

began his search. After much hunting he came upon an inscription which gave a clue to the fact that it was more than a mile northeast of the city. Subsequent excavations were carried on for many years by the Austrian Archeological Institute. The temple was found to have been very large and splendidly decorated, so that it is easy to understand the references in Acts to the worship of Diana at Ephesus.

These are a few examples of the type of special corroboration that is apt to emerge from the discovery of inscriptions and the examination of buildings in the cities visited by Paul. Much more material of the same sort has come to light from the study of the writings that have been handed down by copying and recopying, as shown in the articles on the various cities.

#### D. Interpretation.

The more we know about the life, customs, and geographical situation of the various cities in which events in the book of Acts occur, or to which New Testament epistles were written, the easier it is to understand the precise meaning of some of the statements made, and the more vividly the situation can be established in our minds. A great deal of material of importance for this purpose is contained in the writings of the geographers Strabo, and Pausanias, and a certain amount in the works of Tacitus, Suetonius, and Dio Cassius, although these historians are most interested in the actions of the great emperors, comparatively few of which have any connection with the Bible. A century later, when Christianity had become a greater factor works of general history pay more attention to it.

Archeological material sometimes contributes to interpretation, as in some of the instances discussed above under Special Corroboration.

#### E. Derivation.

~~Many books were written during the last century to show that the ideas of Christianity were developed from among various mystery cults and religious groups which were said to have struggled~~