OH. xi. 7] EXPOUNDED 235  
  
the spirit of grace, turns water into wine. John ii.  
Their shutting the heaven is God’s witness against  
idolatry. Thus He shows the powerlessness of other  
gods. Their turning waters to blood is a testimony  
against the murders of earth (ix. 20).  
But these are only specimens of their power to injure.  
All other plagues are submitted to their discretion.  
“ Every plague ” is in their hand. Under that name  
are included diseases, as leprosy (Lev. xiii. 2) ; emerods  
(1 Sam. vi. 4); and calamities inflicted through the  
elements, as hail and pestilence. Exod. ix. 14; 2 Sam.  
xxiv. 15. This infliction of unknown chastisements  
was threatened in the law. Deut. xxviii. 59, 61;  
xxix. 20-23; Lev. xxvi. 21. The Apocalypse is  
the book of the plagues of the Lord, launched against  
the earth in the season of His war against it. ix. 20;  
xv. 1; xxi. 18.  
These are trusted servants of the throne. They are  
empowered to deal the blows of supernatural ven-  
geance, “as often as they may wish.” Their wills, by  
long sojourn in the sanctuary with God, and as filled with  
His Spirit, are so conformed to His, that they can be  
trusted with power so tremendous as this. They in  
this also resemble our Lord. “I do always those  
things which please him” (John viii. 29). It is  
designed that there should be an immediate and sensible  
connection between their threats and the plague sent.  
Mystery is nearly gone.  
The miracles of the Gospel were of a different kind.  
These law-witnesses smite ‘“‘ with all plagues.” But of  
Jesus it is said, “ He healed many ; insomuch that they  
pressed upon Him to touch Him, as many as had plagues”  
(Mark iii. 10).  
  
7. ‘‘ And when they shall have finished their testimony, tho  
Wild Beast, that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit, shall make  
war with them, and overcome them, and kill them.”’