V

SARDIS 1

III. 1. “And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write—  
These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and  
the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name  
that thou livest, and art dead!”  
  
IN the spiritual state of Sardis, as represented by its  
angel, we find not rampant iniquity, but slow and  
steady decline.  
 To the angel of this Church Jesus presents Himself  
as the Possessor of the Spirit without measure. With  
Him is the fountain for the supply of the thirsty: to  
Him should those who are sensible of their drought  
make application.  
 The angel possessed the name of life. The angel had  
probably acquired the fame of zeal and vigour for  
Christ in his early days; his name as an energetic and  
successful servant of the Lord Jesus had widely spread.  
But slow and secret decline had set in. His character  
was still maintained before men; but the reality was  
continually ebbing, till it could scarcely be said to  
exist. Jesus, who is full of the Spirit, and hates  
formalism destitute of spirit, Jesus, who hates hypocrisy  
and loves the full affection of the soul, is disinclined  
to acknowledge in him the possession of life.  
  
1 If there be any mystic meaning in the name Sardis, it is  
derived from שריד—“the remnant,” which occurs so conspicuously in this Epistle.