III

PERGAMOS1

12. “And to the angel of the church in Pergamos, write—  
These things saith he who hath the sharp two-edged sword.”  
  
JESUS would steady the believers of Pergamos against  
the fear of the human sword, by the greater fear  
of the sword proceeding from Himself. If man is  
dreadful, God is tremendous. But the Saviour also  
exhibits this weapon as a warning against the false  
teachers of that place.

13. “I know where thou dwellest, where Satan’s throne is;  
and thou holdest fast my name, and deniedst not my faith, even  
in the days (in which) ANTIPAS was my witness, my faithful one,  
who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.”  
  
 The Saviour makes allowance for circumstances. To  
Him are known the peculiar difficulties of our abode.  
Where wickedness abounds, and the current of example  
is almost universal, where the lures of sin are importunate, and force is employed on its behalf, ’tis an arduous  
task for the Christian to stand his ground.  
 The angel and the Lord’s people at Pergamos were  
in a situation peculiarly trying. They dwelt beside  
“Satan’s throne.”  
 It was situated at Pergamos. How is this explained?  
’Tis not easy to do so. We know but little of the city  
in question: not enough to settle the matter to our  
  
1 I am unable to perceive any profound meaning in the word  
Pergamos: and cannot agree with what has been suggested.