410 THE APOCALYPSE [cH. xvi. 12-16  
  
men. But it is like the opening of the sea to the host of  
Pharaoh, which encloses them at length to submerge  
them.  
But in vain were the river dried up, did not evil  
spirits urge men to make use of the opportunity which  
it produces. Three demons, then, severally proceeding  
from each person of the Infernal Trinity, go forth on  
this errand.  
The evil spirits appeared to John’s eye “ like frogs,”  
on purpose to connect them with the corresponding  
plague of Egypt. The frogs of old were brought up by  
the magicians out of the river. Here, at the smiting of the  
river, they come forth from the three great magicians.  
We have been introduced, in chapters xii. and xiii. to  
this awful trio. They are of one purpose, bent to hurl  
man into collision against his Maker.  
They are master-magicians ; out of their mouths pro-  
ceed spirits who work miracles. Miracles have hitherto  
been almost uniformly on the side of truth ; but, at the  
close, God sends them to cause an energy of delusion in  
the rejecters of the truth.  
The Holy Spirit, the Sacred Dove, came down from  
heaven to proclaim peace with God, and goodwill to  
men. But these go forth to stir up men to fight against  
God and His Christ. The time is suitable; all are  
enraged against God and His Christ. Anything is  
acceptable that will give them an opportunity of dis-  
playing their hatred against the Most High. They  
assemble there avowedly against God and Christ.  
Awful is the battle : it is described in the conclusion of  
chapter xix.  
In the earlier portion of the book the seven spirits  
of God and of Christ went forth into all the earth ; not  
for evil, but for good. They were symbolized by horns  
of the Lamb, or torches before the throne: as these are  
by frogs.