they were rich, as men count riches. But there are  
riches before God, and here they were poor. Luke  
xii. 21.  
 2. “And blind.” This must, of course, be understood of spiritual blindness. Natural blindness is no  
just subject of rebuke. If suffering under this affliction,  
a heart full of earth would not have said, “I have need  
of nothing.” The wealth of this world dims the  
spiritual eye.  
 Therefore, Jesus, after warning disciples against laying up treasure here below, proceeds to tell us that if  
our eye be single, our whole body shall be full of light.  
 3. They were “naked.”  
 Pride of dress is a frequent symptom of purse-pride.  
The wool of Laodicea was in high repute——Wetstein.  
But while their robes were costly in texture and splendid in dye, they were naked before God. They spent  
all upon themselves. They clothed not the poor.  
Their selfish expenditure was a spiritual nakedness. It  
would appear at length to their dismay, when they  
stood before Christ.

18. “I counsel thee to buy of me gold refined out of the fire,  
that thou mayest be rich: and white raiment, that thou mayest  
be clothed and that the shame of thy nakedness be not manifested: and eyesalve, to anoint thine eyes, that thou mayest  
see.”  
  
 Jesus might *command*: He *counsels* in grace. He addresses the angel with a view of his best interests.  
His state was not beyond remedy, if he would but  
listen to his best friend, so much overlooked.  
 His poverty might be displaced by wealth, if he  
would but buy gold of Christ.  
 Buying is the exchange of one commodity for another.  
He might exchange the false mammon for the true.  
He might give up his riches before men, to become rich  
before God. Luke xii. 33.