§8 THE APOCALYPSE [ou. iii. 15, 16  
  
capable of continuing the warmth of love to the end.  
Are we not, very frequently, deficient in warmth,  
because our religion is rather a bundle of orthodox  
doctrines, than attachment to a@ person ?  
‘““T would thou wert cold or hot.”  
If they were fervent of spirit, the Lord would gladly  
own them as His friends; if cold, He should know  
them as the worldly. But now they occupied an  
intermediate position. What was to be done with  
them ? How were they to be classified ? Their cold-  
ness prevented their being regarded as true friends ;  
their warmth forbade their being treated as enemies.  
“Thus because thou art lukewarm.”  
Any trifle will keep away such a one from prayer,  
the Lord’s Supper, the preaching of the Word of God ;  
there is no zeal for the truth, or for the glory of God ;  
Christian holiness is too ‘“ strait-laced,”’ and self-denial  
impossible. Such a one is satisfied easily. “Iil can ~  
but get to heaven, that is enough for me!” He will,  
in the meanwhile, grasp as much of the world as he can,  
without wholly losing caste among his fellow-believers.  
This bears a sad testimony to the world ; it tells a  
tale, which the world understands at once, of the little  
delight that is found in Christ; it teaches them to  
believe that the religion whose claims are so easily set  
aside cannot be of any great authority or value.  
“Tam about to vomit thee out of my mouth.”  
Lukewarm water acts as an emetic. Jesus was  
disgusted at their state, as a man loathes the taste of  
water neither hot nor cold. The consequence would be  
their rejection by Him. This does not suppose that  
they would be finally lost. It teaches us how displeased  
was Jesus at the witness they gave of Him since they  
believed; and that He would in consequence cast  
them down from that place of testimony. Here is  
brought before our eyes, as near to be accomplished,