74 THE APOCALYPSE (cH. iii. 8  
  
Though many were attempting it, as the next verse  
tells us. After Paul had spoken with joy of the “ great  
door and effectual” which God had opened to him, he  
adds, ‘‘and there are many adversaries.” “And ”—  
we should expect, ‘“ but.’ But the Apostle doubtless  
considered the “ many adversaries ” as almost the neces-  
sary and to be expected consequence of the opened  
door. Where Christ by His Spirit moves mightily,  
Satan as powerfully bestirs himself.  
This is a gracious word, full of encouragement to ser-  
vants of Christ, engaged in labour for Him. (1) It  
seems to say, that opportunities for service are in  
general granted in proportion to diligence. Yor it is  
added “ for thou hast a little strength.” (2) It teaches  
us also, that let men and devils rage as they may,  
Christ will not suffer a door to be shut which He has  
opened to His servant, till his service there is over.  
Christ opens, Christ shuts.  
Remember, believers, that our opened door of present  
privileges is of Christ’s bestowal. He speaks of it as  
a great gift on His part. Let us duly value it, and give  
thanks because of it! There are wicked men, who are  
seeking every opportunity to shut it; and the marvel  
is, that, in a world of foes like this, it still stands open.  
“For thou hast a little strength.”  
The angel and the Church under his care were  
possessed of some power, both of fortitude in bearing  
for Christ, and of activity in service, toward the Church  
and the world.  
This is the blessed superiority which they possessed  
above Sardis. There, there was total inactivity : here  
both life and some degree of spiritual power. It was,  
however, a little measure only : and thus a gentle, tacit  
reproof is conveyed. We should be like Abraham,  
“ strong in faith, giving glory to God.”  
“Thou keptest my word.”