ou. ix. 10, 11] EXPOUNDED 195  
  
The sound of the advent of the common locusts is  
not terrible. Their noise when eating is like that of an  
army foraging in secret, as Volney says.  
  
10. “‘ And they have tails like scorpions, and stings: and in  
their tails was their power to hurt men five months.”  
  
In the serpent, the tail is the weakest part. But  
in the tail lies the power of the scorpion. As these  
locusts hurt like scorpions, and the pain produced by  
their stroke is like the scorpion’s, so the instrument by  
which the blow is inflicted is like the scorpion’s. The  
serpent-tailed horses of the next plague inflict the injuries  
of serpents.  
The apostle now describes that part of the creature  
which made it terrible to men. For locusts in general  
are easily slain by men, and are formidable only to the  
vegetable creation. As they were to hurt men, they  
have an instrument suited for the purpose, greatly re-  
sembling one long dreaded in the east.  
  
11. ‘‘ They have over them (as) king the angel of the bottom-  
less pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, and in the  
Greek he hath his name Apollyon.”’  
  
The ordinary locusts have no king, but they go forth  
in bands. Prov. xxx.27. But these from beneath have  
a king set over them, of a different nature from them-  
selves, as appears from the passages in other parts of the  
book which speak of him. Probably this is the reason  
why he is not called “ king of the locusts,” but it is said,  
“ They have a king over them.” This is the preposition  
used where a foreigner is forbidden as king of Israel.  
We can but conclude that this king, “ the angel of the  
bottomless pit,” is the False Christ, who is the great  
antagonist of our Lord. He is first named “the Wild  
Beast,’’ when he wars with the Witnesses and slays them.  
There he is described as ‘“‘ the Wild Beast that cometh up  
out of the bottomless pit’’ (xi. 7). But none of eminence