on. iii. 10] EXPOUNDED 79  
  
boast more and more of their goodness and progress.  
The Church itself is become boastful of its deeds.  
These fair appearances then, these high thoughts shall  
be tested. The reality of man’s heart, both in relation  
to God and his fellows, shall beshown. Its rottenness,  
its poison shall be broadly displayed. The world was  
once tested by the appearance of Jesus, and His mani-  
festation of the truth. And then the fair show of the  
Jewish religiousness was discovered to be but dust and  
ashes. And the injustice of the Gentile rulers of the  
world was fully laid open, by Pilate’s condemnation and  
crucifixion of Christ Jesus. But there is yet to be a  
testing, both of the Gentile and the Jew, by the ap-  
pearing of the false Christ, and his deceits.  
God means to put all men to the test. Are they  
such as He represents them, blind, at enmity with  
Himself, loving darkness rather than light ? He will  
prove His words by a solemn experiment. With His  
truth and Satan’s lie both before them, men will prefer  
the devil’s deceit, and blaspheme God and His Christ :  
Luke ii. 34, 35.  
The parties tried are “the dwellers upon earth.”  
They are men whose hearts are where their bodies are.  
Their home is here, here their treasures, their honour,  
their pleasures.  
“ But if the trial be coming upon the whole world,  
how would Philadelphia, situated in so well known a  
part of the world, escape it ?’  
It is not promised that Philadelphia should escape it.  
Jt is not said that the city should be delivered, but  
the Angel only, and those who occupied the same moral  
position with him.  
Jesus would remove from the earth these watchful  
saints, either by death, or by rapture without tasting  
death. As the whole habitable earth shall be caught  
in the snare, so the deliverance would be effected by