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days used noxious insects as a plague. These then are  
literal creatures. As the smoke is literal, producing its  
ordinary effects, so are the locusts actual creatures ; and  
not mere symbols of a heresy, or of an invading  
army.  
But if their chief feature of injury resembles that  
of the scorpion, why are they directly and prominently  
called “locusts” ? (1) First, it is evident that they are  
so denominated, from the locust-plague wherewith  
Egypt was visited. (2) Next, they are winged crea-  
tures, and fly through the air; not being like scor-  
pions, confined to the ground. They ascend from the  
bottomless pit, and “the sound of their wings,” as we  
afterwards learn, is terrible. (8) Also their immense  
numbers are intimated thereby ; and (4) probably in those  
points of the body which are not specially described,  
they resemble the locust,  
There is force in the seeming insignificant addition,  
“as the scorpions of the earth have power.” These are  
creatures from beneath, never seen before by man.  
They are compared, therefore, with known animals,  
whose abode is on earth. From the familiar forms  
of the surface, the student of the prophetic page is led  
to comprehend the appearance of creatures hitherto  
unseen.  
How remarkable in this connection are the words of  
our Lord! “I beheld Satan as lightning fall from  
heaven. Behold I give unto you power to tread on  
serpents, and scorpions, and over all the power of the  
enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you: not-  
withstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are  
subject to you; but rather rejoice, because your names  
are written in heaven” (Luke x. 18-20). The scor-  
pions here, and the serpents of the next plague, belong  
to Satan. But they are forbid to hurt God’s own  
people. The star fallen from heaven is Satan.