CH. li. 7] EXPOUNDED 35  
  
is made to turn. The responsibility which the Lord  
lays on each is a partial responsibility. Ephesus is  
responsible for Ephesus alone: the indifference of  
Laodicea is not laid to its charge. The seven churches  
are not regarded as parts of a greater whole, possessed  
of a united responsibility. The prizes held forth to  
view are not to members of each Church, as such, or as  
simple believers ; but to them as overcomers. This is very  
important. Believers themselves are divided into victors  
and vanquished ! How possible it is for believers to sink  
down in worldliness, and lusts of the flesh of various  
kinds, experience will amply show. Life is a warfare  
with Satan, the world, the flesh: and some fall in a  
struggle against the stern necessities of life; some are  
drawn away by the pleasures and lures of the world.  
The victory is not to every warrior that enters the battle,  
nor will the crown be awarded to each.  
The concluding call and promise are expressed in  
such general terms, that I suppose we should extend  
them beyond the members of the Church.  
The rewards of the victors are something distinct  
from a bare salvation: they are a special recompense  
attached to some special excellence of conduct, under  
peculiar kinds of trial. To the detection and resistance  
of the frauds of Satan, a different reward is promised from  
that attached to suffering for Christ unto death. As in  
a variety of ways we may be overcome by our enemies’  
fraud and force, so in a variety of ways may we receive  
corresponding reward.