148 THE APOCALYPSE [cx. vi. 16, 17  
  
Luke xxi. 11 gives us the first occasion.  
Verses 25-27 present the second and last occasion.  
It is from mistaking this point that the men of earth  
are so terrified. The greatest cause of their consternation  
is not that which they see. Awful as is the com-  
motion of the sky and earth, there is something more  
terrible still which they expect. They look for Jzsus  
HIMSELF TO APPEAR IN THE CLOUDS, as He foretold.  
Matt. xxiv. 29, 30.  
This is their greatest terror, which swallows up the  
exterior sights and sounds of dread.  
They do not observe that Jesus is to appear “ imme-  
diately arrrr the tribulation of those days.” But, at  
this point of time, the Great Tribulation of the earth  
has not even begun. Hence their fears subside, and they  
grow hard of heart, when Jesus does not show Himself.  
They laugh at their own apprehensions. “It was a  
chance that happened unto us.”  
As expounders of this book have mistaken the  
description given of that hour, as if it foretold the  
moment of Jesus’ visible revelation ; so will the men of  
earth who behold the actual sign be also misled. “ As a  
snare shall that day come upon all the earth.”  
16. ‘‘ And they are saying unto the mountains and to the rocks,  
Fall on us, and hide us from the face of the Sitter upon the throne,  
  
and from the wrath of the Lamb. 17. For the great day of His  
wrath is come, and who is able to stand?”  
  
Even [in their hiding-places, they do not esteem  
themselves sufficiently hid. Still the earthquake rocks  
them; still the sky lowers with ominous frown.  
Isa. ii. 10,11,19-21. The distinctions of rank and degree  
among men are all over-mastered by irrepressible fear.  
Kings and subjects, slaves and freemen, all hurry to the  
same hiding-places. The bold soldier and the timid  
female are side by side. They all understand it as the  
act of God above; and look on it as due to no subordi-