cu. xv. 2] EXPOUNDED 397  
  
And not until body and soul are reunited, and the  
traces of the curse done away, can any stand before the  
throne of God. Nor is death swallowed up in victory,  
till the mortal is clothed with immortality. Shall we  
not say, that they probably rise with the Two Witnesses,  
Enoch and Elijah, as the great company of those already  
risen awoke when Jesus rose from the dead? Matt.  
xxvii. 52, 53.  
Their numbers are not stated, nor their country.  
They are one, in regard of the ordeal they have passed  
and of the place to which they have escaped. They are,  
I suppose, a remnant from the Church, from Israel, and  
from the Gentiles. “They sing the song of Moses and  
the Lamb.” Jesus appears among the 144,000; He  
does not stand among these. The 144,000 precede the  
advent of these on high. This company cannot ascend  
before the third warning angel of chapter xiv. 9. But  
the 144,000 are complete, ere the first of those angels  
goes forth. They are the remnant of the woman’s seed,  
against whom Satan went to war. xii. 17. The Great  
Multitude are on high before the Wild Beast arises.  
These are some of the blessed dead who die in the  
Lord, and at once are raised up.  
They are “conquerors of the Wild Beast.” They  
are brought face to face with him, or his agents, and  
must worship or die. They refuse, and are slain: he  
kills the body, and after that can do no more.  
They are “ overcomers of hisimage.” Jor the image  
speaks, demands worship, and wrestles, as if it were  
a person. But these refuse to be idolaters, though  
refusal is on pain of death, and though so miraculous  
is the image.  
They have the “ harps of God.” Harps were not used  
in God’s service of old, till the kingdom came. This is  
one of the signs of the kingdom near. These are real  
instruments, belonging to the tomple-service of the New