

THE ARGVMENT OF THE FIRST EPISTLE OF S. PAVL TO TIMOTHEE.

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

Of Timothee we read *Act. 16.* how S. Paul in his vifitation took him in his traine at Lyftra, circumciding him before, becaufe of the Iewes. He was then a Difciple, that is to fay, a Chriftian man. Afterward the Apoftle gaue him holy Orders, and confecrated him Bishop, as he teftifieth in both thefe Epiftles vnto him. *1. Tim. 4. v. 14.* and *2. Tim. 1. v. 6.*

He writeth therfore vnto him as to a Bishop, and
1. Timoth. 3. himfelf expreffeth the fcope of his firft Epiftle, faying:
Thefe things I write to thee, that thou maieft know how thou oughteft to conuerfe in the Houfe of God, which is the Church. And fo he instructeth him, (and in him, al Bishops) how to gouerne both himfelf, and others. And touching himfelf, to be an example and a fpectacle to al forts, in al vertue. As touching others, to prohibit al fuch as goe about to preach otherwife 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 feruants, to the rich, to euery fort conueniently. With what circumfpection to giue orders, and to what perfons: for whom to pray: whom to admit to the vow of widowhood, &c.

This Epiftle was written, as it feemeth, after his firft imprifonment in Rome, when he was difmiffed and fet at libertie. And therupon it is, that he might fay
1. Timoth. 3. here: *I hope to come to thee quickly,* to wit vnto
1. Tim. 1. Ephesus, where he had defired him to remaine. Although in his voiage to Hierufalem, before his being at Rome, he faid at Miletum to the Clergie of Ephesus, vpon probable feare: *And now behold I know, that you fhall no more fee my face.*
Act. 20.
v. 25. 38.

Where it was written, it is vncertaine: though it be commonly faid, at Laodicia. Which feemeth not, becaufe 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.