on. xiv. 9-12] EXPOUNDED 379  
  
This is twofold: (1) present, and (2) future. Even  
in this life the criminal will experience the wrath of  
the offended God of heaven. The bowls of wrath are  
the expressions of the Divine displeasure against the  
Wild Beast and his votaries. Earth is plagued because  
of them, and they suffer, both directly and indirectly.  
This is described here figuratively: it is drinking of  
God’s wine of wrath. ’Tis undiluted, ’tis mixed of  
many potent ingredients. They must drink it. This  
is wine of woe, untempered with consolation. But  
though not mixed with water, powerful drugs are added  
to increase its potency. Prov. xxiii. 30; Isa. v. 22;  
Ps. Ixxiv. 8.  
God is a jealous God. The glory which is His due  
cannot with impunity be given by any man to another :  
that is high treason indeed. Hence the plagues which  
follow are not the chastisements of a father, not pun-  
ishments seeking the amendment of the ungodly, but  
the destroying justice of an offended God.  
The experience of the vengeance of the Most High in  
this life is but the beginning of sorrows: the gloomy  
portal to everlasting woe. The first death introduces  
to the second.  
Of the woe of the lost the doom of Sodom and Gomor-  
rah was a type. Four things are here taught us con-  
cerning it. (1) Its character. (2) Its instruments.  
(3) Its duration. (4) Its executioners.  
(1) In its character, it is “torment;” exquisite  
bodily pain, designedly inflicted.  
(2) Its instruments are “ fire,” which causes grievous  
anguish to the limbs ; and “ sulphur,” which produces  
so oppressive and stifling a sensation, when but a very  
small proportion of its fumes is mingled with the air.  
(3) The duration of the torment is ‘“‘ day and night,”  
“for ever and ever.” Not “for the age ” of the millen-  
nium only, but for ages without end. They are ever