare: *And now behold I know, that you*
v. 25. 38. *shal no more see my face.*

Where it was written, it is vncertaine: though it
be commonly said, at Laodicia. Which seemeth not,
because it is like he was neuer there, as may be gathered
Col. 2, 1. by the Epistle to the Colossians, written at Rome in his
last trouble, when he was put to death.