120 THE APOCALYPSE [ou. v. 3, 4  
  
his strength by the loudness of his voice. It is to  
reach through heaven, earth, and the under-world. It  
is the glory of a herald to possess the power of making  
his proclamation widely heard. “Then a herald cried  
with might”? (marg., Dan. ii. 4). So Homer’s heralds  
have loud voices.  
His inquiry is, ‘‘ Who is worthy to open the book ?”  
God now asks, who is worthy to stand beside Himself,  
as chief minister and agent of the throne ?  
Who had so glorified God, as to be worthy to be ruier  
ver all things ? Who was so trusty, as to be the fit  
depository of the secrets of God ? Who was possessed  
of original intelligence, sufficient to entitle him to enter  
into the deep designs of God ?  
The principle thus enunciated, as the first act of the  
throne, is carried throughout the book. It is recom-  
pense to each according to desert.  
  
3. ‘And none in the heaven, nor on the earth, nor under the  
earth, was able to open the book, nor even to behold it.”  
  
There was no reply to the herald’s challenge. Angels,  
no less than men, must confess that, in the strictest  
performance of their duty, there is no real ground of  
merit. ‘‘ We are unprofitable servants, we have done  
that (only) which it was our duty to do.”  
John was permitted to see the book to which the  
proclamation related. But they, as set upon their own  
merits, could not even behold the book, amidst the blaze  
of light in which the Godhead dwells. The creatures’  
powerlessness must first be seen, that the glory of the  
Son of God may be the greater. To them first is given  
the opportunity to state their claims, if such they had.  
Angels by nature are no more able to understand God’s  
purposes than we.  
  
4, “‘ And I was weeping much, because none was found worthy  
to open the book, nor even to behold it.”