178 THE APOCALYPSE [ou. viii. 10, 11  
  
descent of this fiery mountain on them, and many by  
the rebound and surges caused by its fall. But pro-  
bably this is the time when the winds, awhile restrained,  
are let loose by the four angels. As by the former  
plague, the agriculturist and grazier were injured ;  
by this, the fisherman, the sailor, and merchant. Hach  
new blow strikes harder than the last. Man’s works  
are smitten directly, and of course many men in them ;  
but that is not openly stated.  
  
10. ‘‘ And the third angel sounded, and there fell out of the  
heaven a great star burning as a torch, and it fell upon the third  
of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters. 11. And the  
name of the star is called Wormwood : and the third of the waters  
became wormwood ; and many of mankind died from the waters,  
because they were made bitter.”  
  
The mystery of the seven stars existed while the  
book of seven seals was closed. But those seals are  
opened now, and mystery is almost gone. Those stars  
were explained ; because they were mystic. This is  
not, for it is literal.  
Its appearance, as it falls, is “like a torch.” It is  
on fire at its larger end only; not, like the former  
missile, blazing all over. It tapers towards the hinder  
end. The heaven, now, instead of rain to feed the  
founts and rivers, sends a star to embitter them.  
In order to make the expression clear and definite as  
possible, it is not only said that the star fell on the  
fountains, but on ‘“‘ the fountains of waters ;’’ which is  
an Old Testament expression. Gen. xxiv. 13, 438,  
Exod. xv. 27. At Elim were “twelve fountains of  
waters.” (Heb.)  
This star is called ‘‘ Wormwood.” The name de-  
scribes its nature. Jt communicates its bitterness to  
whatever it touches.  
This visitation is foretold by the prophets. Because  
of sin, “Thus saith the Lord of Hosts, the God of