cn. xil. 17] EXPOUNDED 293  
  
seems to assert that some other aid is given.! The  
main deliverance, however, is effected by its swallowing  
up the detachment of foes in pursuit. (1) So were  
Pharaoh and his hostswallowedup. ‘‘ Thou stretchedst  
out thy right hand: the earth swallowed them”? (Exod. xv.  
12). (2) So was the host of Dathan and Abiram  
engulfed in the wilderness. Num. xvi. (3) The earth  
opened her mouth to receive Abel’s blood at the hand  
of Cain. Gen. iv. 11. But it did not open it to swallow  
him up. Now, however, it opens to engulf these mur-  
derers.  
This sudden opening of the eazth—the resuit probably  
of the great earthquake that is to attend Gog’s invasion  
(Ezek. xxxviii. 19, 20)—cuts off the party of horsemen  
sent in pursuit. But for this, they would have proved  
successful. Here is the baffling of the new wile. The  
swallowing up is literal: for the earth is not a symbol,  
but a reality. It is also certified by former like cases.  
  
17. “‘ And the dragon was wrath with the woman, and went  
away to make war with the remains of her seed, who keep the  
commands of God, and hold the testimony of Jesus.”  
  
Though baffled here also, he repents not. His plans  
turn to dust in his mouth: yet he is only angry, not  
penitent. He sees this scheme defeated beyond re-  
dress, and leaves it, and confesses tacitly that the  
Woman is beyond his power.  
He turns away to another enterprise, to vex and  
destroy the parties who fled not. Against them he  
uses mingled force and fraud.  
The Woman has two seeds, the earthly and the  
heavenly. Of each of these there are remainders left  
behind, which have not been withdrawn from his grasp  
  
1 Waters may suddenly burst up in the desert for the fugitives.  
Itissopromised. Isa. xliii. 20. Perhaps the earth may suddenly  
yield fruits also.