

Thyati'ra, a city on the Lycus, founded by Seleucus Nicator, lay to the left of the road from Pergamus to Sardis, on the very confines of Mysia and Ionia, so as to be sometimes reckoned within the one, and sometimes within the other. Dyeing apparently formed an important part of the industrial activity of Thyatira, as it did of that of Colossae and Laodicea (Acts xvi. 14). The principal deity of the city was Apollo; but there was another superstition, of an extremely curious nature, which seems to have been brought thither by some of the corrupted Jews of the dispersed tribes. A fane stood outside the walls, dedicated to *Sambatha* — the name of the sibyl who is sometimes called Chaldaean, sometimes Jewish, sometimes Persian — in the midst of an enclosure designated “the Chaldaean’s court.” This seems to lend an illustration to the obscure passage in Rev. ii. 20, 21, which some interpret of the wife of the bishop. Now there is evidence to show that in Thyatira there was a great amalgamation of races. If the sibyl Sambatha was really a Jewess, lending her aid to the amalgamation of different religions, and not discountenanced by the authorities of the Judaeo-Christian Church at Thyatira, both the censure and its qualification become easy of explanation.