CIL. tii. 4] EXPOUNDED 69  
  
It is observed that Jesus does not call on the few  
whom He can praise, to withdraw from the angel, or  
from the Church in Sardis. The lesson is important.  
The assembly of saints is not to be left because of  
imperfections. But let us take heed what a Church is.  
No national confederacy of -congregations is a Church,  
in the sense of the New Testament.  
The glory of these few worthy ones is, that they ‘“ had  
not defiled their garments.” Amidst evil examples, a few  
maintained pure religion and undefiled before God and  
the Father, and kept themselves unspotted from the  
world (Jas. i. 27), refusing to have a “‘ garment spotted  
by the flesh’ (Jude 23).  
To these the Saviour gives a promise—‘ They shall  
walk with me in white.”” White is the colour of purity,  
in all nations. A white garment given to any, marks  
his justification by the giver. vi.11. White is the  
colour of the raiment of angels. Matt. xxviii. 3;  
Mark xvi. 5; John xx. 12; Acts i.10. White was  
the colour of our Lord’s apparel, when, on the Mount  
of Transfiguration, He gave aspecimen of His kingdom.  
Mark ix. 3. This was the colour of the robe of the  
Ancient of Days Himself: Dan. vii. 9.  
Nor shall they be thus clothed only : they shall walk  
with Christ, when thus attired. This speaks their glory—  
they shall be priests and kings, companions of the King  
of kings.  
These favoured companions of the Lord stand in blest  
contrast to the unwatchful, who are left naked below,  
exposed to the scornful eyes and words of the wicked.  
“For they are worthy.”  
Remarkable words! from which Christians in general  
seem disposed to shrink. But every word of God is to  
be received. First, then, they are not worthy in the  
Romiszh sense: not worthy of eternal life. That is the  
gift of God: Rom. vi. 238. It is the worthiness of