506 THE APOCALYPSE [ou. xx. 1-3  
  
heaven: imprisonment in the bottomless pit is there-  
fore his sentence.  
The angel further locks and seals the pit-door. The  
open pit was the signal for God’s terrible judgments on  
men. “Iwas the time of woe to earth: locusts tor-  
mented, and the False Christ deceived. It remained  
open all the time of Satan’s power. The angel has  
not to open the pit, in order to cast Satan into it.  
Now the pit isshut and locked again. Its sulphurous  
flames and terrible executioners shall no more be free  
to come forth.  
What is the intent of all these actions? That  
Satan’s deception of the nations of the earth may no  
longer be carried on. Deception is his constant trade.  
His angels may deceive individuals: he deceives  
nations. The truth is against him, he is therefore  
driven to use falsehood. He excites false hopes. He  
makes promises of success in sin, which are sure to end  
in the destruction of his dupes. He knows from the  
first the wrath which will descend on himself and  
them : but still he goes on. His deceits prevail: the  
old serpent rules the old man.  
But Satan must be loosed again after the thousand  
years are over. Why ?  
It were not necessary that we should be able to see  
the reasons of this “must” on God’s part. But I  
think several very substantial and satisfactory ones  
may be assigned.  
1. The great aim of God in this and in all other  
things is not to glorify man, but Himself. His design  
is to display the gulf which severs the Creator un-  
changeable in holiness, from the creature perpetually  
changing to evil, whenever he is tried, and not upheld  
by sovereign grace. It will probably be fancied, as it  
is imagined by some now, that if Jesus is to appear in  
person, to raise the dead, to rule the earth, to give