on. iii. 5] EXPOUNDED 71  
  
may be a temporary blotting out of the name of the  
believer from the book of life, during the period of  
reward enjoyed by the others ; and a restoration of the  
name, ere the final award settles the position of each  
for ever: xx. 15. It seems certain, (1) that the Book  
of Life of the Apocalypse is but one. (2) And, that  
the name be blotted out, must first be enrolled there, is  
also certain. A like difficulty has pressed us in the  
epistle to Smyrna, and a like solution was offered there.  
ii. 11. The insertion of the name there, was of God’s  
sovereignty at the first. But may not the unsaintly  
lives of God’s saints make God appear to act unlike  
Himself ? though at last His gifts and callings be unre-  
pented of.  
“And I will confess his name before my Father  
and His angels.”