

heart the mouth" unconsciously "speaketh." "Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter?" "If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." "Purify your hearts, ye double-minded."—*Fam. Treas.*

A VISIT TO LAODICEA.

Our last visit was to the church at Philadelphia, which we found one of the best two of all the seven. We have now to visit the worst of the whole—Laodicea—at a distance of about thirty miles from the former, in a south-easterly direction. Let our supposed visit be made, as in the case of the other churches, in the year 96 of the Christian era. The road by which we have to travel from Philadelphia, like all the roads of the Roman Empire, is kept in an admirable condition. When we have advanced a few miles, we find ourselves journeying along the western margin of such a district as we never before beheld. It is called, on account of the volcanic fires it contains, the *Kata-kechaumene*, or underburnt, district. It is about sixty-two miles in length, by about fifty in breadth. The whole is spread over with ashes, and the neighbouring hills are black as from a conflagration. At some distance on your left, and about five miles apart, are three pits or valves, which the natives call the bellows. Around them are rough hills, evidently formed by cinders thrown up as from the mouths of so many craters. It is owing to this awful subterranean furnace, or collection of furnaces, that Philadelphia, Laodicea, and all the other cities of this region, suffer so much from the effects of earthquake. You cannot walk over this district without feeling that you are treading upon a thin crust of earth, spread over a "lake burning with fire and brimstone."

Whilst we pursue our journey, allow your guide to tell you a circumstance which, he thinks, has some reference to this burnt district. About thirty years ago (speaking in the year 96) there came a letter specially addressed to the Christians in these regions, from a very remarkable man, who had travelled a good deal in these parts, and on whose mind these volcanic elements appear to have made a very deep impression. In that letter, he intimates a belief that such pent-up fires would ultimately burst forth and destroy the world. The following are some of his expressions:—Having referred to the destruction of the world by water, he says, "But the atmosphere and the earth that are now, by the same word are treasured up, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men." Again, "The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the surrounding atmosphere shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements burning shall be dissolved; the earth also, and the works that are therein, shall be burnt up. Seeing, then, that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, looking for, and waiting with eager desire, the coming of the day of God, in which the atmosphere, being ignited, shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with intense heat." That man was the Apostle Peter, and the language your guide has just quoted may be found in his 2nd Epistle (iii. 10-12). Who can doubt that some of those expressions were suggested by the history and features of the scene we now witness?

This underburnt district, covered though it be with ashes, does not present such a picture of desolation as might have been expected. There is a plant, whose fruit, though greatly abused by mankind, is most delicious and wholesome, and whose roots are exceedingly fond of ashes. That plant is the vine. This district is, therefore, covered with vines; and the juice of the grapes here produced is celebrated throughout the whole empire of Rome for its excellence.

Our road now leaves the "black country," and climbs to more elevated ground. We are among the spurs of Mount Tmolus and of Mount Mesogis, or the Midland Mountain, where the spurs of each intermingle with each other. The air of this elevated region is cool and bracing. The scenery exceeds in loveliness anything