

receives not with them the inestimable pearl above all price, the gift of the Holy Spirit of God; the hearer of the Word preached by commissioned Ministers will not be profited, if that Word be not "mixed with faith in them that hear it;" the very purity of the reformed doctrines will be only a reproach to the professors of them, if their lives are not answerable to their professions; if they do not put away their moral as well as their doctrinal corruptions.

We must no longer endure lukewarmness in principles, nor laxity in conduct; we are assailed on every side by numberless and unrelenting enemies, from whose incessant attacks our only hope of safety is in the protection of our Almighty Head, the Lord Jesus Christ;—and that protection will only be afforded us, if we study, and labour to deserve it. Look at his declarations to the seven Churches of Asia, and behold how He has fulfilled* them all!—Those among them which He

* 1.—"A few heaps of stones, and some miserable mud cottages, occasionally tenanted by Turks, without one Christian residing there, are all the remains of ancient Ephesus."

2.—Smyrna is still a large city, containing nearly 100,000 inhabitants, with several Greek Churches.

3.—Pirgamos still contains at least 15,000 inhabitants; of whom 1,500 are Greeks, and 200 Armenians, each of whom have a Church.

4.—Thyatira still exists embosomed in cypresses and poplars. The Greeks occupy 300 houses and the Armenians 30. Each of them have a Church.

5.—A few wretched mud huts scattered among the ruins are the only dwellings in Sardis, and form the lowly home of Turkish herdsmen who are its only inhabitants. No Christians reside on the spot.

6.—Philadelphia alone long withstood the power of the Turks and at length capitulated with the proudest of the Ottomans. Among the Greek Colonies of Asia, Philadelphia is still erect, a column in a scene of ruins. The Christians occupy 300 houses. Divine Service is performed every Sunday in five Churches. The present Bishop is a zealous Bible Christian anxious to reform the abuses of the Greek Church.

7.—Laodicea is utterly desolated, and without any inhabitant, except wolves, jackals, and foxes.—See *Keith's Evidence and Arundell's Visit*.