CH. viii. 7] EXPOUNDED 175  
  
Ixxxiii. 4. How shall the Lord deliver them, save by  
His supernatural power? Be it remembered, too,  
that Satan and his agents will work with miraculous  
might in these times. Rev. xvi. 14. So then must  
the Holy One of Israel.  
8. The latter days are to be like those of Noah and  
Lot. Luke xvii. But in each of those periods miracles  
and angels were abroad. If the wickedness be like  
that day, so will the punishment ; yea, worse; foras-  
much as it is against greater mercies and louder warn-  
ings. The same God that worked in the Old Testament  
on the same material—man—is seen in this book of the  
Apocalypse. The means used of old are as wise in  
the last days as in previous ones.  
  
7. ‘And the first sounded, and there followed hail and fire,  
mingled with blood, and they were cast unto the earth : and tho  
third part of the earth was burned up, and the third of the trees  
was burned up, and all green grass was burned up.”  
  
May we apply the figurative principle of inter-  
pretation to the Old Testament ? Was the Nile turned  
to blood only Moses’ bringing an invading army upon  
Egypt? Were the trees there smitten the great men  
of Egypt, or its ecclesiastical teachers ? Why should  
the one plague be taken literally ? the other figura-  
tively? Answer. “To get rid of the awkwardness of  
MIRACLE being again in operation on our globe: and  
miraculous plagues too!”  
Hire is one of the destructive agents of war: some-  
times employed by the invader ; sometimes a mode of  
defence resorted to in order to check the approach of an  
invading army. It is the Lord smiting man and his  
wealth through the vegetable creation, which is neces-  
sary to his own support and that of his cattle. He  
deals Hig blows from a distance first ; afterwards He  
advances to man’s own person, and there strikes with  
awtul force and frequency.