Cu. ix. 13-16] EXPOUNDED 197  
  
THE SIXTH TRUMPET ;  
OR,  
THE EUPHRATEAN HORSEMEN.  
  
13. ‘“‘ And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a single voice  
out of the horns of the golden altar which is before God, 14.  
Saying to the sixth angel, which hath the trumpet, Loose the four  
angels which have been bound at the great river Huphrates.”’  
  
WHOSE voice is it ? It is, I suppose, the voice of God.  
"Tis a voice of command out of God’s altar. As in the  
order to Famine given out of the midst of the cherubim,  
the voice was God’s, so here also. vi. 6.  
Are these four angels the same who stood at the four  
quarters of the earth, and held the winds? By no  
means. Those were good angels : these are evil. Those  
were free angels. These are bound. They need no  
command from God to destroy men. Their own nature  
impels them to slaughter. They only require to be  
loosed. But for their enforced inaction, they had slain  
men long before.  
The place of their restraint is given. “At the great  
river Kuphrates.”’ Why this should be the spot, it may  
be difficult to point out. But this great river has played,  
and has yet to play, no inconspicuous part in God’s plan.  
  
15. ‘‘ And the four angels were loosed, who had been prepared  
for the hour, and day, and month, and year, that they might kill  
the third of men. 16. And the number of the armies of the  
cavalry was two myriads of myriads. I heard the number of  
them.’’ :  
  
I believe that the divine penman intended to define  
for us the duration of the plague, as in the case of the