

## THE WOMAN WHICH WAS A SINNER.

(LUKE VII, 36 TO THE END)

READER did you ever read the story of this woman carefully? If not it might be well to do it now, for it is fitted to benefit your soul. Jesus is invited by a Pharisee to come and eat with Him. He did not think well of the Pharisees yet went in hopes, no doubt, that He might have an opportunity of doing good, which accordingly came to pass. When they were sitting, or rather reclining in Oriental fashion, at table, the door opened and another person made her appearance uninvited by the host. Her name is not given, but we have a description of her character in these words, "a woman in the city which was a sinner," and to such a one the language of the Pharisee, whether of the ancient or of the modern type, ever has been: Stand by thyself, I am holier than thou. Yet, nevertheless, she had been invited by another one in some such terms as these, "Come unto *Me* all ye that labor and are heavy laden and *I* will give you rest," and so knowing that He was in the house and feeling as she did, weary of the wretched life she was living, and bowed down under the weight of her sins, she came to Him.

It is interesting to observe her demeanour. Women of her class are as a rule characterised by bold, unblushing effrontery, seared consciences and hardened hearts. But such was not the case with her. She advanced to the place where the blessed Lord was