98 THE APOCALYPSE (OH. iii. 21  
  
lennial reign is necessary to the Church’s right conduct.  
Smyrna, Thyatira, and Laodicea are all three incited to  
holiness, by belief of Jesus’ future personal reign.  
There is matter enough in these epistles for thought ;  
enough to sober and humble the proud and self-con-  
gratulating. Enough, too, to cheer the downcast and  
desponding.  
He needs no books of evidences, who studies the  
Word of God! The infidel cannot say, “It is no  
marvel that the books of Scripture were received by  
those to whom they were addressed ; for they are full  
of honied words, and ring with the great deeds and  
praises of the people that received them!’ The reverse  
is the truth, the glaring reverse. Israel holds fast the  
Old Testament, but it reveals the evil deeds of the  
great founders of the nation. And of the chosen  
people it has scarcely anything to record but unbelief,  
murmurs, rebellions. So also with the New Testament,  
and especially with its closing book. Must it not have  
been strong evidence which compelled Sardis and  
Laodicea to own that such were the words of the Great  
Master and Faithful Witness to them! But they did!  
Jn Asia Minor, the authenticity of the Book was con-  
fessed. Here, then, is the wisdom of God: providing  
proofs of the genuineness of the Apocalypse, level to  
- every capacity.