202 THE APOCALYPSE [ou. ix. 20, 21  
  
the sun of His creating, is sin; but it is the greatest  
folly as well as sin in men to worship what they them-  
selves have made, objects which are so inferior to them-  
selves, being brute matter, unpossessed of any or the  
senses of men, though possessing more or less his shape.  
As Lactantius observes, if the idol could move, it would  
rather worship man, as its maker, than receive worship  
as his superior.  
It is not said of idols by John, ‘‘ which cannot speak,”  
for the idol which enraptures men afterwards by its  
supernatural power does speak.  
Men’s offences against the second table are next  
named: these spring greatly from their false worship.  
God, dishonoured by their idolatry, gives them up to  
dishonour. Rom. i. Their breaches of the sixth,  
seventh, and eighth commands are introduced by the  
repetition of the words “they repented not.”  
Six sins, then, are specified: two against God, and  
four against man. It is remarkable that the sin of  
drunkenness is not among those enumerated.  
The world has heard the Gospel, and refused it. Far  
greater is its responsibility in that day, than in any pre-  
vious one. Far stouter and more deeply rooted is its  
attitude of resistance, than at any former time.  
Things are advancing with no slack pace towards  
this dismal consummation. Beneath the thin crust of  
formal Christianity, the germs of these trespasses here  
and there peep forth. Idolatry is putting forth its  
feelers ; and the giving heed to seducing spirits is already  
visible in America. On this basis all the other evils  
will establish themselves.  
Men, and even Christians, who regard not prophecy,  
are flattering themselves that a day of peace, purity,  
and knowledge has begun, and is advancing among  
mankind. God’s word frowns out of countenance man’s  
self-sufficiency. Nay! the generation, both Jewish and