198 THE APOCALYPSE {cu. ix. 17  
  
locusts, the Two Witnesses, and many others. Then  
we must connect the period named with the loosing,  
and must regard the “ preparing ”’ as subordinate and  
parenthetic: or else connect it with the slaughter of  
men. :  
So accurately is the time determined, that it is bounded  
by an hour. The former plague was for five months,  
this is for more than thirteen. Woes deepen in dreadful-  
ness, as men plunge deeper in sin.  
They “ had been prepared,” by their vehement desire,  
their appropriate elements of destruction, and their  
proximity to the scene of vengeance.  
Their destination is to slay “the third of men.”  
Hence their immense multitudes. Their numbers are  
two hundred millions. In our day, mankind are sup-  
posed to be about eight hundred millions.1 How terrible,  
then, the slaughter which is counted by hundreds of  
millions! And that, in spite of the terrific devastation  
of the former plagues !  
Before, plagues visited the “ third of earth,” of the  
salt and-fresh “‘ waters,’ and of the heavenly bodies.  
But now it is a “ third of men,” who are directly assailed  
and cut off.  
The four angels are identified with the four bodies of  
cavalry which they lead. When the angels are loosed, so  
are the horsemen whom they command. It is said “the  
armies (not ‘army ’) of the cavalry ” ; for the four leaders  
are independent of each other.  
The number of the locusts is not given. Who could  
count their infinitude ? But these might be numbered ;  
and though John could not reckon them, their sum is  
named to him.  
  
17. ‘‘ And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and those that  
  
  
  
1 [Now nearer seventeen hundred millions.