has been, that 1600 has been chosen as a  
square number, = 40 x 40, or 4 x 400,  
or 4 x 4 x 100. We may fairly say,  
either that the number is assigned simply  
to signify completeness and magnitude  
[in which case some other apocalyptic  
numbers which have been much insisted  
on will fall perhaps under the same canon  
of interpretation], or else this is one of the  
riddles of the Apocalypse to which not even a  
proximate solution has ever yet been given).

CH. XV., XVI. THE SEVEN VIALS  
And herein,

XV. 1—8.] PREFATORY:  
*the description of the vision*, ver. 1: *the  
song of triumph of the saints victorious  
over the beast,* vv. 2—4: *the coming forth  
of the seven angels and delivering to them  
of the seven vials,* vv. 5—8.

{1} **And I saw another sign in heaven,  
great and marvellous, seven angels  
having seven plagues which are the  
last [plagues], because in them is com-  
pleted the wrath of God** (I have adopted an unusual   
arrangement to throw the word **because**  
into connexion with **the  
last**, for which epithet it renders a reason.  
It is to be observed 1) that this verse is  
evidently only a compendious description  
of the following vision: for the angels  
themselves are not seen till ver. 6, and  
do not receive the vials containing the  
plagues till after they are seen: 2) that  
the whole of God’s wrath in *final judgment* is not exhausted by these vials, but  
only the whole of His wrath in sending  
plagues on the earth *previous to the judgment*. After these there are no more  
plagues: they are concluded with the destruction of Babylon. Then the Lord Himself appears, ch. xix. 11 ff). {2} **And I  
saw as it were a sea of glass mingled  
with fire** (see ch. iv. 6 and note: not  
merely glassy: the as it were indicates  
the likeness: it was as it were made of  
glass, The addition **mingled with fire**is probably made as bringing into the  
previous celestial imagery an element  
belonging to this portion of the prophecy, of which *judgment* is the prevailing complexion: The fact, that the  
personages of the former heavenly vision  
are still present, ver. 7, seems to remove  
all doubt of this being the *same sea* of  
glass as that before described ch. iv. 6, in  
immediate connexion with which the four  
living-beings were mentioned), **and the  
conquerors of** (literally, out of: they have  
come victorious out of the strife) **the beast  
and of his image and of the number of  
his name** (i.e. of the temptation to wor-  
ship his image and to receive the mark  
consisting of the number of his name, ch.  
xiii, 17, 18), **standing on** (does this im-  
port actually “*upon*,” so that they stood  
*on the surface* of the sea, or merely *on the  
shore of*? On every account the latter  
seems the more probable: as better suiting the heavenly imagery of ch. iv., and  
as according with the situation of the  
children of Israel when they sung the  
song to which allusion is presently made)  
**the sea of glass, having harps of God**(sacred harps, part of the instruments of  
heaven used solely for the praise of God.  
We have had them before mentioned in  
ch. v. 8, xiv. 2). {3} **And they sing the song  
of Moses the servant of God** (i.e. a song  
similar to that song of triumph which