



THYATIRA.

direction they were doing well, in another they were yielding to a deadly poison which in the end would prove their ruin. That poison was the seductive pleasures of the world, and chiefly through the agency of women. Christianity has ever been the defender and helper of woman. It is one of the features of the religion to produce rigid purity there, and in return woman has ever been a great helper to Christianity. In deeds of charity and love woman stands pre-eminent. The principles of Jesus appeal naturally to the tenderness of her heart, and woman to-day, in the interest taken in the services and Missions, and charities of the Church, and in the continued influence for good on father, husband, son and brother, is a tower of strength to Christianity.

Any woman, especially if in a high position, can do much to make her sister women honourable and pure. No one can tell, for instance, how much our own good Queen Victoria has done in this way for the women of England, aye, and of the world. There has never been a place in her Court for any but the purest and the best. Those who know from history what

the Court of England was in the days of Edward IV., or Charles II., can easily imagine what it might be even now. Sin of all kinds needs but little encouragement to flourish and to grow. It would seem then that in Thyatira some woman of high station was leading others astray. She is called Jezebel because that word spoke volumes. It brought up to the minds of those familiar with history a sad picture of grievous wrongs, unbridled passions, and the worst kinds of sin.

Now bring this down to the individual Christian of any age. How many are good and charitable in one direction—fond, it may be, of church services, sacred music, and devotions, and yet have some seductive sin that they will not conquer?

This is the message which Thyatira reads to us. We need not speak much of the retribution which is sure to follow upon this. It must come some day, for we cannot expect a God of goodness and purity to smooth over what our own conscience tells us is wrong. One wicked person might corrupt a whole community. So thought Jesus

of the Church of Thyatira, and "that woman Jezebel," who was seeking to corrupt it. "I gave her space to repent," says the Lord, "and she repented not." Then the result must come, sickness, tribulation, death, "that the Churches may know that God will give to everyone according to his works."

But let this be sufficient as to the warning. There were many in Thyatira who had not yielded to the seductive teaching that had ruined others, and for them there was a promise, and there was encouragement:

"He that overcometh and keepeth My works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations; and he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessel of a potter shall they be broken to shivers even as I received of My Father."

There is power promised here to those who overcome the evil that is in them. It is the power of example. We must overcome the evil that is in us. There is a feeling about conquering a thing which every man delights in. Man does not like to be beaten—he does not like to be outdone, and yet there are many men