REVELATION. XIV.   
   
 AUTHORIZED VERSION REVISED. | AUTHORIZED VERSION.   
 These are they ‘ which follow the which follow the Lamb   
 Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These whithersoever he goeth.   
 Kwere purchased from among men These were redeemed from   
 Koh.v. las a firstfruit unto God and to the among men, being the first-   
 1 Jamesi.18. 5 And ™ in their mouth was fruits unto God and to the   
 Lamb. mb. © And in their   
 m Ps. 2.   
 of understanding these words. Either they intended us to be: but they are more like   
 may be figurative, merely implying that the Lord Himself. And if He is to have   
 these pure ones lived in all chastity, whe- round Him a peculiar and closer band,   
 ther in single or in married life, in- standing with Him on Mount Sion, none   
 curred no pollution [2 Cor. xi 2]: or they will surely grudge this place to those who   
 may be meant literally, that these purest were not defiled with women. Among   
 ones had lived in that state of which St. these will be not only those who have lived   
 Paul says, 1 Cor. vii. 1, i is good for a and served Him in holy virginity, but also   
 man. And as between these two mean- the dear children whom He has claimed   
 ings I conceive that the emphatic posi- from us for Himself, the youths and   
 tion of the words with women in the maidens who were gathered to His side   
 original goes some way to decide. It is before the strife began: before their   
 not the fact of impurity in allowed in- tongues had learned the language of social   
 tercourse, but the fact of commerce with falsehood, or their good names been tar-   
 women that is put forward. Iwould there- nished with the breath of inevitable   
 fore believe that in the description of these calumny. There is one meaning which   
 who are the first-fruits the earth, the these words will not bear, and which it is   
 feature of virginity is to be taken in its surprising that any Commentator should   
 literal Nor need any difficulty be ever have attached to them: viz. that with   
 found in this. It is on all hands granted women refers to the woman mentioned   
 that he who is married in the Lord enters below, ch. xvii. So Dr. Wordsworth,   
 into holy relations of which the single have p. 284: “They have not been defiled with   
 no experience, and goes throngh blessed and women, What women ? It may be asked.   
 clevating degrees of and loving If we proceed, we read of the woman seated   
 allowance, and preferring others before him- on the Beast, and of the harlotry of the   
 self, And as every step of grace assured woman, with whom the Kings of the earth   
 is a step of glory secured, there is donbt commit fornication. And soon we see her   
 that the holy married servants of God sball displayed in all her meretricious splendour.   
 have a peculiar entrance into the fulness There then is the reply.” But the whole   
 of that future Kingdom’s employ, which will context here, as well as the language used,   
 not be the lot of the single: seeing that in is against it: the following words, for they   
 this matter also, the childhood of this state are virgins, carrying its decisive condemna-   
 will be the father of the manhood of that tion). These [are] they that follow the   
 one. But neither on the other hand can Lamb wheresoever he goeth (the de-   
 it be denied that the state of holy virginity scription has very commonly been taken   
 has also its peculiar blessings and exemp- as applying to the entire obedience of the   
 tions. Of these, the Apostle himself speaks elect, following their Lord to prison and   
 absence of distraction from the to death, and wherever He may call   
 's work, which is apt to beset the them: but this exposition is surely out   
 married, busy as they are with the cares of of place here, where not their life of   
 a houschold and with pleasing one another. conflict, Int their state of glory is de-   
 And another and primary blessing is, that scribed, The words are used of special   
 in them that fountain of carnal desire has privilege of nearness to the Person of   
 never been opened, which is so apt to be a the Lamb in glory). ‘These were pur-   
 channel for unholy thoughts and an access chased from men as a first-fruit to God   
 for the tempter. ‘The virgins may thus and to the Lamb (all have been thus   
 have missed the victory over the lusts of purchased: but these specially, as and   
 the flesh : but they have also in great part for the purpose of being a first-fruit.   
 escaped the conflict. Theirs is not the James i. 18 treats of a different matter,   
 triumph of the toil-worn and stained soldier, the purchased of all the redeemed as the   
 but the calm and the unspottedness of first-fruits of creation. But these are   
 those who have kept from the strife. We a first-fruit among the purchased them-   
 are perhaps more like that which the Lord selves). And in their mouth wa. not